

**This book is the account of
Isaiah foretelling about God
punishing Israel and then
sending his chosen one and
saving them
Isaiah**

¹ *I am* Isaiah, the son of Amoz. *Yahweh* showed me visions about Jerusalem and *all the other places* in Judah. He showed me these visions during the years that Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah.

A message about the rebellious nation of Judah

² This is what *Yahweh* says:

“All you *angels* in [APO] heaven and *all you people* on [APO] earth, listen to me!

The people that I caused to exist and took care of [DOU] have rebelled against me.

³ Oxen know their owners,
and donkeys know who provides food for them,
but my Israeli people do not know *me*;
they do not realize *that I am the one who takes care of them.*”

⁴ Terrible things will happen to that sinful nation, to those people who are guilty of sinning greatly.

They are a group of very evil people,
 who act very unjustly.
 They have abandoned Yahweh,
 the holy one of Israel;
 they have ◀abandoned/turned away from▶
 him.

⁵ Why do you [RHQ] continue to *do things for which* you should be punished?
 Why do you continue to rebel against Yahweh?
You are like [MET] someone whose head is badly injured
 and whose mind is sick/corrupt.

⁶ *It is as though* [MET] from the soles/bottoms of your feet to the *tops of your heads* nothing is healthy;
 there are only open wounds and cuts and sores that have not been cleaned or bandaged,
 and no *olive* oil has been put on them *to heal them*.

⁷ *It is as though* your country is ruined/desolate; your towns have been burned.
 Foreigners plunder/steal the crops in your fields while you watch;
 they destroy everything *that they see*.

⁸ The city of Jerusalem has *already* been abandoned,
 it is like [SIM] a shelter in a vineyard that has been abandoned by the watchmen;
 it is like [SIM] a watchman's hut in a field of melons that has been deserted.

It is a city surrounded by its enemies who are waiting to attack it.

9 If the Commander of the armies of angels had not allowed a few of us *his people* to ◀survive/remain alive▶, we would have *all* been *destroyed*, like *the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed*.

10 You *leaders of Judah are as wicked as the rulers of Sodom were*, and you *other people in Jerusalem areas are as wicked as the people in Gomorrah were*.

Listen to this message from Yahweh, *all of you!*

11 He says, “You continue to bring many sacrifices to me, but I do not [RHQ] want them *because you do not worship me sincerely!*

You bring me many offerings to be completely burned *on the altar*,

but I ◀am tired/do not want any more▶ of your burning all those offerings, the burning rams and the fat from fat cattle.

I am not pleased with the blood of bulls and lambs and goats that *the priest pours against the altar*.

12 When you come to my temple to worship me, no one [RHQ] told you to trample on my courtyard while you perform all those rituals.

13 Stop bringing to me those offerings, because they are useless *to me*;

I am disgusted with the incense that *the priests burn*.

And *your feasts to celebrate the new moon each month* and your ◀Sabbath days/days of rest▶ and your *other* festivals—

I detest them because of the wicked things *that you do*.

14 I [SYN] hate *all* your celebrations of each new moon and the *other* festivals that you celebrate each year.

They are *like* [MET] a heavy burden that I am tired of carrying.

15 So, when you lift up your hands when you pray *to me*,

I will not *even* look at you.

Even if you pray *to me* very frequently,

I will not listen *to you*,

because it is as though your hands are covered with the blood *of people whom you have killed*.

16 Cleanse your inner beings, and become *spiritually* clean!

Stop your evil behavior!

Stop doing things that are wrong!

17 Learn to do *things that are good*!

Try to cause people to do what is just.

Help people who are ◀oppressed/treated cruelly▶.

Defend orphans and widows *when people take them to court*."

18 Yahweh says, "You need to think about the results of what you do.

- Even though *the guilt of your sins be as evident and as difficult to get rid of as [SIM] red stains on a white garment [DOU],*
I will get rid of them completely
like someone who can make that stained garment become as white as snow or wool [DOU].
- 19 If you are willing to obey me,
I will enable you to have plenty to eat.
- 20 But, if you turn away *from me and rebel* against me,
 you will be killed *by your enemies' swords.*
That will surely happen, because I, Yahweh, have said it."

Yahweh condemned Jerusalem

- 21 *"You people of Jerusalem previously faithfully worshiped only me,*
 but now you have become like [MET] prostitutes *who are not faithful to any husband.*
 Previously, people there always acted justly/
 fairly and righteously,
 but now your city *is full of murderers.*
- 22 Previously, you were *like [MET] pure silver,*
 but now you have become *like [MET] the scum that is left when silver is purified.*
 Previously you were *like pure wine,*
 but you have become *like [MET] wine that has a lot of water mixed with it.*
- 23 Your leaders are rebels;
 they spend time with thieves.
 They all want to get bribes
 and force others to give them gifts *in order that they do good things for them.*

They do not defend orphans *in court*,
and they do not do all they can to enable
widows to get what they should receive.

24 Therefore *I*, the Commander of the armies of
angels, the mighty God of Israel, say to my
enemies,

‘ will get revenge on you;
you will not cause me any more trouble.
And I will pay you back for the evil things
that you did.

25 I will raise my fist to strike you.
I will *punish you severely* [MET],
as though [MET] you were silver *and I needed
to heat you very greatly* to melt you and get
rid of the impurities.

26 *After that happens*, I will give you good judges
like you had previously;
you will have *wise* counselors like you had
long ago.

Then people will call your city “a city where
people *act* righteously,
a city where people are loyal to me.””

27 Because the people of Jerusalem will do what
is fair/just,
their city will be restored;
those who repent *will be saved*
because of *their acting* righteously.

28 But rebels and sinners will be crushed by
Yahweh,
and those who forsake him will disappear.

- 29 You will be ashamed because *you worshiped* idols under the oak trees *that you considered to be sacred*;
you will be disgraced because *you worshiped idols* in the gardens where you chose to *worship them*.
- 30 You will be like [SIM] a very large tree which has withered leaves,
like [SIM] a garden that *is dried up because it has no water*.
- 31 Those among you who are *very strong* will become *like* [MET] dry wood,
and the work they do will be *like* [MET] a spark;
both they and the evil things that they do will burn up completely,
and no one will be able to put out the fire.

2

A message about future peace in Judah

¹ This is the message that *Yahweh showed me in a vision*, concerning Jerusalem and *the rest of Judea*:

² *I saw that* in the future, the hill on which Yahweh's temple is built will be the most important place on the earth;
it will be *as though it is* the highest mountain,
as though it has been raised up above all other hills;
and people from all over the world will come there.

³ People from many people-groups will say *to each other*,

“Come, let’s go up to the hill,
to the temple of Yahweh,
to worship the God whom Jacob *worshipped*.
There Yahweh will teach us what he *desires us to know*,
in order that our behavior will *please* him.
His teaching will be given *to us* in Jerusalem,
and *we will take* his message from Jerusalem
to other places/nations.”

⁴ Yahweh will listen to the disputes between
nations
and he will settle their arguments.

Then, instead of fighting against each other,
they will hammer their swords into plow
blades,
and they will hammer their spears into
pruning knives.

The armies of nations will no longer fight against
each other,
and they will not *even* train men to fight in
battles/wars.”

⁵ You Israeli people,
let’s walk in the light [MET] that comes from
Yahweh!

A warning about the coming judgment

⁶ *Yahweh*, you have abandoned *us* your people
who are descendants of Jacob,
because everywhere your people practice the
customs of people who live *east of Israel*.

Your people also perform rituals to find out what will happen in the future, like the people in Philistia do.

They make agreements/treaties with ◀pagans/people who do not know you▶.

⁷ Israel is full of silver and gold; there are very many ◀treasures/valuable things▶ here.

The land is full of war horses and war chariots.

⁸ *But* the land is *also* full of idols; the people worship things that they have made with their own hands.

⁹ So now they will be humbled and they will be caused to become disgraced—
Yahweh, do not forgive them!

¹⁰ All you people should crawl into *the caves in the rock cliffs!*
You should hide *in pits/holes* in the ground because of being afraid of Yahweh and of his glorious and awesome power.

¹¹ Yahweh will cause you people to no longer be arrogant,
and he will stop you from being proud.
Only Yahweh will be praised/honored on that day.

¹² The Commander of the armies of angels has chosen a day
when *he will judge* those who are proud,
every one of them [DOU],
and he will humble them.

- 13 *He will get rid of all those who think they should be admired like [MET] the tall cedar trees in Lebanon, and like all the great oak trees in the Bashan region.*
- 14 *He will get rid of all those who think they are as great as [MET] all the high hills and even the high mountains.*
- 15 *He will get rid of all those who think that they are high towers and high strong walls inside of or behind which they will be safe.*
- 16 *He will destroy all those who are rich because they own big ships that carry goods to other countries and they own other beautiful ships.*
- 17 *He will cause people to no longer be arrogant and he will cause them to stop being proud. Only Yahweh will be praised/honored on that day.*
- 18 *All idols will ◀disappear/be destroyed▶.*
- 19 *When Yahweh comes to shake/terrify the people on the earth, they will run to hide in caves in rock cliffs and in holes/pits in the ground, because of being afraid of Yahweh and of his glorious and awesome power.*
- 20 *On that day, people will get rid of all their gold and silver idols that they made to worship, and they will throw them to the bats and rats.*
- 21 *Then they will crawl into caves and hide in the crags in the cliffs.*

They will do that to escape from the dreadful punishments that Yahweh will cause them to endure, from what he will do because he is glorious and awesome, when he comes to shake/terrify the people on the earth.

²² So, do not trust that people *will save you*, because people are *as powerless as* [MET] their own breath.
People certainly cannot help you [RHQ]!

3

A warning that God will punish Judah

- ¹ The Commander of the armies of angels is about to take away from Jerusalem and *other places in Judea* everything that you depend on— all your food and water.
- ² He will take away your heroes and your *other* soldiers, your judges and your prophets, people who do rituals to find out what will happen in the future and the elders,
- ³ army officers and *other* officials, advisors and skilled craftsmen and those who perform rituals to predict the future.
- ⁴ He will appoint boys to be your leaders; your children will rule you.
- ⁵ People will treat each other cruelly: people will fight against their neighbors. Young people will insult older people,

and vulgar/dishonorable people will sneer at people who should be honored.

⁶ At that time, someone will grab one of his brothers in his father's house and say to him,
"You have a coat, *which shows that you are respected.*

So you be our leader!

You rule this *city, which is now* a pile of ruins!"

⁷ *But* his brother will reply,

"No, I cannot help you,

because I do not have *any extra* food or clothes in this house.

So do not appoint me to be your leader!"

⁸ Jerusalem and *the other towns in* Judah will be destroyed,

because everything that the people do and say there opposes Yahweh,

who is powerful and glorious,

and they refuse to obey him.

They rebel against him.

⁹ They even show on their faces that *they oppose* Yahweh.

They are proud of their sins,

like *the people of* Sodom were *long ago*;

they do not try to hide their sins.

Because of their sins, terrible things will happen to them,

but they will bring those disasters on themselves.

- 10 *Yahweh told me to tell the righteous people that good things will happen to them; they will enjoy the blessings that they will receive for their good deeds.*
- 11 *But terrible things will happen to wicked people; they will be ◀paid back/punished▶ for the evil things that [MTY] they have done.*
- 12 *Now, youths who have become leaders treat my people cruelly, and women rule over my people. My people, your leaders are misleading you; they are causing you to go down the wrong road [MET].*
- 13 *It is as though Yahweh has sat in his place in a courtroom and is ready to judge his people.*
- 14 *He will stand up to declare why the elders and rulers of his people should be punished: he says, "The people of Israel are like [MET] a vineyard that I planted, but you have ruined it! Your houses are full of things that you have stolen from poor people.*
- 15 *You should stop [RHQ] crushing my people! It is as though you are pushing the faces of poor people into the dirt!" That is what the Commander of the armies of angels says.*

A warning to the women of Jerusalem

- 16 *Yahweh says this:*

“The women of Jerusalem are haughty/proud;
they walk around sticking their chins out,
and flirting *with men* with their eyes.

They walk with tiny steps
with bracelets on their ankles that jingle.

¹⁷ So I, Yahweh, will cause sores to be on their
heads,
and I will cause those beautiful women in
Jerusalem to become bald.”

¹⁸ At the time *that Yahweh does that*, he
will strip away everything that the women of
Jerusalem wear to make themselves beautiful—
the ornaments on their ankles and their head-
bands, their crescent necklaces, ¹⁹ their earrings
and bracelets and veils, ²⁰ their scarves and
ankle bracelets and sashes, their perfumes and
◀charms/little things that they wear thinking
that those things will protect them from evil▶,
²¹ their signet rings and nose rings, ²² their nice
robes and capes and cloaks and purses, ²³ their
mirrors and nice linen clothes and shawls.

²⁴ Instead of their having a nice smell from
perfume, they will stink;
instead of nice sashes, they will have ropes
*around their waists because they will be
captives.*

Instead of having fancy hairdos, they will be
bald.

Instead of fancy/beautiful robes, they will
wear rough sackcloth,
and instead of being beautiful, they will be
branded.

²⁵ Their husbands will be killed by *their enemies’*
swords,

- and their soldiers *will also die* in battles.
- 26 People [PRS] will mourn and cry at the gates
of the city.
 The city will *be like* [MET] a woman who sits
 on the ground because everything that she
 owned is gone.

4

- 1 When that happens, *there will be very few
 unmarried men still alive.*
As a result, seven unmarried women will
 grab one man, and say,
 "Allow us *all* to marry you [IDM]!
 We will provide our own food and clothing.
 All that we want is to no longer be disgraced
because of not being married."

*A promise that some day Jerusalem will be
 restored*

- 2 *But* some day, Israel [MTY] will be *very* beautiful
 and great/glorious.
 The people of Israel who will still be there
 will be very proud of the wonderful fruit
 that grows in their land.
- 3 All the people who will remain in Jerusalem,
 who were not killed when Jerusalem was
 destroyed,
 whose names are listed among those who
 live there, will be *called* holy.
- 4 *That will happen when* Yahweh washes away
 the guilt of the women of Jerusalem,
 and when he stops the violence [MET] *on
 the streets of Jerusalem* by punishing *the
 people of Jerusalem.*

- When he does that, it will be like a fire to burn up all the impure things.
- ⁵ Then Yahweh will send a cloud of smoke every day and a flaming fire every night to cover Jerusalem and *all* those who gather there; it will be *like* a glorious canopy over the city
- ⁶ that will shelter the people from the sun during the daytime and protect them when there are windstorms and rain.

5

A song about the people who were like Yahweh's vineyard

- ¹ Now I will sing a song about my dear friend, and about his vineyard.
The vineyard was on a very fertile hillside.
- ² My friend plowed the ground and cleared away the stones.
Then he planted very good grapevines on that ground.
In the middle of the vineyard, he built a watchtower,
and he dug a ◀winepress/pit for squeezing the grapes▶.
- Then he waited *each year* to harvest some good grapes,
but the vines produced *only* sour grapes.
- ³ Now *this is what Yahweh says*:
“You people of Jerusalem and *other places in* Judah,

*I am like the friend, and you are like my vineyard;
so you judge which of us has done what is
right.*

⁴ What more could I have done for you
than what I have already done?

I expected you to be doing good deeds [MET],
so it is disgusting that [RHQ] you were *doing
only evil things*
like the vineyard that produced only sour
grapes!

⁵ So, I will now tell you what I will do to *Judah,
the place that is like my vineyard.*

I will cut down the hedges,
and they will be destroyed.

I will tear down the walls *of the cities*
and allow *wild animals* to trample the land.

⁶ I will cause it to become a wasteland
where the vines are not pruned and the
ground is not hoed.

It will be a place where briars and thorns [DOU]
grow.

And I will command that no rain will fall on
it."

⁷ The nation of Israel is *like* [MET] the vineyard
of the Commander of the armies of angels.
The people of Judah are *like* the garden that
was pleasing to him.

He expected you to be doing what is just/fair,
but instead, *what he saw was people murder-*
ing [MTY] others.

He expected that you would be doing righteous deeds,
but instead, he heard cries from people who were being *attacked* violently.

Yahweh promises to punish Judah

⁸ Terrible things will happen to you who continually *illegally* acquire houses and fields.

You force one family after another to leave their homes
until you are the only ones [HYP] *still* living in the land.

⁹ *But* I heard the Commander of the armies of angels solemnly declare this:

“Some day, many of those huge houses will be empty/deserted;
no one will be living in those beautiful mansions.

¹⁰ The vines on ten acres of land will not produce enough grapes to make ◀six gallons/22 liters▶ *of juice/wine,*
and ten baskets of seed will produce only one basket *of grain.*”

¹¹ Terrible things will happen to those who get up early *each* morning
to begin drinking alcoholic drinks,
and who stay awake until late at night *drinking a lot of wine*
until they are completely drunk.

¹² They have *big parties and provide lots of wine.*
At their parties, there are *people playing*
harps and lyres and tambourines and flutes,

but they never think about what Yahweh does
or appreciate what he has created.

13 So, my people will be ◀exiled/taken to other
countries▶ *far away*
because they do not know *about me*.

Those who are *now very important and* honored
will starve,
and the other people will die from thirst.

14 *It is as though* [PRS] the place where the dead
people are is eagerly looking for more
Israeli people,
opening its mouth to swallow them,
and a huge number of people will be thrown into
that place,
including their leaders as well as a noisy
crowd of people who enjoy living in
Jerusalem.

15 *Yahweh* will get rid of a huge number of
people;
and he will humble *many more* people who
now are proud/arrogant.

16 But the Commander of the armies of angels
will be exalted/praised because of his
acting justly.
God will show that he is holy by doing
righteous/just deeds.

17 Then lambs and fat sheep will *be able to* find
good grass to eat,
*even among the ruins of the houses of rich
people.*

18 Some people constantly tell lies,

and *it is as though* they are dragging behind them the wrong things that they have done.

Terrible things will happen to them!

19 They *make fun of God and say to him*,
“Go ahead, do something *to punish us!*
We want to see what you will do.

You, the Holy One of Israel, should do what you are planning to do,
because we want to know what it is.”

20 Terrible things will happen to those who say that evil is good, and that good is evil, that darkness is light and that light is darkness, that what is bitter is sweet and what is sweet is bitter.

21 Terrible things will happen to those who think that they are wise and that they ◀are very clever/know everything▶.

22 Terrible things will happen to those who *think that* [IRO] they are great/heroes because they are able to drink *lots of* wine, and boast about being able to mix good alcoholic drinks.

23 If people offer them bribes in order that they will enable wicked people not to be punished, they accept those bribes, and they cause people who are innocent to be punished.

24 Therefore, just like [SIM] fires burn up stubble
and dry grass shrivels up and quickly burns
in flames,
it will be as though those people have roots that
will rot
and have flowers that will wither.

That will happen because they rejected the laws
of the Commander of the armies of angels;
they have despised the messages of the Holy
One of Israel.

25 That is why Yahweh is *extremely* angry with
his people;
it is as though his hand is raised *and he is*
ready to smash them.

When he does that, the mountains will shake,
and the corpses of people will be scattered
in the streets like [SIM] manure.

But even when that happens, Yahweh will still
be very angry;
he will be ready to punish his people [MET]
again.

26 Yahweh will send a signal to summon *armies*
of nations far away;
it is as though he will whistle *to summon*
those soldiers who are in very remote
places on the earth.

They will come very swiftly [DOU] *to Jerusalem*.

27 They will not get tired or stumble.

They will not *stop to rest* or to sleep.

None of their belts will be loose,
and none of them will have sandals with broken
straps,

so they will all be ready to fight in battles.

- 28 Their arrows will be sharp,
and their bows will be ready *to shoot those
arrows in a battle.*
Because their horses pull the chariots fast, sparks
will shoot out from their hooves,
and the wheels of the chariots will spin like
a whirlwind.
- 29 They will roar like *very strong* lions [DOU]
that growl and *then* pounce on the animals
they want to kill
and carry them off,
and no one is able to rescue them.
- 30 *Similarly, your enemies* will roar when they see
the people they are about to kill,
like [SIM] the sea roars.
On that day, if someone looks across the land,
he will see *only people who are in* darkness
and distressed;
it will be as though even the sunlight is
hidden by dark clouds.

6

God appointed Isaiah to be a prophet

- ¹ During the year that King Uzziah died, *Yahweh showed me a vision.* In the vision, I saw Yahweh sitting on a throne, high above everyone. He was wearing a very long robe that covered the floor of the temple. ² Above him were standing several winged creatures. Each of them had six wings. They covered their faces with two of their wings, they covered their feet with two of their wings, and they flew using two of their wings. ³ They were calling to each other, saying,

“The Commander of the armies of angels is holy;
he is completely holy!

The entire earth is filled with his glory.”

⁴ When they spoke, it caused the doorposts of the temple to shake, and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ Then I said, “Terrible things will happen to me, because everything that I say [MTY] is sinful, and I live among people who constantly say [MTY] sinful things. I will be destroyed because I have seen the Commander of the armies of angels!”

⁶ Then one of the winged creatures took a hot coal from the altar, using a pair of tongs. He flew to me ⁷ and touched my lips with the coal. Then he said, “Look at *what I have done*. I have touched your lips *with this coal*. Now your guilt is ended, and your sins are forgiven [DOU].”

⁸ Then I heard Yahweh asking, “Whom shall I send *to be a messenger to my people*? Who will go *and speak* for us?” I replied, “I will. Send me!”

⁹ Then he said,
“Okay, go, and say to the *Israeli* people,
‘You will listen carefully *to what I say*, but
you will not understand it.
You will look very carefully *at the things that I
am doing*,
but you will not understand them.’

¹⁰ *What you(sg) say will cause these people to
become stubborn [IDM];
it will cause them to not be able to hear what
I say and see what I do.*

As a result, they will not see what I want them to see or hear what I want them to hear, and they will not understand it, and they will not turn to me and be saved from being punished."

¹¹ Then I said, "How long do you want me to continue to do that?"

He replied, "*Do it until their cities are ruined by their enemies, until no one is living in their houses, do it until all the crops are stolen from their fields and the fields are ruined.*

¹² *Do it until I have ◀exiled everyone/forced everyone to go to their enemies' lands▶ far away, and the whole land of Israel is deserted.*

¹³ *If even one tenth of the people survive and stay there, their enemies will invade the land again and burn everything.*

But, just like [MET] when an oak tree is cut down, a stump is left from which new shoots will grow, the people who remain in this land will be a group that will become large again and be ◀set apart for/dedicated to▶ me."

7

A message of encouragement for King Ahaz

¹ Ahaz was the son of Jotham and grandson of Uzziah. During the time that Ahaz was the king of Judah, King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah

of Israel marched *with their armies* to attack Jerusalem. But they could not conquer it.

² *But before they attacked*, everyone in the palace heard a report that the armies of Syria and Israel were *now* ◀allies/joined to attack Jerusalem▶. So Ahaz and the people over whom he ruled were extremely afraid; they were shaking from fear like trees shake in a windstorm.

³ Then Yahweh said to me, “Take your son Shear-Jashub, and go to talk with *King Ahaz*. He is at the end of the ◀aqueduct/water channel▶ that brings water into the upper reservoir, near the road to the place where women wash clothes.

⁴ Tell Ahaz to stop worrying [DOU]. Tell him that he does not need to be afraid of those two kings, Rezin and Pekah. They are very angry *with Judah*, but they are *unable to harm his country any more than* completely burned-out coals *can harm him*. ⁵ Yes, they are planning to attack this land and saying, ⁶ ‘We will attack Judah and conquer it. Then we will appoint Tabeel’s son to be the king of Judah.’ ⁷ But this is what Yahweh, the Lord, says:

‘It will not happen;

they will not *conquer Jerusalem!*

⁸ The capital of Syria is Damascus, but Damascus is ruled *only* by its *unimportant/insignificant* king king Rezin.

And as for Israel, within 65 years it will be conquered and completely destroyed.

⁹ Israel’s capital is Samaria, and Samaria is ruled *only* by its *insignificant/unimportant* king king Pekah.

*So you do not need to be afraid of those two countries!
But you must trust me, because if you do not trust me fully,
you will be defeated.’ ”*

A promise of a son named Immanuel

¹⁰ *Later, Yahweh gave me another message to tell to King Ahaz. ¹¹ He said to tell him, “Request me, Yahweh your God, to do something that will enable you to be sure that I will help/protect you. What you request can be from a place that is as high as the sky or as low as the place where the dead people are.”*

¹² *But when I told that to the king, he refused. He said, “No, I will not request Yahweh to do something to prove that he will help/protect us!”*

¹³ *Then I said to him, “You people who are descendants of King David, listen! You are causing me to be tired of being patient. Are you also going to cause my God to stop being patient with you [RHQ]? ¹⁴ Yahweh himself will do something for you to prove that he will help/protect you. Listen to this: A young woman will become pregnant and give birth to a son. She will name him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us’. ¹⁵ And by the time that child is old enough to eat curds/yogurt and honey, he will be able to reject what is evil and choose what is good. ¹⁶ And before that child is old enough to do that, the lands of the two kings that you(sg) are very ◀afraid of/worried about▶ will be deserted. ¹⁷ But then Yahweh will cause*

you and your family and your entire nation to experience *terrible disasters*. Those disasters will be worse than any disasters that have occurred since the country of Israel separated from Judah. Yahweh will cause *the army of the king of Assyria to attack you!*”

¹⁸ At that time, *it will be as though* Yahweh will whistle to summon the army from the south of Egypt as well as the army of Assyria. They will *come and surround your country like* [MET] flies and bees. ¹⁹ They will all come and settle/live *everywhere*—in the narrow valleys and caves in the rock cliffs, on land where there are thornbushes as well as on the fertile land. ²⁰ At that time Yahweh will hire the king of Assyria to come *with his army* from east of the *Euphrates River*. *They will get rid of everything in your land—the crops and the people. They will destroy everything thoroughly*; it will be like [MET] a barber shaving not only a man’s hair but his beard and the hair on his legs. ²¹ When that happens, a farmer will be able to have only one cow and two goats/sheep. ²² *However*, those animals will give plenty of milk, with the result that the farmer will have curds/yogurt to eat. *And because there will not be many people left* in the land, all the people who remain there will have plenty of milk and honey. ²³ Now there are many areas where there are vineyards that are worth 1,000 pieces of silver, but at that time there will be only briars and thorns [DOU] in those fields. ²⁴ There will be only briars and thorns in the entire land, *and wild animals*, with the result

that men will take their bows and arrows and go there *to hunt and kill animals*.²⁵ No one will go to where there previously were gardens on fertile hillsides, because briars and thorns will cover those hillsides. They will be areas where *only a few* cattle and sheep and goats wander around *searching for something to eat*.

8

A warning about the Assyrian attack

¹ Then Yahweh said to me, “Make a large signboard. And write clearly on it, ‘Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz’ which means ‘quickly ◀plunder/ take by force▶ and steal everything’.”² So I requested Uriah the Supreme Priest and Jeberemiah’s son Zechariah, men who were both honest/trustworthy witnesses, to watch me as I was doing that.

³ Then I had sex with [EUP] *my wife, who was* a prophetess, and she became pregnant and *then* gave birth to a son. Then Yahweh said to me, “Give him the name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (which means ‘suddenly attacked, quickly conquered’),⁴ because before he is old enough to say ‘papa’ or ‘mama’, the King of Assyria will *come with his army and* quickly take away all the valuable things in Damascus and in Samaria.”

⁵ Yahweh spoke to me again and said, “*Tell the people of Judah,*

⁶ *‘I have taken good care of you people,*
but you have rejected that, *thinking that* my help
was very little,

like [MET] the little canal through which water flows from the Gihon Spring into Jerusalem.

Instead, you have been happy *to request help from King Rezin and King Pekah.*

⁷ Therefore, I will cause the people of Judah to be attacked by *the powerful army of the King of Assyria, which will be like a great flood from the Euphrates River.*

Their soldiers *will be everywhere in your country, like a river that overflows all its banks.*

⁸ Those soldiers will go all over Judah—
like a river whose water [MET] rises as high as a person's neck.

Their army will spread over the land *quickly, like an eagle,*
and they will cover your entire land!
But I will be with you! ”

⁹ Listen, all you *people in distant countries!*
You can prepare to attack Judah.
You can prepare for battle, and shout your war-cries,
but your *armies will be crushed/shattered!*

¹⁰ *You can prepare for what you will do to attack Judah,*
but what you plan to do will not happen!
You will not succeed,
because God is with us!

Isaiah is urged to revere Yahweh

¹¹ Yahweh strongly warned me [MTY] not to act like the *other* people in Judah did. He said to me,

12 “Do not say that everything that people do is conspiring/rebelling *against the government*,

like *other* people say,

and do not ◀be afraid of/worry about▶ the things that other people are afraid of.

13 *I*, the Commander of the armies of angels, am the one you should consider to be holy.

And I am the one you should fear,
the one you should revere.

14 I will protect you(sg).

But as for the *other* people [MTY] in Israel and Judah,

I will be *like* [MET] a stone that causes people to stumble,

a rock that causes them to fall down.

And as for the people of Jerusalem,

I will be *like* [MET] a trap or a snare [DOU].

15 Many *people* will stumble and fall down and never get up again.

They will experience great troubles;

they will be captured *by their enemies*.”

16 *So, I say to you who are my disciples*, seal up this scroll

on which I have written the messages that God has given to me,

and give his instructions to *others* who have accompanied me.

17 I will wait to see what Yahweh *will do*.

He has rejected the descendants [MTY] of Jacob,
but I will confidently expect him to help me.

18 I and the children that Yahweh has given to me
are *like* signs to warn *the people of* Israel;
we are warnings from the Commander of the
armies of angels
the one who lives *in his temple* on Zion Hill
in Jerusalem.

19 Some people may urge you(pl) to ◀consult/
go and talk with▶ those who talk with the
spirits of dead people or with those who say that
they receive messages from those spirits. They
whisper and mutter *about what we should do in
the future.* But God is [RHQ] the one whom we
should ask to guide us! It is ridiculous [RHQ]
for people who are alive to request spirits of
dead people to tell us *what we should do!* 20 Pay
attention to God's instructions and teaching! If
people do not say things that agree with what
God teaches us, *what they say is worthless. It is as
though* those people are in darkness. 21 They will
wander through the land, worried/discouraged
and hungry. And when they become very
hungry, they will become very angry. They
will look up *toward heaven* and curse God and
will also curse their king. 22 They will look
around the land and see only trouble/distress
and darkness and things that cause them to
despair. And *then* they will be thrown into the
very black darkness *of hell.*

9

The promise of the future king

¹ However, those in Judah who have been distressed/worried will not *continue* to suffer. Previously, Yahweh humbled *the people* in the land *where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali live*. But in the future he will honor *the people who live in* that Galilee region, along the road between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, where *many* foreigners live.

² *Some day, it will be as though* [MET] the people who walked in darkness will see a great light.

A *great* light will shine on those who live in a land where they have great troubles/distress.

³ *Yahweh*, you will cause us people in Israel to rejoice;
we will become very happy.

We will rejoice about what you *have done*
like [SIM] people rejoice when they harvest their crops,

or like soldiers rejoice
when they divide up among themselves the things that they have captured in a battle.

⁴ You will cause us to no longer be slaves [MET] *of those who captured us*;
you will lift the heavy burdens from our shoulders.

It will be as though you will break the rods of those who oppressed us,
like you did when you destroyed *the army of* the Midian people-group.

⁵ The boots that the enemy soldiers have worn

and their clothing which has stains of blood
on them
will all be burned up;
they will only be fuel for a *big* fire.

⁶ Another reason that we will rejoice is that a
special child will be born for us;
a woman will give birth to a son,
who will be our ruler.

And his names will be 'Wonderful Counselor',
'Mighty/Powerful God', 'Our Everlasting
Father', and 'Prince/Ruler *who enables us
to have Peace*'.

⁷ His rule, and the peace that he *brings/causes*,
will never end.

He will rule [MTY] fairly and justly [DOU],
like *his ancestor King David* did.

This will happen because the Commander of
the armies of angels greatly desires that
it happen.

God will punish Israel

⁸ The Lord has warned the people of Israel, the
descendants of Jacob;
he has said that *he will punish* them.

⁹⁻¹⁰ And all the people in Samaria and *other
places in Israel* know that,
but they are very proud and arrogant [DOU].

They say, "Our city has been destroyed,
*but we will take away the broken bricks from
the ruins*
and replace them with carefully cut stones.

Our sycamore-fig trees have been cut down *by
our enemies*,
but we will plant cedar trees in their place."

- 11 But Yahweh brought the armies of *Assyria*,
the enemies of King Rezin of *Syria*, to fight
against Israel
and incited *other nations to attack Israel*.
- 12 *The army of Syria came from the east,*
and *the army of Philistia came from the west,*
and they destroyed Israel
like a wild animal tears another animal apart
and [MET] devours it.
- But even after that happened, Yahweh was still
very angry with them.
He was ready to strike them with his fist
again.
- 13 *But even though* Yahweh punished his people
like that,
they still did not return to him *and worship*
him.
They still did not request the Commander of the
armies of angels *to assist them.*
- 14 Therefore, in one day Yahweh will get rid of
those who are like Israel's head and those
who are like its tail;
the *ones who are like* the top of the palm tree
and the *ones who are like* the bottom.
- 15 The leaders [DOU] of Israel are the head,
and the prophets who tell lies are the tail.
- 16 The leaders of the people have misled them;
they have caused the people that they are
ruling to be confused.
- 17 For that reason, Yahweh is not pleased with
the young men *of Israel,*
and he does not *even* act mercifully toward
the widows and orphans,

because they are all ungodly and wicked,
and they all say things that are foolish.

But Yahweh still is angry with them;
he is ready to strike them with his fist again.

¹⁸ When people do wicked things,
it is like [SIM] a brushfire *that spreads rapidly*.

It burns up *not only* briars and thorns;
it starts a big fire in the forests
from which clouds of smoke will rise.

¹⁹ *It is as though* the *whole* land is burned *black*
because the Commander of the armies of
angels is extremely angry with the Israeli
people.

They will become like [SIM] fuel for that great
fire,
and no one will try to rescue even his *own*
brother *from that fire*.

²⁰ Israeli people will attack their neighbors on
the right *to get food from them*,
but they will still be hungry.

They will *kill those who live in houses* on the left
and eat their flesh,
but their stomachs will still not be full.

²¹ *People of the tribes of* Manasseh and
Ephraim will attack each other,
and *then* they will both attack the people of
Judah.

But even after that happens, Yahweh will still be
very angry with them.

He will be ready to strike them with his fist again.

10

A warning to unjust judges

- ¹ Terrible things will happen to you judges who are unjust
and who make unfair laws.
- ² You refuse to help poor people,
and you do not allow them to get the things that they should get.
You *allow people to steal things from widows*
and do unfair things to orphans.
- ³ When I punish you
by sending people from distant lands to cause you to experience disasters,
◀to whom will you run to get help?/there will be no one who can help you.▶ [RHQ]
Your valuable possessions will certainly *not be safe* [RHQ] anywhere.
- ⁴ You will be able only to stumble along as you are taken away with other prisoners,
or *else* your corpses will lie on the ground with others who have been killed.
But even after that happens,
Yahweh will still be very angry with you.
He will still be ready to strike you again with his fist.

A warning to Assyria

- ⁵ *Yahweh says*, "Terrible things will happen to Assyria.

It is true that their army is like a rod/club [DOU] with which I punish other nations because I am very angry with those nations [DOU].

⁶ *Sometimes I send the armies of Assyria to attack a godless nation, to fight against other people who have caused me to be angry.*

I send them to capture people and to seize and take away their possessions, and to trample them like [SIM] people walk on mud in the streets.

⁷ *But the king of Assyria does not understand, he does not realize that he is only like a weapon in my hand.*

He wants only to destroy people, to get rid of many nations.

⁸ *He says, 'All of my army commanders will soon be kings of these nations that I conquer!*

⁹ *We destroyed Calno city like we destroyed Carchemish city,*

We destroyed Hamath city like we destroyed Arpad city;

we destroyed Samaria just like we destroyed Damascus.

¹⁰ *We were able to destroy all those kingdoms that were full of idols,*

kingdoms whose idols were greater than the idols in Jerusalem and Samaria.

¹¹ *So we will defeat Jerusalem and destroy the idols that are there, just like we destroyed Samaria and the idols that were there!'*

¹² *But, I, Yahweh, say that after I have used Assyria to finish what I want to do to punish the people in Jerusalem [DOU], I will punish the king of Assyria because he has been very proud and arrogant/boastful [DOU].*

¹³ He says, 'By my own great power [MTY] I have done these things.

I have been able to do them because I am very wise and very intelligent.

My army removed the barriers *at the borders of nations* and carried away all their valuable things.

My army has knocked down their kings like [SIM] a ferocious bull would.

¹⁴ Like [MET] a farmer reaches into a bird's nest *to take away the eggs,* we have taken away the treasures of other countries [DOU].

The people were not like birds that would flap their wings or chirp loudly *to protest about their eggs being stolen;* the people did not object at all *to their treasures being stolen.'*

¹⁵ *But I, Yahweh, say that an axe certainly cannot [RHQ] boast about being stronger than the person who uses it, and a saw is not greater than the person who uses it.*

A rod cannot control the one who holds it [RHQ], and a wooden club cannot lift up a person [RHQ].

So the king of Assyria should not boast that he has done these things with his own wisdom and strength.

16 And I, the Commander of the armies of angels, will send a plague among the proud soldiers of Assyria;

it will be like [MET] a fire that will kill them and get rid of their glory/wealth.

17 I, Yahweh, who am like [MET] a light for the people of Israel, will be the fire;

I, the Holy One, will be like a flame.

The soldiers of Assyria are like [MET] thorns and briers,

and I will burn them up in one night.

18 There are glorious forests and fertile farmlands in Assyria, but I will completely destroy them;

they will be like [SIM] a very sick person who shrivels up and then dies.

19 There will be very few trees left in those forests;

even a child will be able to count them.”

A promise of future blessings for Israel

20 In the future there will be only a few people left in Israel;

not many descendants of Jacob will still be alive.

But they will no longer rely on the king of Assyria, the king of the nation that tried to destroy them.

Instead, they will faithfully/sincerely trust in Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel.

21 Those Israelis will return to their mighty God.

- 22 *Now*, the people of Israel are as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore, but only a few of them will return *from the countries to which they were exiled*.
Yahweh has decided to destroy *most of the Israelis* and that is what *he must do because he is completely just/righteous*.
- 23 *Yes*, the Commander of the armies of angels has *already* decided to destroy the entire land *of Israel*.
- 24 This is what the Commander of the armies of angels says:
“My people in Jerusalem, do not be afraid of the army of Assyria when they beat you with rods and clubs, like the men of Egypt did *to your ancestors long ago*.”
- 25 Soon I will no longer be angry with you, and *then* I will be angry with the people of Assyria and destroy them!”
- 26 The Commander of the armies of angels will whip them.
He will do to them like he did when he helped Gideon *and his 300 soldiers* to defeat the *army of the Midian people-group*, and like he did when he showed his mighty power [MTY] *by causing the army of Egypt to drown in the Red Sea*.
- 27 Some day, Yahweh will cause the army of Assyria to stop oppressing you, *his people*; he will end your suffering and your being slaves of the people of Assyria [MET];

he will take away the load that you people of Judah have been carrying,
and cause things to go well for you.

The Assyrians will invade Judah

²⁸ *The army of Assyria will enter northern Judah near Aiath town, they will go through Migron town and store their supplies at Micmash town north of Jerusalem.*

²⁹ They will cross through a mountain pass and set up their tents at Geba town.

People in Ramah town will tremble because of being afraid.

The people of Gibeah town, where King Saul was born, will all run away.

³⁰ You people of Gallim town will cry out for help. You will shout to *the people of Laish city near Jerusalem* to warn them!

The people of Anathoth town will suffer a lot.

³¹ *The people of Madmenah town north of Jerusalem will all be running away, and the people of Gebim town close to Jerusalem will be trying to hide.*

³² The soldiers of Assyria will stop at Nob city outside Jerusalem.

They will shake their fists

as they threaten the people on Zion Hill in Jerusalem.

³³ But listen to this! The Commander of the armies of angels

with his great power will destroy [MET] the mighty army of Assyria.

It is as though they are a huge tree [MET] that he will cut down.

³⁴ He will destroy the *soldiers of Assyria* like men use big axes to cut down the tall trees in the forests of Lebanon.

11

David's descendant will bring peace

¹ Like [MET] a new shoot *often* grows from the stump of a tree,

there will be a descendant of King David who will be a new king.

² The Spirit of Yahweh will always be with him. The Spirit will enable him to be wise and to understand *much about many things*.

The Spirit will enable him to decide what is good to do, and will enable him to be very powerful.

The Spirit will enable him to know Yahweh and to revere him.

³ He will be glad to obey Yahweh.

He will not decide *whether someone is righteous or not only* by seeing what that person looks like,

or by listening to *what others say about that person*.

⁴ He will judge *the cases of* needy people fairly; and he will act justly toward poor people.

He will punish evil people as a result of what he decides [MTY];

he will get rid of wicked people because of
[MTY] *their behavior.*

⁵ He will always act righteously;
his doing that will *accompany him like* [MET]
a belt *around his waist.*
He will always speak what is true;
his doing that will *accompany him like* [MET]
a sash *around his waist.*

⁶ *When he becomes king,* wolves and lambs will
live together *peacefully;*
leopards, *instead of killing* baby goats,
will lie down with them.
Similarly, calves and lions will eat food together;
and a young child will take care of them.

⁷ Cows and bears will eat *together;*
bear cubs and calves will lie down together.
Lions will *not eat other animals;*
instead, they will eat hay like cows do.

⁸ Babies will play *safely* near the holes where
cobra snakes *live;*
small children will *even* put their hands into
nests of poisonous snakes,
and the snakes will not harm them.

⁹ No creatures will harm or kill other creatures
on *Zion Hill,* my holy hill;
and the earth will *be filled with people who* know
Yahweh
like [SIM] the seas are full of water.

¹⁰ At that time, a descendant of King David will
hold up a flag
to signal to the people of all people-groups
that they should gather around him;
they will come to him to get his advice,

and the place where he lives will be glorious.

11 At that time, Yahweh will ◀reach out his hand/
use his power▶ as he did long ago;

he will enable those who had been ◀exiled from/
forced to leave▶ Israel to return home,
from Assyria, from northern Egypt, from
southern Egypt,
from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Babylonia,
from Hamath, and from all the distant
countries near the sea.

12 Yahweh will raise his flag among *all* the
people-groups,
and he will gather together the people of
Israel who had been exiled *long ago*.

He will gather from very distant places [IDM] on
the earth
the people of Judah who ◀*had been scattered*
to/are living in▶ *those places*.

13 *Then*, the people of Israel and the people of
Judah will not be jealous of each other *any*
longer,
and they will no *longer* be enemies of each
other.

14 Their *armies* will *join together* to attack the
people of Philistia to the west.

And together they will attack nations to the
east;
they will *defeat those nations and* take away all
their valuable possessions.

They will capture *the areas of* Edom and Moab,
and the people of the Ammon people-group
will be controlled/ruled by the people of
Israel and Judah.

15 Yahweh will make a dry road through the sea near Egypt.

And *it will be as though* he will wave his hand over the *Euphrates* River and send a strong wind to cause it to divide into seven streams, with the result that people will be able to walk across *those streams*.

16 And because he will make a highway for his people who are living in Assyria, they will be able to return *to their own land*, just like *long ago* he made a path for *the people of Israel* so that they could go through the water when they left Egypt.

12

Songs that people will sing to praise Yahweh

¹ At that time, you *people of Jerusalem* will sing *this song*:

“Yahweh, we praise you!

Previously, you were angry with us, but you are not angry now and you have comforted us.

² Amazingly, you *have come* to save us, so we will trust *in you* and not be afraid. Yahweh our God, you enable us to be strong; you are *the one about whom* we sing; you have rescued us *from our enemies*.”

³ You(pl), *his people*, will greatly enjoy being saved

like [MET] you enjoy drinking water from a fountain.

- ⁴ At that time you *all* will say,
 “We should thank Yahweh! We should praise him [MTY]!
 We should tell *the people of all* the people-groups what he has done;
 we should enable them to know that he [MTY] is very great!
- ⁵ We should sing to Yahweh, because he has done wonderful things.
 We should enable everyone in the world to know it!
- ⁶ You people of Jerusalem, shout joyfully to praise Yahweh,
 because he is the great Holy One whom we Israeli *people worship*,
 and he lives among us!”

13

Yahweh will punish Babylon

- ¹ I, Isaiah, the son of Amoz, received *from Yahweh* this message about Babylon city:
- ² Lift up a flag on the bare *top of a hill*,
 to signal *that an army should come to attack Babylon*.
- Shout to them and wave your hand *to signal to them*
 that they should march through the city gates into the palaces of the proud *rulers of Babylon!*

- ³ *Yahweh says, "I have commanded those soldiers to do that;
I have summoned the warriors whom I have chosen to punish *the people of Babylon* because of my being very angry with them, and those soldiers will be very proud *when they do that.*"*
- ⁴ Listen to the noise on the mountains,
which is the noise of a huge army marching!
It is the noise made by people of many people-groups shouting.
The Commander of the armies of angels has summoned this army to gather together.
- ⁵ They come from countries that are far away,
from the most remote places [IDM] on the earth.
They are *like* [SIM] weapons that Yahweh will use *to punish the people with whom* he is very angry,
and to destroy the entire country *of Babylonia.*
- ⁶ *You people of Babylon* will scream because you will be terrified,
because it will be the time that Yahweh *has determined/chosen,*
the time for the all-powerful *God* to destroy *your city.*
- ⁷ All of your people will be very afraid [DOU],
with the result that they will be unable even to lift their arms.
- ⁸ All of you will be terrified.
You will have [PRS] severe pains

like [SIM] a woman has when she is giving birth to a baby.

You will look at each other helplessly,
and it will show on your faces that you feel horror.

⁹ Listen to this: The day that Yahweh has appointed/chosen is near,
the day that he will furiously and fiercely *punish you* because he is very angry *with you*.

He will cause your land *of Babylonia* to be desolate/barren,
and he will destroy *all* the sinners in it.

¹⁰ *When that happens*, none of the stars will shine.
When the sun rises, it will be dark,
and there will be no light from the moon *at night*.

¹¹ *Yahweh says*, "I will punish *everyone* in the world for the evil things that they do;
I will punish the wicked people for the sins that they have committed.

I will stop arrogant/proud people from being proud,
and I will stop ruthless people from acting cruelly.

¹² *And because I will cause most people to die*,
people will be harder to find than gold,
harder to find than fine gold from Ophir *in Arabia*.

¹³ I will shake the sky,
and the earth will *also* move out of its place.

That will happen when *I*, the Commander of the armies of angels, punish *wicked people*, when *I show them that I am extremely angry with them*.

14 And all *the foreigners in Babylon will run around* like [SIM] deer that are being hunted, like sheep that do not have a shepherd.

They will try to find other people from their countries, and *then they will escape from Babylon* and return to their own countries.

15 Anyone who is captured *in Babylon* will be killed by *their enemies' swords* [DOU].

16 Their little children will be dashed to pieces on the rocks while *their parents watch*; *their enemies* will steal everything valuable from their houses and will rape their wives.

17 Look! I am going to incite the people of Media to attack Babylon.

The *army of Media* will attack Babylon, even if they are offered [DOU] silver or gold *if they promise to not attack it*.

18 *With their arrows, the soldiers of Media will shoot the young men of Babylon*; they will not *even act mercifully* [DOU] toward infants or children!"

19 Babylon has been a very beautiful [MTY] city; *all the people of Babylonia have been very proud of Babylon, their capital city*;

but God will destroy Babylon,
like [SIM] he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 No one will ever live in Babylon again.

It will be deserted forever.

◀Nomads/People who travel from place to place to live▶ will refuse to set up their tents there;
shepherds will not bring their flocks of sheep to rest there.

21 Instead, animals that live in the desert will be there;

jackals/wolves will live in *the ruins of the houses*.

Owls (OR, Ostriches) will live in *the ruins*,
and wild goats will romp/jump around *there*.

22 Hyenas will howl in the *ruined towers*,
and jackals/wolves will make their dens in *the ruins of the palaces that were previously very beautiful*.

The time when *Babylon will be destroyed* is very near;

Babylon will not exist much longer.

14

God's people will return to Judah

1 *But* Yahweh will act mercifully toward the Israeli people;

he will choose *the people of Israel to be his people again*,

and he will allow them to *return here and live in their own land again*.

Then people from *many* other countries will come here

and unite with the Israeli people.

² People of other nations will help them to return to their *own* land, and those who come from other countries will ◀work for/become the servants of▶ the Israeli people.

Those who captured people of Israel will be captured by Israeli soldiers, and the people of Israel will rule over the people who *previously* oppressed them.

The king of Babylon will be killed

³ Some day Yahweh will free you *Israeli people* from suffering and trouble and from being afraid, and from being cruelly treated as slaves [MTY]. ⁴ When that happens, you will make fun of the King of Babylon by saying this:

“You treated us cruelly, but that has ended!

Your insolently causing others to suffer is finished!

⁵ You evil ruler, Yahweh will get rid of your power, and you will oppress people no longer!

⁶ You attacked people many times because you were very angry with them, and you subdued/conquered *other* nations by causing them to suffer endlessly.

⁷ *But soon* everything will be quiet and peaceful on the earth.

Everyone [PRS] will sing *again*!

⁸ *It will be as though* even the trees in the forests will joyfully sing this song, the cyprus/pine *trees* and the cedar *trees* in Lebanon will sing it:

'You ◀have been overthrown/are no longer a ruler▶,
and now no one comes to get rid of us
[MET].'

⁹ The dead people are [PRS] are eagerly waiting
for you to come to the place where they
are.

The spirits of the world leaders
will be delighted to welcome you;
those who were kings of many nations *before*
they died
will stand up *to welcome you*.

¹⁰ They will all shout to you *together*,
'Now you are as weak as we are!'

¹¹ You were very proud and powerful,
but all that ended when you died,
along with the sounds of harps *being played*
in your palace.

Now in your grave maggots will be under you *like*
a sheet [MET],
and worms will cover you *like a blanket*
[MET].

¹² You have *disappeared from the earth like* [MET]
a star which has fallen from the sky;

you *were very well-known*
like [MET] the morning star *which is seen by*
everyone;

you destroyed *many* nations,
but now you have been destroyed.

¹³ You *proudly* said to yourself, 'I will ascend to
heaven, to my throne above God's stars.'

- I will rule on the mountain where *the gods* gather together, far in the north.
- 14 I will ascend above the clouds and become like the highest/greatest god!
- 15 *But you were not able to do that;* instead, you were carried down to your grave, and you went to the place where the dead people are.
- 16 The *other dead* people there stare at you; they wonder what happened to you. *They say*, 'Is this the man who caused the earth to shake and caused the *people in many* kingdoms to tremble?
- 17 Is this the man who *tried to* cause the world to become a desert, who conquered its cities and did not allow the people whom he captured to return to their homes?'
- 18 All the kings of the earth *who have died* were greatly honored when they were buried,
- 19 but your *corpse will* not be buried; it will be thrown away like [SIM] a worthless branch *of a tree*.
- Your corpse will be under a heap of other corpses of soldiers that were killed by *their enemies'* swords, and *their corpses* were not buried; you will be with those who have gone down to the stony ground in a big pit.
- 20 Your *corpse will* not be buried because you have destroyed your nation and have caused your people to be killed.

The descendants of wicked people *like you* will never be honored again.

²¹ *People will say, 'Slaughter this man's children because of the sins that their ancestors committed!*

Do not allow them to become rulers and conquer *all the nations in the world,* and fill the world with the cities *that they rule!* "

²² *This is what the Commander of the armies of angels says:*

"I myself will cause Babylon to be conquered. I will get rid of Babylon and its people and their descendants.

²³ *I will cause Babylon to be a place where owls live,*

a place full of swamps; I will get rid of it completely as though [MET] I were sweeping it with a broom.

That is what I, the Commander of the armies of angels, say."

Yahweh will punish Assyria

²⁴ The Commander of the armies of angels has *also* solemnly promised this:

"The things that I have planned will surely happen [DOU].

²⁵ *When the army of Assyria is in my land of Israel,*

I will crush them. It will be as though I will trample them on my mountains.

My people will no longer be the slaves [MET] of
 the people of Assyria;
it will be as though [MET] I will take away
 the burdens that are on their shoulders.

²⁶ I have a plan for everyone on the earth,
 a plan to show my power [MTY] to punish all
 the nations.

²⁷ *I*, the Commander of the armies of angels, have
 spoken,
 and no one can [RHQ] change my mind.
 When I raise my fist *to strike Assyria*,
 no one [RHQ] will be able to stop me *from
 doing that.*"

Yahweh will punish Philistia

²⁸ I received this message *from Yahweh* during
 the year that King Ahaz died:

²⁹ You people of Philistia, do not rejoice that the
 enemy army [MET] that attacked you has
 been defeated
 and that their king is dead.

He was *as dangerous as* [MET] a snake,
 but there will be another king,
 who will be more *dangerous* than a cobra;
 he will be *like* [MET] a quick-moving poi-
 sonous snake.

³⁰ Those of my people who are very poor will take
 care of their flocks of sheep,
 and the needy people will lie down safely,
 but I will cause you people *of Philistia* who are
 still alive [DOU]
 to die from famine.

³¹ So, you people of Philistia, wail at the gates of your cities!

You should be extremely afraid,
because *a very powerful army* will come from the north *to attack you*;

their chariots will stir up the dust like [MET]
a cloud of smoke.

Each of their soldiers is ready to fight.

³² If messengers *from Philistia* come to us *Israeli people*,

this is what we must [RHQ] tell them:

“Yahweh has established Jerusalem, *not Philistia*,
and his people who are oppressed will be safe inside *the walls of Jerusalem.*”

15

Yahweh will destroy Moab

¹ *I received* this message *from Yahweh* about the Moab *people-group*:

In one night *two of your important cities*, Ar and Kir, will be destroyed.

² The people of Dibon, *your capital city*, will go to their temple to mourn/weep;
they will go to *their shrines* on the hilltops to weep.

They will wail because of *what happened to* Nebo and Medeba *towns in the south*;
they will all shave the hair of their heads,
and the men will cut off their beards *to show that they are grieving*.

³ In the streets people will wear rough sackcloth,
and on their *flat* rooftops and in the *city* plazas everyone will wail,

with tears streaming down their faces.

⁴ *The people of Heshbon city and Elealeh towns in the north of Moab* will cry out;
people as far away as *Jahaz town in the south*
will hear them wailing.

Therefore the soldiers of Moab will tremble and cry out
and they will be very afraid [IDM].

⁵ I feel very sorry for *the people of Moab*;
they will flee to Zoar and Eglath-Shelishiyah
towns in the far south.

They will cry as they walk up to *Luhith town.*
All along the road to *Horonaim town* people will
mourn
because their country has been destroyed.

⁶ The water in *Nimrim Valley* will have dried up.
The grass there will be withered;
the green plants will *all* be gone,
and there will be nothing left that is green.

⁷ The people will pick up their possessions
and carry them across *Willows Brook.*

⁸ Throughout the country of Moab, *people* will be
crying;
people as far away as *Eglaim in the south*
and *Beer-Elim in the north* will hear them
wailing.

⁹ The stream near *Dimon* will become red from
the *blood of people who have been killed,*
but I will cause the people of Moab to
experience even more *trouble:*

Lions will attack those who *are trying to escape*
from Moab

and will *also* attack the people who remain in that country.

16

- ¹ *The rulers of Moab will say to each other,*
 “We must send some *lambs* from Sela city as a gift to the ruler of Judah *to persuade him to not allow his army to attack us any more.*
 We should send them through the desert to the king.
- ² The women of Moab will be left alone at the
 ◀fords of/places where people can walk across▶ the Arnon River;
 they will be like [SIM] birds that have been pushed out of their nests.
- ³ They will cry out, ‘Help us!
 Tell us what we should do!
 Protect us completely [MET],
 we who are running away *from our enemies,*
 and do not ▶betray us/tell our enemies where we are▶.
- ⁴ Allow *those of us* who are fleeing from Moab to stay with you;
 hide/protect us from *our enemies who want to destroy us!*’

Some day there will be no one to oppress us,
 and our enemies will stop destroying *our land.*

- ⁵ Then *Yahweh* will appoint someone to be king who will be *a descendant of King David.*
 As he rules [MTY], he will be merciful and truthful.
 He will always do what is fair/just

and quickly do what is righteous.”

⁶ We *people of Judah* have heard about *the people of Moab*;

we have heard that they are very proud and conceited [DOU];

they are insolent,

but what they proudly say about themselves is not true.

⁷ *Some day all the people in Moab* will weep.

They will all mourn,

because *there will be no more* raisin cakes in Kir-Hareseth city.

⁸ The *crops in the fields* at Heshbon city will wither,

and the vineyards at Sibmah town will wither also.

The armies of *other* nations will destroy Moab,

which is *like* [MET] a beautiful grapevine

whose branches spread *north* to Jazer town

and *east* to the desert.

Its branches spread very far *west*,

to the west side of the *Dead Sea*.

⁹ So I will weep for Jazer

and for the grapevines of Sibmah.

I will shed tears for all of you.

I will cry because people will no longer shout joyfully, like they usually do

when they gather the fruit that ripens in the ◀summer/hot season▶ and the other crops that they harvest.

¹⁰ People will no longer be glad at harvest time.

No one will sing in the vineyards,

no one will shout joyfully.

No one will tread on grapes *to get grape juice for wine*;
there will be nothing to shout about *joyfully*.

¹¹ I cry inwardly for Moab;
my groaning is like [SIM] *a sad song played on a harp*.

I am sad about Kir-Hareseth.

¹² *The people of Moab* will go and pray at their sacred shrines,
but that will not help them.

They will cry out to their gods in their temples,
but none of them will be able to rescue the people.

¹³ Yahweh has already spoken those things about Moab. ¹⁴ But now he says that exactly three years from now, he will destroy all the things that *the people of Moab* have been proud of. Even though they have a huge number of people in Moab now, only a few people will remain alive, and they will be weak/helpless.

17

Yahweh will punish Syria

¹ *I received this message from Yahweh about Damascus the capital of Syria:*

"Listen carefully! Damascus will no longer be a city;

it will be only a heap of ruins!

² *The towns near Aroer city will be abandoned. Flocks of sheep will eat grass in the streets and lie down there, and there will be no one to chase them away.*

³ The cities in Israel will not have walls around them *to protect them*.

The power of the kingdom of Damascus will be ended,

and the few people who will remain in Damascus will be disgraced like the people in Israel were disgraced.”

That is what the Commander of the armies of angels says.

The destruction of Israel

⁴ “At that time, Israel will become insignificant. It will be *like* [MET] a fat person who has become very thin.

⁵ The entire land will be like [SIM] a field where the harvesters have cut all the grain; there will be nothing left, like [SIM] the fields in the Rephaim Valley after all the crops have been harvested.

⁶ Only a few of the Israeli people will remain [MET], like [SIM] the few olives that remain on the top of a tree after the workers have caused all the other olives to fall *to the ground*.

There will be only two or three olives in the top branches,

or four or five olives on the other branches.”

That is what the Commander of the armies of angels says.

⁷ *Then*, at that time, *you people of Israel* will ◀turn for help to/look up to▶ God, your creator, the Holy One of Israel.

⁸ You will no *longer* seek to get help from your idols
or worship the idols that you have made
with your own hands [DOU].

You will never again bow down in front of
the poles *where you worship the goddess*
Asherah.

You will never again worship at the shrines
that you have built for burning incense.

⁹ The largest cities in Israel will be abandoned,
like the land that the Hiv and Amor people-
groups abandoned (OR, like the forests that
the *Canaan people-group* abandoned) when the
Israelis *attacked them long ago.*

No one will live there.

¹⁰ *That will happen* because you have stopped
worshiping God
who is *like* [MET] a huge rock under which
you can be safe.

You have forgotten that he is the one who can
hide/protect you.

So, *now* you plant very nice grapevines
and *even* plant very expensive ones that
come from other countries.

¹¹ *But* even if they sprout leaves on the day that
you plant them,
and even if they produce blossoms on that
same morning,

at harvest time, there will not be any grapes for
you to pick.

All that you will get is a lot of agony/misery.

- 12 Listen! *The armies of* many nations will roar like the sea roars.
It will sound like the noise of crashing waves.
- 13 But even though their loud roaring will be like the sound of crashing waves,
when Yahweh rebukes them, they will run far away.
They will flee like [SIM] chaff on the hills scatters when the wind *blows*,
like tumbleweeds scatter when a windstorm blows.
- 14 And, even though you people of Israel will be terrified,
in the morning *your enemies* will all be gone/dead.
That is what will happen to those who invade our land and *then* steal our possessions.

18

The destruction of Ethiopia

- 1 Terrible things will happen to *you people* of Ethiopia!
In your land there are many sailboats at the upper part of the Nile River.
- 2 Your rulers send ambassadors that sail *quickly* down the river in papyrus boats.
You messengers to Ethiopia, go quickly!
Go *up the river* to people who are tall and who have smooth skin.
People everywhere are afraid of those people,
because they conquer and destroy *other nations*;

they live in a land that is divided by branches
of one large river.

³ *You messengers* must tell people everywhere,
to people everywhere,
“Look when I lift up my battle flag on top of the
mountain,
and listen when I blow the ram’s horn
to signal that the battle is about to begin.”

⁴ *Listen* because Yahweh has told me this:
“I will watch quietly from where I live.
I will watch as quietly as [SIM] the heat
waves shimmer as they rises on a hot
summer day,
as quietly as the dew forms *on the ground*
during harvest time.”

⁵ But *even* before the army of Ethiopia starts to
attack,
while their plans are *slowly forming* like
[SIM] grapes that are ripening,
Yahweh will *get rid of them like a farmer who*
[MET] cuts off the new shoots of the
grapevines with his shears,
and prunes the branches that have become
very long.

⁶ All *the soldiers in the army of Ethiopia* will be
killed,
and their corpses will lie in the fields for
vultures to eat their flesh in the ◀summer/
hot season▶.

Then wild animals will *chew on their bones* all
during the ◀winter/cold season▶.

⁷ At that time, the people of that land that is divided by the branches of that one big river will take gifts to Yahweh in Jerusalem.

Those tall people who have smooth/dark skin,
whom people everywhere are afraid of,
because they conquer and destroy many
countries,
will take gifts to Jerusalem, the city where the
Commander of the armies of angels lives.

19

A prophecy about the destruction of Egypt

¹ *I received this message from Yahweh about Egypt:*

“Listen to this! I, Yahweh, am coming to Egypt,
riding on a fast-moving cloud.

The idols in Egypt will tremble when *I appear*,
and the people of Egypt will be extremely
afraid [IDM].

² I will cause the people of Egypt to fight against
each other:

men will fight against their brothers,
neighbors will fight against each other,
people of one city will fight against the
people of another city,
people of one province will fight against the
people of another province.

³ The people of Egypt will become very discour-
aged,
and I will cause their plans not to be success-
ful.

They will plead with idols and sorcerers and those who talk with spirits of dead people to tell them what they should do.

⁴ Then I will enable someone who will treat them very cruelly to become their king [DOU].”

That is what I, the Commander of the armies of angels, say.

⁵ *Some day* the water in the *Nile* River will dry up,
and the riverbed will become very dry [DOU].

⁶ The branches of the river will all dry up [DOU]
The canals along the river will stink
because of the rotting reeds and ◀bulrushes/
tall grass▶.

⁷ All the plants along the river and all the crops
will dry up;
then they will blow away and disappear.

⁸ The fishermen will throw into the river lines
with hooks on them and nets,
and then they will groan and be very discouraged;
they will be sad *because there will be no fish
in the river.*

⁹ Those who weave cloth from flax will not know
what to do,
because there will be no thread for them to
weave.

¹⁰ They will all despair
and be very discouraged.

¹¹ The officials in *Zoan city in northern Egypt* are
foolish.

The advice that they gave to the king was worthless.
 Why do they continue to tell the king that they are wise,
 that they are descendants of wise kings who lived long ago [RHQ]?

¹² King, ◀where are your wise counselors now?/ You have no wise counselors now!▶ [RHQ]
 If you had any wise counselors, they could tell you what the Commander of the armies of angels has planned to do to Egypt [SAR]!

¹³ Yes, the officials of Zoan have become foolish, and the leaders in Memphis *city in northern Egypt* have deceived themselves.

All the leaders of the people have ◀caused their people to do wrong things/led their people astray▶.

¹⁴ Yahweh has caused them to be very foolish, with the result that in everything that they do, *it is as though the people of Egypt stagger like [SIM] a drunken person staggers and slips in his own vomit.*

¹⁵ There is no one in Egypt, rich or poor, important or unimportant, *who will be able to help them.*

¹⁶ At that time, the people of Egypt will be *as helpless* as [SIM] women. They will tremble, being terrified *because they know that* the Commander of the armies of angels has raised his fist, *ready to strike/punish them.* ¹⁷ The people of

Egypt will be afraid of the people of Judah, and anyone who mentions Judah to them will cause them to be terrified, because *that will remind them* of what Yahweh, the Commander of the armies of angels, is planning to do to them.

¹⁸ At that time, *people in five cities* in Egypt will solemnly declare that they will serve Yahweh. They will *learn to speak* the Hebrew language. One of those cities will be called 'City of the Sun'.

¹⁹ At that time, there will be an altar for worshipping Yahweh in the center of Egypt, and there will be a ◀pillar/large rock▶ to honor Yahweh at the border *between Egypt and Israel*. ²⁰ That will be a sign to indicate that the Commander of the armies of angels is worshiped in the land of Egypt. And when the people cry out to Yahweh to help them because others are ◀oppressing them/causing them to suffer▶, he will send to them someone who will defend and rescue them. ²¹ Yahweh will enable the people of Egypt to know who he is, and at that time they will have a close relationship with Yahweh and worship him and bring to him offerings of grain and other sacrifices. They will solemnly promise to do things for Yahweh, and they will do what they promise. ²² After Yahweh has punished Egypt, he will cause their troubles to end. The people of Egypt will turn to Yahweh, and he will listen when they plead to him *for help*, and he will cause their troubles to cease.

²³ At that time, there will be a highway between Egypt and Assyria. *As a result*, the people of Egypt will *be able to travel easily* to

Assyria, and the people of Assyria *will be able to travel easily* to Egypt. And the people of both countries will worship *Yahweh*. ²⁴ And Israel will be their ally. All three nations will be *friendly to each other*, and the people of Israel will be a blessing to the people of the entire world. ²⁵ The Commander of the armies of angels will bless them, saying, "*You people of Egypt are now my people. You people of Assyria, I have established your country. You people of Israel are the people whom I have chosen to belong to me.*"

20

A message about Egypt and Ethiopia

¹ One year King Sargon of Assyria sent the chief commander of his army *to take his soldiers to capture Ashdod city in Philistia*. ² At that time, Yahweh told me, "Take off the rough sackcloth that you have been wearing and take off your sandals." So I did what he told me to do, and *then I walked around naked and barefoot for three years*.

³ *Then Yahweh said this to the people of Judah:* "My servant Isaiah has been walking around naked and barefoot for the past three years. That is to show the terrible disasters that *I will cause the people of Egypt and Ethiopia to experience*. ⁴ What will happen is that the *army of the King of Assyria will invade those countries and capture many of the people and take them away as their prisoners. They will force all them, including both the young ones and the old ones, to walk naked and barefoot. They will also force them*

to have no clothes around their buttocks, which will cause *the people of Egypt* to be ashamed. ⁵ Then the people of other countries who trusted that the armies of Egypt and Ethiopia would be able to help them will be very dismayed/confused and afraid/disappointed. ⁶ They will say, 'We trusted that the armies of Egypt and Ethiopia *would help us and defend us, but they have been destroyed*, so there is no way [RHQ] that we can escape from *being destroyed by the army of the King of Assyria!*' "

21

A message about the destruction of Babylon

¹ *I received this message from Yahweh about Babylonia, a land that is near the Persian Gulf but which will soon be a desert.*

*An army will soon come from the desert to invade that land;
it is an army that causes its enemies to be terrified,
an army that will come like a whirlwind from the south.*

² Yahweh showed me a terrifying vision.

In the vision I saw an army

that will betray/deceive people and steal their possessions after they conquer them.

Yahweh said, "You armies from Elam and Media, surround Babylon and prepare to attack it! I will cause the groaning and suffering that Babylon caused to cease!"

³ Because of that, my body is full of pain;
my pain is like the pain that women who are
giving birth experience.

When I hear about and see *what God is planning
to do*,

I am shocked.

⁴ I cannot think straight/correctly, and I tremble.
I was eager for it to be nighttime,
but now it is night, and I am horrified.

⁵ *In the vision I saw that the leaders of Babylonia
were preparing a great feast.*

*They had spread rugs for people to sit on;
everyone was eating and drinking.*

*But they should get up and prepare their shields,
because they are about to be attacked!*

⁶ Then Yahweh said to me,
“Put a watchman *on the wall of Jerusalem*,
and tell him to shout/proclaim what he sees.

⁷ Tell him to watch for chariots pulled by pairs
of horses,
and *men riding* camels and donkeys, *coming
from Babylon*.

Tell the watchman to watch and listen carefully!”

⁸ *So I did that*, and one day the watchman
called out,

“Day after day I have stood on this watchtower,
and I have continued to watch during the
day and during the night.

⁹ Now, I saw a man riding in a chariot pulled by
two horses.

I called out to him, and he answered/shouted,
‘Babylon has been destroyed!’

All the idols in Babylon lie in pieces on the ground!' ”

- ¹⁰ My people *in Judah, the army of Babylon* has caused you to suffer greatly *as though* [MET] you were grain that was threshed and ◀winnowed/thrown up into the air for the wind to blow away the chaff▶.
- But now* I have told you what the Commander of the armies of angels the God whom we Israelis *worship*, told me *about Babylon*.

A message about Edom

- ¹¹ *I received* this message *from Yahweh* about Edom:
 Someone from Edom has been calling/shouting to me saying,
 “Watchman, how long will it be before the night is ended? [DOU]”
- ¹² *I*, the watchman, replied,
 “It will *soon* be morning, but after that, it will *soon* be night again.
 If you want to inquire *again about what will happen in our country*,
 come back and inquire again.”

A message about Arabia

- ¹³ *I received* this message about Arabia:
 Give this message to people traveling in caravans from Dedan *town in northwest Arabia*, who camp in the scrub there.
 Tell them to bring water for those who are thirsty.

- ¹⁴ And you people who live in Tema *city in northwest Arabia*,
must bring food for the ◀refugees/people who are fleeing from their enemies▶.
- ¹⁵ They are fleeing in order not to be killed by *their enemies' swords*
and not to be shot in battles by arrows.
- ¹⁶ Yahweh said to me,
“Exactly one year from now,
all the greatness of the Kedar *area in Arabia*
will end.
- ¹⁷ Only a few of their soldiers who know well
how to shoot arrows will remain alive.
That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have
said it.”

22

A message about Jerusalem

- ¹ *I received* this message *from Yahweh* about Jerusalem, about the valley where *Yahweh showed me* this vision.
Why is everyone foolishly running up to their *flat rooftops*?
- ² Everyone in the city *seems to be shouting*.
There are a lot of corpses in the city,
but they were not killed by their enemies' swords.
They did not die in battles;
instead, they died from diseases and hunger.
- ³ All the leaders of the city fled.
But then they were captured because they
did not have bows *and arrows to defend themselves*.

Your *soldiers tried to flee* while the enemy army
was still far away,
but they also were captured.

⁴ That is why I said, "Allow me to cry alone;
do not try to comfort me *about my people*
being slaughtered."

⁵ The Commander of the armies of angels has
chosen a time when there will be a great
uproar, *soldiers* marching, and people
being terrified
in the valley *where I received this* vision.

It will be a time when our city walls will be
battered down
and *the people's* cries *for help* will be heard
in the mountains.

⁶ The armies from Elam and Kir *in Media* will
attack,
driving chariots and carrying shields.

⁷ Our beautiful valleys will be filled with *our*
enemies' chariots
and the men who drive the chariots will
stand outside *our city* gates.

⁸ The walls that protect *the cities in* Judah will fall
down.

You *people of Jerusalem* will run to get the
weapons *that are stored in the building*
called "the Hall of the Forest".

⁹ You will see that there are many breaks/holes
in the walls of Jerusalem.

You will store water in the lower pool *in the*
city.

¹⁰ You will inspect the houses in Jerusalem,

and *some of* them you will tear down to use the stones to repair the *city* wall.

11 Between the walls *of the city* you will build a reservoir to *store* water from the old pool. But you will never request help from the one who made the city; you have never depended on Yahweh, who planned this city long ago.

12 The Commander of the armies of angels told you to weep and mourn; he told you to shave your heads and to wear rough sackcloth to show that you were sorry for the sins that you had committed.

13 But instead of doing that, you were happy and celebrating; you slaughtered cattle and sheep, *in order to cook their* meat and eat it and drink wine.

You said, "Let's eat and drink *all that we want to*, because *it is possible that* we will die tomorrow!"

14 So the Commander of the armies of angels revealed this to me: "I will never forgive my people for sinning like this!"

A message for Shebna

15 The Commander of the armies of angels said this *to me*: "Go to Shebna, the official who supervises the workers in the palace, and give this message to him:

16 '*Who do you think you are?*

Who gave you the authority to build a beautiful tomb where you will be buried, chiseling it out of the rocky cliff high above this valley?

¹⁷ You *think that you are* [IRO] a great man, but Yahweh is about to hurl you away. *It will be as though* he will seize you,

¹⁸ and roll/crumple you into a ball and throw you away into a large distant land.

You will die *and be buried* there, and your beautiful chariots will stay there *in the hands of your enemies*.

And *because of what happens to you*, your master, *the king*, will be very ashamed/disgraced.

¹⁹ Yahweh will force you to quit working in the palace; you will be demoted from your important position.

²⁰ Then I will summon Hilkiyah's son Eliakim, who has served serve me *well*, to replace you.

²¹ I will allow him to wear your robe, and to fasten your sash around him, and I will give to him the authority that you had. He will be like [MET] a father to the people of Jerusalem and *all the other towns in Judah*. ²² I will give to him authority [MTY] over *what happens in* the palace where King David *lived*; when he decides something [MET], no one will be able to oppose it; when he refuses to do something, no one will be able to force him to do it. ²³ I will cause his family to be greatly respected, because I will

put him firmly in his position *as supervisor of the workers in the palace*, like [SIM] a nail that is firmly hammered into a wall. ²⁴ Others will enable him to have much responsibility, with the result that all the members of his family, even the most insignificant ones, will be honored.' "

²⁵ *But* the Commander of the armies of angels also says, "*Shebna is like* [MET] a peg that is firmly fastened to the wall. But there will be a time when I will *remove him from his position*; he will lose his power/influence, and everything that he promoted [MET] will fail. *That will surely happen* because I, Yahweh, have said it."

23

A message about Tyre's punishment

¹ *I received* this message *from Yahweh* about Tyre city:

You *sailors on* [APO] ships from Tarshish,
weep, because *the harbor of Tyre* and all the
houses *in the city* have been destroyed.

The reports that you heard in *Cyprus island*
about Tyre *are true*.

² You people who live along the coast *near Tyre*, and merchants of Sidon city, mourn silently.

Your sailors went across the seas *to many places like Tyre*.

³ They sailed across deep seas
to buy grain in Egypt

and *other* crops that are grown along the Nile River.

Tyre became the city where people from *all* nations bought and sold goods.

⁴ But now you people in Sidon should be ashamed,

because *you trusted in Tyre*, which has been a strong fortress *on an island* in the sea.

Tyre is like a woman who is saying,

“Now it is as though I have not given birth to any children,

or raised any sons or daughters.”

⁵ When *the people of Egypt* hear what has happened to Tyre,

they will grieve very much.

⁶ Sail to Tarshish *and tell them what happened;* weep, you people who live along the coast.

⁷ *The people in the very old city of Tyre* were [RHQ] previously joyful.

Traders [PRS] from Tyre established colonies in many distant nations.

⁸ People from Tyre appointed kings *over other places;*

their traders were wealthy;

they were *as powerful and wealthy as* [MET] kings.

So, who [RHQ] caused the people of Tyre to experience this disaster?

⁹ It was the Commander of the armies of angels who did it;

he did it in order to cause *you people in Tyre* not to be proud any more,
to humiliate you men who are honored all over the world.

¹⁰ You people of Tarshish, you must grow crops in your land *instead of trading*;
spread out over your land like [SIM] the Nile River spreads over the land of *Egypt* when it floods,
because there is no harbor *in Tyre for your ships* now.

¹¹ *It is as though* Yahweh stretched out his hand over the sea
and shook the kingdoms of the earth.
He commanded that in Phoenicia/Canaan all its fortresses must be destroyed.

¹² He said to the people of Sidon,
“You will never rejoice again, because you will be crushed;
even if you flee to *Cyprus island*,
you will not escape destruction.”

¹³ Think about what happened in Babylonia:
the people who were in that land have disappeared.

The armies of Assyria have caused that land to become a place where wild animals from the desert live.

The Assyrians built dirt ramps to the top of the walls *of the city of Babylon*;
then they entered the city and tore down the palaces

and caused the city to become *a heap of rubble*.

¹⁴ *So wail, you sailors on the ships of Tarshish, because the harbor in Tyre where your ships stop is destroyed!*

¹⁵ For seventy years, which is as long as kings usually live, people will forget about Tyre. *But then it will be rebuilt.* What will happen there will be like what happened to a prostitute in this song:

¹⁶ “You harlot, whom people had forgotten, play your harp well, and sing many songs, in order that people will remember you again.”

¹⁷ *It is true that* after seventy years Yahweh will restore Tyre. Their merchants will again earn a lot of money by buying things from and selling things to many *other* nations [HYP].

¹⁸ *But* their profits will be given to Yahweh. *The merchants* will not hoard their money; instead, they will give it to Yahweh’s priests in order that they *can* buy food and nice clothes.

24

The destruction of everything on the earth

¹ Some day, Yahweh is going to destroy everything on the earth. He will devastate it and cause it to become a desert and scatter its people.

- ² He will scatter everyone—
priests and common people,
servants and their masters,
maids and their mistresses,
buyers and sellers,
lenders and borrowers,
people who owe money and people who are
owed money.
- ³ Nothing that is worth anything will be left on
earth;
everything valuable will be destroyed.
*That will surely happen because Yahweh has said
it.*
- ⁴ *Everything* on the earth will dry up and die
[DOU];
its important people will become weak and
unimportant.
- ⁵ The earth has become unacceptable to Yahweh
because the people who live on it have
disobeyed his laws;
they have rejected the agreement that he
intended to last forever.
- ⁶ Therefore, *Yahweh* will curse the earth;
the people who live on it must be punished
because of the sins that they have commit-
ted.
They will be destroyed by fire,
and *only a few* people will remain *alive*.
- ⁷ The grapevines will wither,
and there will be no *grapes to make* wine.
All *the people* who were previously happy will
then groan and mourn.

- 8 People will no longer play cheerful songs with tambourines,
people will no longer play joyfully on their harps,
and people will no longer shout noisily *during their celebrations.*
- 9 People will no longer sing while they drink wine,
and *all* their alcoholic drinks will taste bitter.
- 10 *Towns and cities* will be desolate;
every house will be locked to prevent thieves from entering.
- 11 *Mobs* will gather in the streets, wanting wine;
no one on the earth will be happy [DOU] any more.
- 12 *Cities* will be ruined
and *all* their gates will be battered/broken into pieces.
- 13 It will be like that all over the earth:
there will only be a few people still alive,
like what happens when *workers* beat all the olives off a tree *and there are only a few left,*
or when they harvest the grapes and there are only a few left *on the vines.*
- 14 But *those who are left alive* will sing joyfully;
people *in nations* to the west of *Israel* will declare that Yahweh is very great;
- 15 people in nations to the east of *Israel* will also praise Yahweh [MTY];
in countries across the sea, people will praise Yahweh, the God whom we *Israelis worship.*

16 We will hear *people* in the most distant places on the earth singing praise to *Yahweh*, the *truly* righteous one.

But *now*, I am [SYN] very sad.

Weep for me, *because* I have become thin and weak.

Terrible things are happening!

Treacherous *people still* betray/deceive others everywhere [DOU].

17 You people all over the earth, you will be terrified, and you will fall into deep pits and traps/snares.

18 Those who *try to* flee because they are terrified will fall into *deep* pits, and those who climb out of the pits will be caught by traps/snares.

The sky will split open and torrents [SIM] *of rain will fall*;

the foundations of the earth will shake.

19 The earth will split apart and be shattered; it will shake violently.

20 *It will be as though* the earth will stagger like [SIM] a drunk; it will shake like [SIM] a hut *shakes in a windstorm*.

It will collapse and not *be able to* rise again, *because* the guilt of the people who rebel *against Yahweh* is very great.

21 At that time, *Yahweh* will punish the *wicked* powerful beings in the skies

and the wicked kings on the earth.

²² They will *all* be gathered together and thrown into a dungeon/pit.

They will be shut/locked in that dungeon/pit, and later they will be punished.

²³ At that time the light of the moon and the sun will be lessened;
it will be as though they are ashamed *in the presence of Yahweh,*

because he, the Commander of the armies of angels, will rule gloriously ◀on Zion Hill/ in Jerusalem▶,

in the presence of the leaders *of his people.*

25

Isaiah praises God for having good judgment and providing salvation

¹ Yahweh, you are my God;

I will honor you and praise you [MTY].

You do wonderful things;

you said long ago that you would do those things,

and now you have done them like you said that you would.

² *Sometimes* you have caused cities to become heaps of rubble,

cities that had strong walls around them.

You have caused palaces in foreign countries to disappear;

they will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore, people in powerful nations will declare that you are very great,

and people in nations *whose leaders are*
ruthless/cruel will revere you.

⁴ Yahweh, you are *like* [SIM] a strong tower
where poor people can ◀find refuge/be
safe▶,
a place where needy people can go when
they are distressed.

You are like [MET] a place where people can find
refuge in a storm
and where they can be shaded from the hot
sun.

Ruthless/Cruel *people* oppress us;
they are like [SIM] a storm beating against a
wall,

⁵ and like [SIM] *the intense* heat in the desert.
But you cause the roaring of people in foreign
nations to cease.

Like the air cools when a cloud comes
overhead,
you stop ruthless/cruel *people* from singing
songs boasting about their being very
great.

⁶ Here in Jerusalem, the Commander of the
armies of angels will prepare a wonderful
feast for all the people *of the world*.

It will be a banquet with plenty of good meat
and fine well-aged [DOU] wine.

⁷ *People here are sad*;
their being sad is *like* a dark cloud that hangs
over them,
like they experience when someone dies.

But Yahweh will enable them to quit being sad.

⁸ He will get rid of death forever!

Yahweh our God will cause people to no longer
 mourn because someone has died.
 And he will stop other people insulting and
 making fun of his land and *us* his people.
That will surely happen because Yahweh has said
 it!

⁹ At that time, *people* will proclaim,
 “Yahweh is our God!
 We trusted in him, and he rescued us!
 Yahweh, in whom we trusted, has done it;
 we should rejoice because of his saving/
 rescuing *us!*”

¹⁰ Yahweh [MTY] will protect and bless
 Jerusalem.
But he will crush the people in the land of
 Moab;
 they will be like [SIM] straw that is trampled
 in the manure *and left to rot.*

¹¹ Yahweh will push down the people of Moab
 like [SIM] a swimmer pushes *the water* with
 his hands.
 He will cause them to cease being proud,
 and he will show that all the things that they
 have done are worthless.

¹² The high walls *around the cities* in Moab will
 be torn down;
 they will be demolished and fall into the
 dust/dirt.

26

A song to praise Yahweh

¹ Some day, *people in Judah* will sing this song:

- Our city *of Jerusalem* is strong!
Yahweh protects our city;
He is like [MET] a wall that surrounds it.
- ² Open the gates of the city for people who are righteous;
allow people who faithfully *obey Yahweh* to enter the city.
- ³ Yahweh, those who trust in you,
those who firmly resolve to never doubt you,
you will enable them to feel perfectly peaceful.
- ⁴ So always trust in Yahweh,
because Yahweh, *our God*, is forever like [MET] a huge rock *under which we are sheltered/protected/safe*.
- ⁵ He humbles proud people
and destroys cities whose people are arrogant.
He causes those cities to collapse into the dust/dirt.
- ⁶ *When that happens*, poor and oppressed people
will trample on the ruins.
- ⁷ *But as for* righteous people,
Yahweh, you do what is right;
it is as though you cause the paths where they
walk to be level and smooth.
- ⁸ Yahweh, by obeying your laws
we show that we trust you to help us;
and what we desire is that you will be honored/
praised/exalted.
- ⁹ *All through the night* I [SYN] desire to know you better;
and each morning I still want to be with you.

Only when you come to judge *and punish* people who live on the earth will they learn to do what is right.

¹⁰ *But* your acting kindly toward wicked people does not cause them to do what is good.

Even in places where people do what is right, the wicked people continue to do what is evil, and they do not realize that you, Yahweh, are great.

¹¹ Yahweh, *it is as though* your fist is raised up *ready to strike them*, but they do not realize that.

Show them that you are very eager to help your people.

If your enemies would realize that, they would be ashamed;

allow your fire to burn them up *because they are* your enemies.

¹² Yahweh, *we desire that* you will allow things to go well for us;

everything that we have done is what you have enabled us to do.

¹³ Yahweh, our God, others have ruled over us, but you [MTY] are the only one whom we honor.

¹⁴ Those who ruled us are *now* gone; they are dead;

their spirits have left this earth, and they will not become alive *again*.

You punished those rulers and got rid of them, and people do not even remember them any more.

15 Yahweh, you have enabled our nation to become great;
 we are more in number *now*, and we have more land,
 so we thank/praise you.

16 Yahweh, when we were distressed, we asked you *to help us*;
 when you disciplined/punished us, we were able only to whisper when we prayed to you.

17 Like pregnant women writhe and cry out when they are giving birth,
 we suffered very much, too.

18 We had severe pain,
 but nothing good resulted [MET] from it.
 We have not rescued our people *from being conquered by our enemies*,
 and we have not given birth to children *who will rule the world correctly* (OR, not defeated the armies *that have attacked other nations*).

God's punishment for Israel

19 But Yahweh's people who have died will become alive *again*,
 their corpses will become alive!
 Those whose bodies lie in graves will rise and shout joyfully!
 His light will be *like dew* that falls on his people who have died,
 who are *now* in the place where the dead people are,
 and will cause them to become alive again.

20 But now, my people/fellow-citizens, go home
and lock your doors!

Hide for a short time,
until *Yahweh* is no longer angry.

21 Listen to this: *Yahweh* will come from heaven
to punish *all* the people on the earth for the
sins that they have committed.

People will be able to see [PRS] the ◀blood of
those/the people▶ who have been murdered;
their murderers will no longer be able to
hide.

27

God's future blessings on Israel

1 At that time, *Yahweh* will punish Leviathan,
the swift-moving monster/dragon,
that coiling serpent that lives in the sea.
Yahweh will kill it with his sharp, huge, and
powerful sword.

2 At that time, *Yahweh* will say,
“You *Israeli* people, who are like [MET] a fruitful
vineyard, must sing!

3 I will *protect* you
like a farmer [MET] waters his crops care-
fully *in order that they will grow well*.
I will guard you day and night, in order that no
one harms you.

4 I am no longer angry with my people;
*if any of your enemies try to injure you like briars
and thorns injure people* [MET],
I will attack them *in battles*;
I will get rid of them completely,

⁵ unless they request me to protect them;
I strongly invite them to make peace with me
[DOU]!”

⁶ There will be a time when the ◀descendants
of Jacob/Israeli people▶ will *prosper like* a
plant that has good roots;
they will be like [MET] trees that bud and
blossom and bear a lot of fruit;
what they do will bless all the people in the
world.

⁷ *But now I ask*, has Yahweh punished us Israelis
like he punished our enemies?
Has he punished us as much as he punished
them?

⁸ *No, he has not done that*,
but he punished us Israeli people and ◀ex-
iled us/forced us to leave our country▶;
we were taken away from our land
as though [SIM] we were struck by a wind-
storm from the east.

⁹ Yahweh did that in order to punish us for our
sins,
and remove our guilt.

As a result *of our being exiled*, all the altars to
other gods *in Israel* will be demolished,
and we will be forgiven for the sins that we
have committed.

There will be no more poles for worshiping the
goddess Asherah, or altars for burning
incense to other gods;
they will all be torn down.

¹⁰ The cities that have strong walls around them
will be empty;
like the desert, they will have no one living
in them.

The houses will be abandoned,
and the streets will be full of weeds.
Calves will eat grass there and lie down there;
they will chew up all the leaves on the trees.

¹¹ *The Israeli people are like [MET] dry branches
on a tree;
women break them off and use them to make
fires under their cooking pots.*

Our Israeli people do not have any sense;
so Yahweh, who created them, will not act
mercifully toward them
or be kind to them.

¹² *However, there will be a time when Yahweh
will gather them together again; he will separate
them from the people who have conquered them,
like people separate wheat from chaff. He will
bring them back to Israel, one by one, from the
land between the Euphrates River in the northeast
and the brook at the border of Egypt in the
southwest.* ¹³ At that time, a trumpet will be
blown very loudly. And those who were exiled
to Assyria and Egypt and who almost died there
will return to Jerusalem, to worship Yahweh on
Zion, his holy hill.

28

Warnings to Israel

¹ Terrible things will happen to *Samaria city, the
capital of Israel!*

It is on a hill above a fertile valley;
 the people who live there, who get drunk by
 drinking too much wine, are very proud;
 it is a beautiful and glorious city,
 but some day that beauty will disappear like
 [MET] a flower that wilts and dries up.

² Listen to this: Yahweh will cause a great army
 to attack Samaria.

Their soldiers will be like [SIM] a huge
 hailstorm *or* a very strong wind;
 they will be everywhere, like the water of a huge
 flood,
 and they will smash to the ground *the
 buildings in Samaria.*

³ The people of Samaria are proud,
 but everything that the drunks who live
 there think is wonderful/glorious will be
 trampled on by their enemies.

⁴ Yes, Samaria is beautiful, set on a hill above a
 fertile valley, but that beauty will disap-
 pear
 like [MET] a flower that wilts and dries up.

Whenever someone sees a good fig at the begin-
 ning of the season *when figs become ripe*,
 he quickly picks and eats it;
*similarly, when the enemies of Israel see all
 the beautiful things in Samaria,
 they will quickly conquer the city and take
 away all those things.*

⁵ At that time, the Commander of the armies of
 angels will be *like* a glorious wreath of
 flowers for *us* Israeli people
 who are still alive *after being exiled.*

6 He will cause our judges to want to do what is fair/just when they decide people's cases.

He will enable the soldiers who stand at the city gates to strongly defend *the city when our enemies attack it*.

7 *But now*, our leaders stagger/stumble because they have drunk a lot of wine and *other* alcoholic drinks.

The priests and prophets also stagger because of drinking a lot of wine and other alcoholic drinks.

They are not able to think right; they see visions but they cannot understand what they mean; they are unable to decide things correctly.

8 All their tables are covered with *their* vomit; filth is everywhere.

9 They ridicule Yahweh saying, "Who does he think that he is teaching?"

Why is he talking to us like this?
Does he think that we are little children who have recently been weaned?

10 *He continually tells us, 'Do this, do that;'* first he tells us one rule, then another rule, he tells us only one line at a time."

11 So now, Yahweh will need to force them to listen to *Assyrians* speaking to them in a language that they do not understand.

12 Yahweh told his people *long ago*,
 “*This is a place where you can rest;*
you are exhausted from all your travels through
the desert,
 but you will be able to rest *in this land.*”
 But they refused to pay attention to what he said.
 13 So Yahweh continues to tell the people of
 Samaria,
 one line at a time, “Do this, do that,”
 first one rule and then another rule.
 But because *of their ignoring what God said*, they
 will be attacked and defeated;
 they will be wounded and snared and cap-
 tured.

Warnings to Judah

14 Because of *what will happen in Samaria*,
 you rulers in Jerusalem who make fun of me,
 listen to this message from Yahweh:
 15 You *boast* saying,
 “We have made an alliance with *the leaders of*
Egypt,
 so we will not be killed *in battles*;
 we will never go to the place where the dead
 people are.
 When the *army of Assyria* attacks us, they will
 never defeat us,
 because we have made *an agreement with*
Egypt to protect us!”
But that agreement consists of a lot of lies [DOU].
 16 Therefore, Yahweh *our* Lord says this:
 “Listen to this! I am going to place in Jerusalem
someone who is like [MET] a foundation
 stone,

he is like a stone that has been tested to determine if it is solid.

He will be like a valuable cornerstone around which it will be safe to build a house; and whoever trusts in him will never be disappointed.

¹⁷ I will test you *people of Jerusalem* to find out if you will act justly and righteously *like [MET] someone uses a plumb line to determine if a wall is straight and vertical.*

But because your agreement *with Egypt* to protect you *was made by leaders* lying to each other and deceiving each other, you will be defeated and taken away *from your country*

by an army that will come against you like [MET] a flood.

¹⁸ I will annul/destroy the agreement that you made *with the leaders of Egypt.*

You thought that *because of that agreement* you would not be killed, and you would not go to the place where the dead are.

But when the vast army of Assyria overwhelms you like a flood,

they will trample you into the ground.

¹⁹ Their soldiers will come during the morning, at noontime, and at night, and they will carry you all away.”

And when you understand this message, you will be terrified.

²⁰ *You have heard people say, “Your bed is very short, you will not be able to sleep in it;*

your blankets are very narrow; they will not cover you!"

That means for you that your agreement with Egypt is not going to save you.

²¹ Yahweh will come *and cause you to be defeated*; he will do to you like he did to the army of Philistia at Perizim Mountain and like he did to the Amor people-group at Gibeon Valley.

What he will do will be *very strange and unusual* [DOU].

²² The Commander of the armies of angels has told me that he is going to destroy the entire land.

So do not ridicule *what I say any more*, because if you do that he will punish you *even more severely*.

²³ Listen [IDM] to what I say; pay attention carefully.

²⁴ When a farmer plows some ground, does he never plant seeds [RHQ]? Does he continue to plow it and never plant anything [RHQ]?

²⁵ No, he makes the ground very level, and then he plants seeds— dill and cumin and wheat and barley.

He plants each kind of seed in the correct manner.

²⁶ *He does that* because God has taught him the correct way to do it.

²⁷ *Farmers* never thresh caraway/dill with a heavy sledge/club;

instead, they beat it only with a stick.
Farmers never thresh cumin by driving a cart
 over it;
 instead, they hit it *only* with a rod.

²⁸ And grain for baking bread is crushed easily,
 so the farmers do not continue to pound it
 for a long time.

They sometimes cause their horses to pull a cart
 over it *to thresh it*,
but doing that does not grind the grain.

²⁹ The Commander of the armies of angels
 gives *us* wonderful advice *about how to do*
things; he causes *us* to be very wise.

So what the farmers do is very smart/wise, but
what your leaders are doing is very stupid.

29

Warnings for Jerusalem

¹ *This is a message from Yahweh:*

Terrible things will happen to Jerusalem, the city
 where *King David* lived.

You people continue to celebrate your festi-
 vals each year.

² But I will cause you to experience a great
 disaster,
and when that happens,
 people will weep and lament *very much*.

Your city will become like [MET] an altar *to me*
where people are burned as sacrifices.

³ I will cause your enemies *to come to your city*;
 they will surround it by *building* towers

and putting in place other things with which
to attack you.

4 Then you will talk *as though you were* buried
deep in the ground [DOU];
it will sound like someone whispering from
under the ground,
like [SIM] a ghost speaking from a grave.

5 But, suddenly your enemies will be blown away
like dust;
their armies will disappear
like [SIM] chaff that is blown away *by the
wind.*

It will happen very suddenly.

6 The Commander of the armies of angels will
come *to help you*
with thunder and an earthquake and a very loud
noise,
with a strong wind and a big storm and a
fire that will burn up everything.

7 *Then* the armies of all the nations that will be
attacking Jerusalem will quickly disappear
like a dream in the night [DOU].

Those who will be attacking Jerusalem will
suddenly vanish/disappear.

8 People who are asleep dream about eating food,
but when they wake up, they are still hungry.
People who are thirsty dream about drinking
something,

but when they wake up they are still thirsty.
It will be like that when your enemies come to
attack Zion Hill;
*they will dream about conquering you, but
when they wake up,*

they will realize that they have not succeeded.

⁹ You *people of Jerusalem*, be amazed and surprised *about this* [IRO]!

Do not believe *what I have said* [SAR]!

And continue to be blind [IRO] *about what Yahweh is doing.*

You are stupid, but it is not because you have drunk a lot of wine.

You stagger, but not from drinking alcoholic drinks.

¹⁰ Because Yahweh has prevented the prophets [DOU] from understanding *and telling you his messages,*

it is as though he has caused you to be fast/deeply asleep.

¹¹ *Yahweh gave me* this vision; *but* for you, it is only words on a scroll that is sealed shut. If you give it to those who can read *and request that they read it,* they will say, "We cannot read it because the scroll is sealed." ¹² When you give it to *others* who cannot read, they will say, "We cannot read it because we do not know how to read."

¹³ So the Lord says, "These people say that they belong to me.

They honor me by what they say [MTY],

but they do not think [IDM] about what I *desire.*

When they worship me,

all they do is recite rules that people have made and that they have memorized.

14 Therefore, again I will do something to amaze these people;

I will perform many miracles.

And *I will show that* the people *who tell others that they* are wise are not really wise, and *I will show that* the people *who tell others that they* are intelligent are not really intelligent.

15 Terrible things will happen to those who try to conceal from me, Yahweh, the *evil* things that they plan to do;

they do those things in the darkness

and they think, 'Yahweh certainly cannot [RHQ] see us;

he cannot [RHQ] know what we are doing!'

16 They are extremely foolish!

They act as though they were the potters and I was the clay!

Something that was created should certainly never [RHQ] say to the one who made it,

'You did not make me!'

A jar should never say,

'The potter who made me did not know what he was doing!' "

17 Soon *the forests in* Lebanon will become fertile fields,

and abundant crops will grow in those fields, and that will happen very soon.

18 At that time, deaf people will *be able to hear*; *they will be able to* hear when someone reads from a book;

and blind people will *be able to see*;

they will be able to see things when it is gloomy and even when it is dark.

19 Yahweh will enable humble people to be very joyful again.

Poor people will rejoice about what the Holy One of Israel *has done*.

20 There will be no more people who ridicule *others*

and no more arrogant people.

And those who plan to do evil things will be executed.

21 Those who testify falsely in order to persuade judges to punish innocent people will vanish/disappear.

Similar things will happen to those who by lying in court *persuade judges to make unjust decisions*.

22 That is why Yahweh, who rescued Abraham, says about the people of Israel,

“My people will no longer be ashamed;

no longer will they show on their faces that they are ashamed.

23 When they see that I have blessed them by giving them many children and doing many other things for them,

they will realize that I am the Holy One of Israel,

and they will revere me, the God to whom they, the descendants of Jacob, belong.

24 When that happens, those who have not been able to think well will think clearly,

and those who complain *about what I am doing* will accept what I am teaching them.”

30

Judah's worthless treaty with Egypt

- ¹ Yahweh says, “Terrible things will happen to you, my people who rebel against me. You make plans, but what you plan is not what I want. You have made an alliance *with the rulers of Egypt*, but you did not ask my Spirit *if that was what you should do*. By doing that, you have increased the number of your sins.
- ² You went to Egypt *to ask their rulers for help*, without asking for my advice. You have trusted in *the army of the king of Egypt* to protect you; you have *trusted in them like people sit in the shade to protect themselves from the sun* [MET].
- ³ *But* the result of your trusting in the king of Egypt is that you will be *disappointed and disgraced*; because of trusting in him, you will be humiliated.
- ⁴ Officials/ambassadors *from Judah* have gone to Zoan and Hanes *cities in Egypt to make treaties*,
- ⁵ but all those *who trust in the King of Egypt* will be humiliated,

because that nation will not be able to help you;
 the treaty that you have made *requesting help from them* will be useless;
 instead, the result will be that you will be humiliated and disgraced [DOU].”

⁶ *I received from Yahweh* this message about the animals in the southern part of Judah:

That area is one where *people experience a lot of troubles and difficulties*,
 an area where there are male and female lions
 and various kinds of poisonous snakes.

Caravans go through that area
 taking donkeys and camels loaded with valuable goods.

They are taking them to Egypt to seek for protection *by the army of Egypt*,
but it will be useless.

⁷ The promises made by *the king of Egypt* are worthless;
 therefore I call Egypt ‘the sea monster/dragon that does nothing’.

A warning for Judah

⁸ Yahweh told me to write on a scroll a message, in order that it would be a witness *to the people of Judah* that would endure forever.

⁹ *It would remind them* that they are deceitful and always rebelling against Yahweh; they refuse to pay attention to what he tells/teaches them.

10 They tell the people who see/receive visions
 from Yahweh,
 “Stop seeing visions!”

They tell the prophets,
 “Do not reveal to us what is right!

Tell us pleasant things;
 do not tell us visions about things that are
 true!

11 Stop doing what you have been doing [DOU];
 stop telling us what the Holy One of Israel
 says to us!”

12 Therefore, this is what the Holy One of Israel
says:

“You have rejected my message,
 and you are relying on those who oppress
 and deceive others.

13 Therefore, the result of your sin *of rejecting me*
 will be that you will *suddenly experience*
 disasters;
 what will happen to you will be like [SIM]
 a cracked wall that suddenly collapses
 [DOU].

14 You will be smashed like a clay jar is smashed
 when it is dropped,
and it shatters completely, with the result that
 there is not one piece big enough
 to carry some coals from a stove
 or to carry a little bit of water from a well.”

15 Yahweh, *our* God, the Holy One of Israel, *also*
says this:

“You will be rescued *from your enemies only* if
 you repent and trust *in what I will do for*
 you;

you will be strong *only* if you quit worrying
and trust in me.

But you do not want *to do that*.

¹⁶ You said, 'No, we will escape on horses *that the
army of Egypt will give us!*'

So, you will *try to flee*.

You said, 'We will *escape from the army of Assyria
by riding on swift horses!*'

But those who pursue you will *also ride
swiftly*.

¹⁷ *As a result*, 1,000 *of you* will flee when *only* one
of them pursues you!

When only five *of their soldiers* threaten to kill
you,

all of you will flee.

Only a few of you will be left, like [SIM] a *single
flagpole* on top of a mountain
with one signal flag on the pole."

¹⁸ *But* Yahweh wants to be kind to you;

he desires to show you that he is merciful.

Do not forget that Yahweh is a God who acts
justly;

he is pleased with those who patiently trust
in him.

Yahweh will help his people

¹⁹ You people who live in Jerusalem [DOU],
some day you will not cry any more. Yahweh will
be kind to you when you call out to him for help.
He will answer/help you as soon as he hears you
call. ²⁰ Although *now* Yahweh has caused you to
daily experience [MET] great troubles and suffer
much, *he*, your teacher, will not hide himself

from you. He [SYN] will teach you many things clearly. ²¹ And you will hear him speak to you to guide you. *Right* behind you he will say, "This is the road on which you should walk; walk on this road!" ²² When that happens, you will destroy *all* your idols that are covered with silver or gold. You will throw them away like you throw away a filthy rag, and you will say to them, "We do not need you any more!"

²³ *If you do that*, Yahweh will bless you by giving you good rain at the time that you plant your crops. You will have good harvests, and plenty of pasture with grass for your cattle to eat. ²⁴ After the wind *blows away the chaff*, the oxen and donkeys that *pull the plow to plow your ground* will have good grain to eat. ²⁵ At that time, when *your enemies* have been slaughtered and their towers have ◀collapsed/ been destroyed▶, there will be streams flowing down every hill and mountain *in Judah*. ²⁶ The moon will seem to shine as brightly as the sun, and the sun will seem to shine seven times as brightly as previously. That is what it will be like when Yahweh causes *the suffering of his people to cease; it will be as though* [MET] he will be putting bandages on their wounds and healing them.

²⁷ *It is as though* we see Yahweh coming from far away;
he is extremely angry,
and there are thick clouds of smoke around him.
By what he says [MTY] he shows that he is angry;

- what he says is like [SIM] a devastating/
destructive fire.
- 28 His breath is like [SIM] a flood that covers *his enemies* up to their necks.
He will separate [MET] the nations in order
to destroy *some of them*;
it is as though he will put hooks in their
mouths and take them away.
- 29 But *his people* will sing joyfully
like they sing during the nights when they
celebrate a holy festival.
They will be very joyful,
like [SIM] *a large group of his people* are
joyful when they go up to Zion Hill in
Jerusalem,
along with men playing flutes
when they are all going there to worship Yahweh.
He is *like* [MET] a huge rock under which *we*
Israeli people *are safe*.
- 30 And Yahweh will enable *us* to hear him
speaking powerfully/majestically.
He will show us that he [SYN] is very
powerful.
We will see him [SYN] smash *his enemies*.
Being very angry, he will descend with a big
rainstorm and thunder and hail *to punish*
them.
- 31 *The soldiers of Assyria* will be terrified when
they hear the voice of Yahweh
and when he strikes them with his rod.
- 32 And while Yahweh strikes them to punish
them,
his people will *celebrate by* playing tam-
bourines and harps.

It will be as though Yahweh will lift up his powerful hand/arm and defeat the Assyrian army in battle.

³³ *The valley of Topheth outside Jerusalem* has been prepared for a long time; it is ready for the king *of Assyria*; the ◀funeral pyre/pile of wood▶ *for burning his body* is wide and high, and *it will be as though* Yahweh will light the fire with his breath, which will come out like a stream of burning sulfur.

31

A warning about relying on Egypt

¹ Terrible things will happen to those who reply on Egypt to help them, trusting in their soldiers' horses and their many chariots and their strong chariot-drivers, instead of trusting that Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, will help them.

² Yahweh is *very* wise, *but* he also causes people to experience disaster!
And *when he decides to do that*, he does not change his mind!
He will strike/punish the wicked people and *all* those who help them.

³ The soldiers of Egypt *that you people of Judah are relying on* are humans, not God!
And their horses are only horses; they are not *powerful* spirits!

So when Yahweh raises his fist
to strike/punish the *soldiers of Egypt whom
you thought would help you,*
he will also strike *you who thought that you
would be helped,*
and you and they will stumble and fall down;
all of you will die together.

⁴ But this is what Yahweh said to me:
“When a huge lion stands over the body of a
sheep that he has killed and growls,
even if a large group of shepherds comes to
chase/shoo away the lion,
even if they shout loudly,
the lion will not be afraid and will not leave.
Similarly, I, the Commander of the armies of
angels, will come down
to fight *my enemies* on Zion Hill,
and nothing will hinder me.

⁵ I, the Commander of the armies of angels, will
protect Jerusalem
like [SIM] a *mother* bird protects *the baby
birds* in her nest:
I will defend the city
and rescue it from its enemies.”

⁶ My people, *even though* you have greatly
rebelled against Yahweh, return to him. ⁷ When
you do that, each of you will throw away the idols
that you [SYN] have sinned by making, idols that
are *covered with* silver and gold.

⁸ *Many of the Assyrian soldiers* will be killed,
but not by swords that men use.

They will be destroyed by the sword of God;
 and *those who are not killed* will ◀panic/be
 very afraid▶ and flee.

And some of them will *be captured* and forced to
 become slaves.

⁹ *Even* their very strong soldiers [MTY] will be
 terrified;
 they will abandon their battle flags and run
 away!

Yahweh will cause his enemies who attack
 Jerusalem to be destroyed.

Yahweh's presence on Zion Hill is *like* a fire,
like a furnace that blazes in Jerusalem;
 and that is what Yahweh says *about what will*
happen to the Assyrian army!

32

What will happen when the great king comes

¹ Listen to this! Some day there will be a
 righteous king,
 and his officials will help him to rule justly/
 fairly.

² Each *of them* will be like [MET] a shelter from
 the wind
 and a ◀refuge/place to be protected▶ from
 the storm.

They will be like [SIM] streams of water in the
 desert,
 like the shade under a huge rock in a very
 hot and dry land.

- 3 When that happens, *those leaders will enable* people who have not understood [MET] *God's truth* to understand it, and *they will enable* those who have not paid attention to [MET] *God's truth* to pay attention to it.
- 4 *Even* those who act very hastily will have good sense, and those who cannot speak well will speak fluently and clearly.
- 5 *At that time*, people who are foolish/unwise will no longer be ◀admired/looked up to▶, and scoundrels will no longer be respected.
- 6 Foolish people say things that are foolish, and they plan to do evil things. Their behavior is disgraceful, and they say things about Yahweh that are false. They do not give food to those who are hungry, and they do not give water to those who are thirsty.
- 7 Scoundrels do things that are evil and that deceive people; they plan to do evil things; by telling lies *in court* they cause poor people to ◀have trouble/be convicted▶, even when what the poor *people* are requesting is fair/just.
- 8 But honorable people plan to do honorable/good things, and they do the honorable/good things that they plan to do.

A message for the women of Jerusalem

⁹ You women *of Jerusalem* who think that you are very secure/safe and think that everything is going well, listen to [IDM] what I say!

¹⁰ One year from now, you who now ◀are not worried about anything/think that everything is going well▶ will tremble, because there will be no grapes for you to harvest and no *other* crops to harvest.

¹¹ So tremble *now*, you women who are not worried about anything! Take off your *fancy* clothes and put rough sackcloth around your waists.

¹² Beat/Hit your breasts to show that you are grieving about *what will happen in* your fertile fields and to your fruitful grapevines,

¹³ because *only* thorns and thistles will grow in your soil.

Your houses where you had joyful parties and your city where you have been happy will be gone.

¹⁴ The *king's* palace will be empty; there will be no people in the city that *now* is very noisy.

Wild donkeys will walk around and flocks of sheep will eat grass in the empty forts and watchtowers.

¹⁵ *It will be like that* until God pours his Spirit out on us from heaven. *When that happens*, the deserts will become fertile fields,

- and abundant crops will grow in those fertile fields.
- 16 People [PRS] will act/rule justly/fairly in those desert areas,
and people will act/rule righteously in those fertile fields.
- 17 And the result of their acting righteously will be that there will be peace,
the land will be tranquil/quiet, and people will be secure/safe forever.
- 18 My people will live in their homes peacefully,
and safely, and calmly,
in places of rest.
- 19 *Even if a severe hailstorm knocks down the trees in the forest,*
and *all the buildings in the city* are blown down,
- 20 Yahweh *will greatly* bless you;
you will plant *seeds in fields* alongside the streams
and there will be abundant crops.
Your donkeys and cattle will easily find grass to eat.

33

Warnings to Assyria and promises to God's people

- 1 Terrible things will happen to you *people of Assyria!*
You have destroyed *others,*
but you have not been destroyed *yet.*
You have betrayed/deceived *others,*
but you have not been betrayed/deceived *yet.*

When you stop destroying *others*^{*},
others will destroy you.

When you stop betraying/deceiving others,
others will betray you.

² Yahweh, be kind to us,
because we have patiently waited for you to
help us.

Enable us to be strong every day,
and rescue us when we have troubles.

³ Our enemies run away when they hear your
voice.

When you stand up and show that you are
powerful [IDM], the people of all nations
flee.

⁴ *And after our enemies have been defeated*,
we, your people, will take away all our enemies'
possessions
like [SIM] caterpillars and locusts strip off all
the leaves of plants.

⁵ Yahweh is greater than anyone else, and he
lives in heaven,
and he will rule justly and righteously in
Jerusalem.

⁶ *When that happens*, he will enable you to live
securely/safely;
he will fully protect your possessions,
he will enable you to be wise and to know
all that you need to know;
and revering Yahweh will be *like* [MET] a valu-
able treasure for you.

* 33:1

- ⁷ *But now*, look, our brave men are crying out in the streets;
our ambassadors *have gone to other countries to make peace treaties,*
but they will cry bitterly because they will not succeed.
- ⁸ No one travels on our roads [DOU].
The leaders of Assyria have broken/disregarded their peace treaty *with us;*
they despise the people who made those treaties,
and they do not respect anyone.
- ⁹ The land *of Judah* is dry and barren.
The *cedar trees in Lebanon* are drying up and decaying.
The Sharon *Plain along the coast* is now a desert.
There are no more leaves on the trees in the Bashan and Carmel *areas.*
- ¹⁰ Yahweh says, “Now I will begin to show that I am very powerful [DOU].
- ¹¹ You *people of Assyria* make plans that are *as useless as* [MET] chaff and straw.
Your breath will become a fire that will burn you up.
- ¹² *Your people* will be burned until only ashes remain [MET]
like [SIM] thornbushes are cut down and burned up in a fire.
- ¹³ You people who live far away and you people who live nearby,
pay attention to what I have done and realize that I am *very powerful.*”

14 The sinners in Jerusalem will tremble because
of being very afraid;
godless people will be terrified.

They say, “None of us can [RHQ] remain alive
because this fire is burning everything;
it is like the fire on Yahweh’s altar that will
burn forever!”

15 Those who act honestly and say what is right,
those who do not try to become rich by
◀extortion/forcing people to give them
money▶,

those who do not try to get bribes,
those who refuse to listen to people who are
planning to murder someone,

those who do not join others who urge them to
do what is wrong,

16 they are the people who will live safely [MTY];
they will find places to be safe in the caves
in the mountains.

They will have plenty of food
and water.

17 You [SYN] *people of Judah* will see the king
wearing all his beautiful *robes*,
and you will see that he rules a land that
extends far away.

18 When you see that, you will think about when
you were previously terrified,
and you will say, “*The officers of Assyria*
who counted the tax money that we were
forced to pay to them have disappeared
[RHQ]!”

Those men who counted our towers *are gone*
[RHQ]!

19 Those arrogant people who spoke a language
that we could not understand are no
longer here!"

20 *At that time*, you will see Zion Hill, the place
where we celebrate our festivals;
you will see that Jerusalem has become a
place that is calm and safe.

It will be *secure*,
like [SIM] a tent *that cannot be moved because its*
ropes are tight
and its stakes are firmly in the ground.

21 Yahweh will be our mighty God;
he will be *like* [SIM] a mighty river that will
protect us
because *our enemies* will not be able to cross
it;
no one will be able to row across it
and no ships will be able to sail across it.

22 Yahweh is our judge;
he is the one who gives us laws,
and he is our king.
He will rescue us.

23 The ropes on our enemies' boats will hang
loose,
their masts will not be fastened firmly,
and their sails will not be spread out.
The treasures that they have seized will be
divided *among us, God's people*,
and even lame *people among us* will get
some.

- 24 And the people in Jerusalem will no *longer* say,
 “We are sick,”
 because *Yahweh* will forgive the sins that
 have been committed by the people who
 live there.

34

God will punish all his enemies

- 1 You people of all nations, come near and listen
 and pay careful attention.
 I want the world and everything that is in it to
 hear what I say.
- 2 *Yahweh* is angry with *the people of* all nations;
 he is ◀furious/very angry▶ with all their
 armies.
 He has decided that they must be destroyed,
 and he will slaughter them.
- 3 Their corpses will not be buried,
 and *as a result* their corpses will stink,
 and their blood will *fill the streams that flow*
 down the mountains.
- 4 The sky will disappear like [SIM] a scroll that is
 rolled up *and thrown away*.
 Stars will fall *from the sky*
 like [SIM] *withered* leaves fall from
 grapevines,
 or like [SIM] shriveled figs fall from fig trees.
- 5 When *Yahweh* has finished his work of destroy-
 ing objects in the sky,
 he will punish *the people of* Edom,
 that people-group that he has said must be
 destroyed/exterminated.

6 *It is as though* Yahweh has a sword that is covered with blood and fat— the blood of lambs and goats and the fat of the kidneys of rams to be sacrificed.

It is as though Yahweh will offer a sacrifice in *the city of Bozrah* and kill many people in other cities in Edom.

7 *Even* wild oxen will be killed, as well as young calves and big bulls.

The ground will be soaked with blood, and the dirt will be covered with the fat of those animals.

8 That will be the time when Yahweh gets revenge for what those people did to the people of Judah.

9 The streams in Edom will be full of burning pitch/tar, and the ground will be covered with burning sulfur.

10 Yahweh will never finish punishing Edom with fire;

the smoke will rise forever. No one will ever live in that land, and no one will *even* travel through it.

11 Ravens and various kinds of owls and small animals will live there.

Yahweh will measure that land carefully: He will measure it to *to decide where* to cause chaos and destruction.

12 There will be no princes; the people who have authority will have no kingdom to rule.

13 The deserted palaces and fortified buildings
will be full of thorns and thistles.
The ruins will be a place for jackals/wolves and
owls to live.

14 Animals that live in the desert and hyenas/
wolves will be there,
and wild goats will bleat/call to each other.
There will also be creatures/animals that *roam
around* at night.

15 Owls will make their nests there and lay their
eggs in the nests;
and when the eggs hatch, the mother birds
will cover them *with their wings*.
There will also be falcons/hawks there,
each with its mate.

16 If you read what is written in the book that
contains messages from Yahweh, you will find
out what he will do *in Edom*.
All of those animals and birds will be there,
and each one will have a mate,
because that is what Yahweh has promised,
and his Spirit will cause them *all* to gather
there.

17 He has decided what parts of the land *of Edom*
each will live in,
and those are the places where each bird or
animal will live.
Their descendants will possess those areas for-
ever,
throughout all generations.

35

The promise of restoration

¹ *Some day, it will be as though* the desert and other very dry areas are glad [DOU]; the desert will rejoice and flowers will blossom.

Like crocuses/daffodils,

² the desert will produce flowers abundantly; *it will be as though* everything is rejoicing and singing!

The deserts will become as beautiful as [SIM] *the trees in Lebanon*, as fertile [SIM] as the plains of the Sharon and Carmel *areas*.

There people will see the glory of Yahweh; they will see that he is magnificent.

³ So, encourage those who are tired and weak.

⁴ Say to those who are afraid,

“Be strong and do not be afraid, because our God is going to come to get revenge *on his enemies*; he will ◀pay them back/punish them▶ for what they have done, and he will rescue you.”

⁵ When he does that, *he will enable* blind people to see and *enable* deaf people to hear.

⁶ Lame people will leap like deer, and those who have been unable to speak will sing joyfully.

Water will gush out *from springs* in the desert; streams will flow in the desert.

⁷ The very dry ground will become a pool of water;

and springs will provide water for the dry land.
 Grass and reeds and papyrus will grow in places where the jackals/wolves lived previously.

⁸ And there will be a highway through that land; it will be called 'the Holy Highway'.

People who are not acceptable to God will not walk on that road;
 it will be only for those who conduct their lives as God wants them to;
 foolish people will become lost while walking on that road.

⁹ There will not be any lions there or any other dangerous animals along that road.

Only those who have been freed *from being slaves in Babylonia* will walk on it.

¹⁰ Those whom Yahweh has freed will return to Jerusalem;
 they will sing as they enter the city;
 they will be extremely joyful [MET, PRS] forever.

No longer will they be sad or mourn;
 they will be *completely* joyful [DOU].

36

The army of Assyria invaded Judah

¹ When King Hezekiah had been *ruling Judah* for almost 14 years, King Sennacherib of Assyria came *with his army* to attack the cities in Judah that had walls around them. *They did not conquer Jerusalem, but they conquered all the*

other cities. ² Then the king of Assyria sent a large army with some of his important officials from Lachish city to *persuade* King Hezekiah to *surrender*. When they arrived at Jerusalem, they stood in their positions alongside the aqueduct/channel in which water flows into the upper pool *into Jerusalem*, near the road to the field where the women wash clothes. ³ The Israeli officials who went out of the city to talk with them were Hilkiyah's son Eliakim, the ◀palace administrator/man who supervised the workers in the palace▶, Shebna the king's secretary, and Asaph's son Joah, who wrote down the government decisions.

⁴ Then one of Sennacherib's important officials told them to take this message to Hezekiah:

This is what the King of Assyria, the great king, says: "What are you trusting in to rescue you? ⁵ You say that you have weapons to fight us and some country's promises *to help you, and that will enable you to defeat us*, but that is only talk [RHQ]. Who do you think will help you to rebel against my *soldiers from Assyria*?"

⁶ Listen to me! You are relying on *the army of Egypt*. But *that will be like* [MET] using a broken reed for a walking stick on which you could lean. *But* it would pierce the hand of anyone who would lean on it! That is what the King of Egypt would be like for anyone who relied on him *for help*. ⁷ But perhaps you will say to me, 'No, we are relying on Yahweh our God *to help us*.' *I would reply*, 'Is he not the one whom you *insulted by* tearing down his shrines

and altars and forcing everyone in Jerusalem and *other places in Judah* to worship *only* in front of the altar *in Jerusalem?*'

⁸ So I suggest that you make a deal with my master/boss, the king of Assyria. I will give you 2,000 horses, but *I do not think that* you can find 2,000 of your men who can ride on them!

⁹ You are expecting the king of Egypt to send chariots and men riding horses *to assist you*. But they certainly would not [RHQ] be able to resist/defeat even the most insignificant/unimportant official in the army of Assyria!

¹⁰ Furthermore, *do not think that* [RHQ] we have come here to attack and destroy this land without Yahweh's orders! It is Yahweh himself who told us to come here and destroy this land!"

¹¹ Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the official from Assyria, "Please speak to us in *your* Aramaic language, because we understand it. Do not speak to us in *our* Hebrew language, because the people who are standing on the wall will understand it *and become frightened*."

¹² But the official replied, "Do you think that my master sent me to say these things *only* to you, and not to the people standing on the wall [RHQ]? *If you reject this message*, the *people in this city* will soon need to eat their own dung and drink their own urine, just like you will, *because there will be nothing more for you to eat or drink*."

¹³ Then the official stood up and shouted in the Hebrew language *to the people sitting on the wall*. He said, "Listen to this message from the

great king, the King of Assyria! ¹⁴ He says, ‘Do not allow Hezekiah to deceive you! He will not be able to rescue you! ¹⁵ Do not allow him to persuade you to trust in Yahweh, saying that Yahweh will rescue you, and that *the army of the King of Assyria will never capture this city!*’

¹⁶ Do not pay attention to what Hezekiah says! This is what the king of Assyria says: ‘Come out of the city and surrender to me. *If you do that, I will arrange for each of you to drink the juice from your own grapevines and to eat figs from your own trees, and to drink water from your own well.* ¹⁷ *You will be able to do that* until we come and take you to a land that is like your land—a land where there is grain to make bread and *vineyards to produce grapes for making new wine and, and where we make lots of bread.*’

¹⁸ Do not allow Hezekiah to mislead you by saying, “Yahweh will rescue us.” The gods that people of other nations worship have never [RHQ] rescued any of them from the power [MTY] of the King of Assyria! ¹⁹ Why were the gods of Hamath and Arpad *cities*, and the gods of Sepharvaim unable to rescue Samaria from my power [MTY]? ²⁰ No, no god [RHQ] of any nation has been able to rescue their people from me. So why do you think that Yahweh will rescue you people of Jerusalem from my power [MTY]? ”

²¹ But the people *who were listening* were silent. No one said anything, because King *Hezekiah* had commanded, “*When the official from Assyria talks to you, do not answer him.*”

²² Then Eliakim and Shebna and Joah returned to Hezekiah with their clothes torn *because they were extremely distressed*. They told him what the official from Assyria had said.

37

Hezekiah asked Isaiah for advice

¹ When King Hezekiah heard what they reported, he tore his clothes and put on clothes made of rough sackcloth *because he was very distressed*. Then he went into the temple of Yahweh *and prayed*. ² Then he sent Eliakim, Shebna, and the ◀older/most important▶ priests, who were also wearing clothes made of rough sackcloth, to talk to me. ³ He said to them, “Tell this to Isaiah: ‘King Hezekiah says that this is a day when we are greatly distressed. Other nations are causing us to be insulted and disgraced. We are like [SIM] a woman who is about to give birth to a baby, but she does not have the strength that she needs to do it. ⁴ *But perhaps Yahweh our God has heard what the official from Assyria said. Perhaps he knows that his boss, the King of Assyria, sent him to insult the all-powerful God, and that Yahweh will punish the King of Assyria for what he said. And the king requests that you pray for the few of us who are still alive here in Jerusalem.’ ”*

⁵ After those men gave me that message, ⁶ I replied, “Tell the King, ‘This is what Yahweh says: “Those messengers from the King of Assyria have said evil things about me. But do not be

disturbed by what they said. ⁷ Listen to this: I will cause Sennacherib to hear a rumor *that the armies of Babylon are about to attack his country*, and that will worry him. So he will return to his own country, and there I will cause him to be assassinated by *men using swords*.” ’ ’ ”

⁸ The official from Assyria found out that the King of Assyria *and his army* had captured Lachish city and that they were attacking Libnah, *which is a nearby city*. So the official left Jerusalem and went to Libnah *to report to the king what had happened in Jerusalem*.

⁹ Soon after that, King *Sennacherib* received a report that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was leading his army to attack them. So before King Sennacherib left Libnah *with his army to fight against the army from Ethiopia*, he sent other messengers to Hezekiah in Jerusalem with a letter. *In the letter he wrote this to Hezekiah*:

¹⁰ “Do not allow your god, on whom you are relying, to deceive you by promising you that Jerusalem will not be captured by my army.

¹¹ You have certainly heard what the armies of the kings of Assyria have done to all the other countries; our armies have destroyed them completely. So, ◀do you think that you will escape?/do not think that your god will save you!▶ [RHQ] ¹² Did the gods of the nations that were about to be destroyed by the armies of the previous kings of Assyria rescue them? Did those gods rescue Gozan region, and Haran and Rezep cities in northern Syria, and the people of Eden region who were forced to go to Tel-Assar city?

¹³ What happened to the King of Hamath and the King of Arpad? What happened to the kings of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah *cities*? *Did their gods rescue them [RHQ]?"*

Hezekiah's prayer

¹⁴ Hezekiah received the letter that the messengers gave him, and he read it. Then he went up to the temple and spread out the letter in front of Yahweh. ¹⁵ And *then* Hezekiah prayed this: ¹⁶ "O Yahweh, Commander of the armies of angels, the God to whom *we* Israelis belong, you are seated on your throne above the statues of the creatures with wings, *above the Sacred Chest*. Only you are *truly* God. You rule all the kingdoms on this earth. You are the one who created everything on the earth and in the sky. ¹⁷ So, Yahweh, *please* listen to what I am saying, and look at *what is happening!* And listen to what Sennacherib has said to insult you, the all-powerful God!

¹⁸ Yahweh, it is true that *the armies of the* kings of Assyria have completely destroyed many nations and ruined their land. ¹⁹ And they have thrown all the idols of those nations into fires and burned them. But they were not *really* gods. They were only idols made of wood and stone, *and that is why they were destroyed easily*. ²⁰ So now, Yahweh our God, *please* rescue us from the power [MTY] of *the King of Assyria*, in order that *the people in* all the kingdoms of the world will know that you, Yahweh, are the only one who is *truly* God."

Isaiah predicted that the Assyrians would not conquer Jerusalem

²¹ Then I sent this message to Hezekiah: “This is what Yahweh, the God to whom *we* Israelis belong, says: Because you prayed about what King Sennacherib of Assyria *said*, ²² this is what I say to him:

‘The people of Jerusalem despise you and make fun of you.

They will wag/shake their heads to mock you while you flee from here.

²³ Whom do you think you have been despising and ridiculing?

Whom do you think you were shouting at?

Whom do you think you were looking at *very* proudly/arrogantly?

It was I, the Holy One whom the Israelis worship!

²⁴ The messengers whom you sent made fun of me.

You said, “With my many chariots I have gone to the highest mountains,
even to the highest mountains in Lebanon.

We have cut down its tallest cedar *trees*
and its nicest pine/cypress *trees*.

We have been to the most distant/remote peaks
and to its densest forests.

²⁵ We have dug wells *in many countries* and drunk water *from them*.

And by marching through [MTY] the streams of Egypt,
we dried them all up [HYP]!”

³⁰ *Then I said to Hezekiah, ‘This will prove to you that what I said will happen:*

“This year, you(pl) will eat only the crops that grow by themselves,

and next year the same thing will happen.

But in the third year you will plant crops and harvest them;

you will take care of your vineyards and eat the grapes.

³¹ *And you people who are still here in Judah, will be strong and prosper again [MET].*

³² *A small number of my people will survive, and they will spread out from Jerusalem [DOU].”*

That will happen because I, the Commander of the armies of angels, am desiring very much to accomplish it.’

³³ *And this is what I, Yahweh, say about the King of Assyria:*

‘His armies will not enter Jerusalem;

they will not even shoot arrows into it.

His soldiers will not march outside the city gates holding their shields,

and they will not build high mounds of dirt against the walls of the city

to enable them to attack the city.

³⁴ *And their king will return to his own country on the same road on which he came here.*

He will not enter this city!’

That will happen because I, Yahweh, have said it!

³⁵ For the sake of my own reputation and because of what I promised King David, who served me *well*, I will defend this city and prevent it from being destroyed.”

³⁶ *That night*, an angel from Yahweh went out to where the army of Assyria had set up their tents and killed 185,000 of their soldiers. When *the rest of the soldiers* woke up the next morning, they saw that there were corpses everywhere.

³⁷ Then King Sennacherib left and returned home to Nineveh *in Assyria*, and stayed there.

³⁸ *One day*, when he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his two sons, Adrammelech and Sharezer, killed him with their swords. Then they escaped and went to the Ararat *region northwest of Nineveh*. And another of Sennacherib’s sons, Esarhaddon, became the King of Assyria.

38

Hezekiah’s sickness and his recovery

¹ About that time, Hezekiah became *very ill* and was close to dying. So I went to see him. And I gave him this message: “This is what Yahweh says: ‘You should tell the people in your palace what you want them to do after you die, because you will not recover from this illness. You are going to die’ ”

² Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed this: ³ “Yahweh, do not forget that I have always served you very faithfully, and

I have done things that pleased you!" Then Hezekiah *started to cry* loudly.

⁴ *I left his room, but* Yahweh gave me this message: ⁵ "Go *back* to Hezekiah and tell him that this is what I, the God to whom your ancestor King David belonged, say: 'I have heard what you prayed, and I have seen you crying. So listen: I will enable you to live 15 years more. ⁶ And, I will rescue you and this city from the power [MTY] of the King of Assyria. I will defend this city.

⁷ And this is what I will do to prove that I will do what I have just now promised. I will cause the shadow of the sun to move ten steps backward on the sundial that was built by King Ahaz.' " ⁸ So the shadow of the sun on the sundial moved backward ten steps.

⁹ When King Hezekiah was almost well again, he wrote this:

¹⁰ I thought to myself, "Is it necessary for me to die and go to the place where the dead people are during this time of my life when I am still strong? Is Yahweh going to rob me of the remaining years that I *should live*?"

¹¹ I said, "I will not see Yahweh *again* in this world where people are alive.

I will not see my friends again, or be with others who *now* are alive in this world.

¹² *It is as if* my life has been taken away

- like [SIM] a tent *whose pegs* have been pulled up by a shepherd and taken away.
 My time to live has been cut short,
 like a piece of cloth that a weaver *cuts and rolls up after he has finished weaving a cloth.*"
 Suddenly, *it seemed that* my life was ending.
- 13 I waited patiently all during the night,
 but *my pain was as though* [MET] I was being torn apart by lions.
It seemed that my life was finished.
- 14 *I was delirious, and* I chirped like a swift or a swallow,
 and moaned like a dove.
 My eyes became tired looking up *toward heaven* for help.
 I cried out, Lord, help me, *because* I am distressed!'
- 15 But there was really nothing [RHQ] that I could say and ask him to reply to me,
 because it was Yahweh who sent this illness.
So now I will live humbly during my *remaining* years
 because I am very anguished.
- 16 Yahweh, the sufferings (OR, the promises) that you give are good,
because what you do and what you say bring *new* life and health to us.
 And you restore/heal me
 and allow me *to continue* to live!
- 17 Truly, my suffering was good for me;
 you loved me,
 and as a result you have rescued me from dying

and have also forgiven all my sins.

¹⁸ Dead people [MTY] cannot praise you;
they cannot sing to praise you.

Those who have descended to their graves
cannot confidently expect you to faithfully
do things for them.

¹⁹ Only people who are still alive, like I am, can
praise you.

Fathers tell their children how you are faithful,
and if I remain alive, I will do the same thing.

²⁰ *I know that Yahweh will fully heal me,
so I will sing to praise him*

while others praise him playing musical instru-
ments;

I will do that every day of my life, in the
temple of Yahweh."

²¹ I had *previously* said to Hezekiah's servants,
"Prepare an ointment from *mashed* figs, and
spread it on his boil, and then he will recover."
So they did that, and Hezekiah recovered.

²² And Hezekiah had *previously* asked, "What
will Yahweh do to prove that I will *recover and
be able to go to his temple?*"

39

The messengers from Babylon

¹ Soon after that, Baladan's son Merodach-
Baladan, the King of Babylon, heard a report
that Hezekiah had been very sick but that
he had recovered. So he wrote some notes
and gave them to some messengers to take
to Hezekiah, along with a gift. ² *When the*

messengers arrived, Hezekiah welcomed them gladly. Then he showed them everything that was in his ◀treasure houses/places where very valuable things were kept▶—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the nice-smelling *olive* oil. He also took them to see the place where they kept their soldiers' weapons, and he showed them the other valuable things that were in the storehouses. Hezekiah showed them everything [LIT] that was in the palace or in other places [HYP].

³ Then I went to King Hezekiah and asked him, "Where did those men come from, and what did they want?"

He replied, "They came from the far away land of Babylon."

⁴ I asked him, "What did they see in your palace?"

Hezekiah replied, "They saw everything. I showed them absolutely everything that I own—all my valuable things."

⁵ Then I said to Hezekiah, "Listen to this message from the Commander of the armies of angels: ⁶ There will be a time when everything in your palace, all the valuable things that your ancestors stored there up until the present time, will be carried away to Babylon. Yahweh says that there will be nothing left. ⁷ Furthermore, some of your sons will be forced to go to Babylon. They will be castrated in order that they can become servants in the palace of the king of Babylon.' "

⁸ Then Hezekiah replied to me, “That message from Yahweh that you have given to me is good.” He said that because he was thinking, “Even if that happens, there will be peace, and people in this country will be safe during the time that I am alive.”

40

Encouragement for God’s people

- ¹ Our God says, “Encourage my people!
Encourage them!
- ² Speak kindly to *the people of Jerusalem*;
tell them that their suffering is ended,
and that I have forgiven them for the sins that
they have committed;
I [SYN] have fully punished them for their
sins.”
- ³ I hear someone who is shouting,
“Prepare in the desert a way for Yahweh to come
to you;
make a smooth road for our God (OR, Pre-
pare yourselves to receive Yahweh when
he comes, like people make a straight road
for an important official [MET]).
- ⁴ Fill in the valleys;
flatten every hill and every mountain.
Make the uneven ground smooth,
and make the rough places smooth.
- ⁵ *If you do that*, it will become known that
Yahweh is glorious/great,
and all people will realize it at the same time.
Those things will surely happen because it is
Yahweh who has said [MTY] it.”

- 6 Someone said to me, "Shout!"
I replied, "What should I shout?"
*He replied, "Shout that people are like [SIM]
grass;
their influence fades as quickly as flowers in
the field.*
- 7 Grass withers and flowers dry up
when Yahweh causes a hot wind from the
desert to blow on them.
And people are [MET] like that.
- 8 The grass withers and the flowers dry up,
but what our God promises will last forever."
- 9 You *people of* Jerusalem, you have good news to
tell to people,
so, shout it from the top of a high mountain!
Shout it loudly, and do not be afraid!
Tell the people in the towns of Judah,
"Your God is coming here!"
- 10 Yahweh your God will be coming with power;
he will rule powerfully [MTY].
And when he comes, he will bring with him
the people whom he has freed [MET] *from
being slaves in Babylonia.*
- 11 He will take care of his people
like [SIM] a shepherd takes care of his sheep,
and carries the young lambs in his arms.
He carries them close to his chest
and he gently leads the female sheep
that are nursing their young lambs.
- 12 *There is no one like Yahweh!*
◀Who else has measured the water in the
oceans in the palm of his hand?/No one

else has measured the water in the oceans
in the palm of his hand!► [RHQ]

◄Who else has measured the sky with his fingers?
No one else has measured the sky with his fingers!► [RHQ]

◄Who else knows how much the earth weighs?
No one else knows how much the earth weighs!► [RHQ]

◄Who else has weighed the mountains and hills
on scales?/No one else has weighed the mountains
and hills on scales!► [RHQ]

13 And ◄who else can advise Yahweh's Spirit?
No one else can advise Yahweh's Spirit!►
[RHQ]

◄Who can teach him or advise/tell him what he
should do?/No one can teach him or advise/tell
him what he should do!► [RHQ]

14 ◄Has Yahweh consulted anyone else to get
advice?/Yahweh has certainly not consulted
anyone else to get advice!► [RHQ]

◄Does he need someone to tell him what is
right to do and how to act justly?/He certainly
does not need someone to tell him what is right
to do and how to act justly!► [RHQ]

15 *Yahweh considers that the nations are as insignificant
as [MET] one drop from a bucket full of water.*

They are as insignificant as dust on scales.

He is able to weigh islands

as though they weighed no more than grains of sand.

- 16 There would be *not* enough wood from all the trees in Lebanon to make a suitable fire for *sacrificing animals to him*, and there are not enough animals in Lebanon to offer as sacrifices to him.
- 17 The nations of the world are completely insignificant/unimportant to him; he considers that they are worthless and less than nothing [HYP, DOU].
- 18 So, to whom can you compare God? What image resembles him?
- 19 Can you compare him to an idol that is made in a mold, and then is covered with *a thin sheet of gold* and decorated with silver chains?
- 20 A man who is poor *cannot buy silver or gold for his idol*; so he selects a piece of wood that will not rot, and he gives it to a craftsman to carve an idol that will not fall down!
- 21 Have you(pl) not heard this? Do you not understand it? Are you unable to hear what God said long ago—*messages that he gave* before he created the earth?
- 22 God sits *on his throne* above the earth, and the people *on the earth* below seem to be *as small* as [SIM] grasshoppers. He spreads out the sky like a curtain; it is like [SIM] a tent for him to live in.

- 23 He causes kings to have no more power,
and he causes the rulers to be worth nothing.
- 24 They start to rule, like small plants start to
grow and form roots;
but then *he gets rid of them*
as though [MET] they withered when he
blew on them,
like [SIM] chaff that is blown away by the
wind.
- 25 The Holy One asks,
“To whom will you compare me?
Is anyone equal to me?”
- 26 Look up toward the sky:
Consider who [RHQ] created all the stars.
Yahweh created them, and at night he causes
them to appear;
he calls each one by its name.
Because he is extremely powerful [DOU],
all of the stars are there [LIT] *when he calls
out their names*.
- 27 You people of Israel [DOU], why do you
complain that Yahweh does not see the
troubles that you are experiencing?
Why do you say that he does not act fairly
toward you?
- 28 Have you never heard
and have you never understood
that Yahweh is the everlasting God;
he is the one who created the earth, *even the
most distant places on the earth*.
He never becomes weak or weary,

- and no one can find out how much he understands.
- 29 He strengthens [DOU] those who feel weak and tired.
- 30 Even youths become faint and weary,
and young men will fall when they are exhausted.
- 31 But those who trust in Yahweh will become strong again;
it will be as though they will soar/fly high like [SIM] eagles do.
- They will run *for a long time* and not become weary;
they will walk *long distances* and not faint.

41

Yahweh will help Israel

- 1 *Yahweh says, "You people who live on [APO] islands in the ocean,
be silent in front of me while I ask you some questions!*
- Then you can be courageous and talk to me.
We will meet together and decide *which one of us is right.*
- 2 Who has urged this king to come from the east?
Who has enabled his *army* to righteously defeat many nations
and to trample their kings under their feet?
With their swords they cut *their enemies* into tiny pieces [HYP];
with their arrows they cause their enemies to scatter like [SIM] the wind scatters chaff.

³ Even though they march through areas where they have not gone previously, they pursue *their enemies* and continue to march, and nothing stops them.

⁴ Who has enabled rulers to do [DOU] mighty things like that?

Who has done that throughout all generations?

It is I, Yahweh;

I was the first *one to do things like that*, and I will be the last *one to do them*."

Idols are useless

⁵ *People who live on* [PRS] islands in the ocean are afraid while they watch.

People in remote areas tremble and gather together.

⁶ They encourage each other and say to each other,
"Be strong!"

⁷ The craftsmen encourage those who make things from gold, and the men who flatten metal encourage those who hammer metal ◀on an anvil/into shape▶.

They all say, "The idol has been well made!"

And then they carefully nail down the idol in order that it will not topple over!

Yahweh chose Israel

⁸ *Yahweh says*, "You people of Israel are like my servants;

you are *descendants of Jacob*, whom I chose; you are descendants of Abraham, who *I said* is my friend.

9 I summoned you from very distant places [DOU]
on the earth,
and I said 'I *want you to serve me*;
I have chosen you,
and I will not reject you.'

10 Do not be afraid,
because I will ◀be with/help▶ you.
Do not be discouraged, because I am your God.
I will enable you to be strong, and I will help
you;
I will hold you up with my powerful arm by
which you will be rescued.

11 It is certain that all those who are angry with
you *Israeli people* will be disgraced [DOU].
Those who oppose you will be wiped out;
they will all die.

12 If you search for those who tried to conquer
you,
you will not find them,
because they will all have disappeared.
Those who attacked you
will not exist *any more*.

13 *It will be as though* I will hold you up by your
right hand.
I am Yahweh, your God,
and I say to you, 'Do not be afraid,
because I will help you.'

14 Although you people of Israel [DOU] *think that*
you are as insignificant as worms,
do not be afraid *of your enemies,*
because I will help you.
I am Yahweh, the one who rescues you;

I am the Holy One of Israel.

15 *I will cause you to be like [MET] a ◀threshing sledge/big piece of metal that has sharp teeth for separating grain from chaff▶.*

You will tear *your enemies to bits*,
causing them to be like bits of chaff on the mountains.

16 You will toss them up into the air,
and a strong wind will blow them away [DOU].

When that happens, you will rejoice about what
I have done for you;
you will praise me, the Holy One of Israel.

17 When poor and needy people need water and
they have no water,
and their tongues are very dry because they
are very thirsty,
I, Yahweh, will come and help them.

I, the God to whom you Israeli people belong, will
never abandon them.

18 I will cause rivers to flow for them on the
barren hills.
I will give them fountains in the valleys.

I will fill [HYP] the desert with pools of water.
Water from springs will flow into rivers,
and the rivers will flow across the dry
ground.

19 I will plant *trees* in the desert—
cedar trees, acacia trees, myrtle trees, olive trees, cypress trees, fir trees, and pine trees.

20 *I will do that* in order that people who see it
 will think about it, and they will know and
 understand [DOU]
 that it is *I, Yahweh*, who have done it;
 it is what *I, the Holy One of Israel*, have done.

Yahweh mocks the idols

21 *I, Yahweh*, the true king of Israel say *to you nations*,

“Tell what your idols can do for you!

22 Bring them here to tell us what is going to
 happen!

Ask them to tell us what things happened
 long ago,

in order that we may think about those things,
 and learn if those things that they predicted
 really happened.

Or, ask them to tell us about the future,
 in order that we can know what will happen.

23 Yes, those idols should tell us what will happen
 in the future.

If they do that, we will know that they are
 really gods.

Tell them to do something—either something
 good or something bad!

Tell them to do something that will cause us
 to be amazed and afraid!

24 But *that is impossible, because* idols are abso-
 lutely worthless [HYP];

they can do nothing,
 and I detest those who decide *to worship*
 idols.”

A prediction about Cyrus

25 “*But* I have incited/urged a ruler who will come *with his army* from the north.

I have summoned him to come from *his country, which is east of Israel*,

and I have given him my authority [MTY].

I will *enable his army to conquer other rulers*; they will trample those leaders like [SIM] a man who makes clay pots first tramples the clay.

26 ◀Who told you people long ago that this would happen?/No one told you people long ago that this would happen!▶ [RHQ]

◀Who predicted it, with the result that we can say, ‘What he predicted was correct!’?/No one predicted it, with the result that we can say, ‘What he predicted was correct!’▶ [RHQ]

No one else said that it would happen.

27 I was the first one to tell *the people of Jerusalem*,

‘Listen to this! I have appointed a messenger to tell good news to you!’

28 None of your idols told you that [DOU].

And when I asked them questions, none of them was able to give me any answers.

29 Think about it: Those idols are all useless, worthless [DOU] things.

They are *as meaningless as* [MET] the wind.”

42

Yahweh’s special servant

¹ *Yahweh says, "I want you people to know about my servant, whom I encourage.*

I have chosen him, and I am pleased with him.

I have given him my Spirit, and he will make certain that all the people-groups do what is right/just.

² *He will not show his power by shouting [DOU] or by talking very loudly.*

³ *He will not get rid of anyone who is weak like [MET] a smashed reed, and he will not end the life of anyone who is helpless like [MET] someone would extinguish a dimly burning wick of an oil lamp.*

He will faithfully/continually make sure that judges decide cases justly.

⁴ *He will not become exhausted or discouraged all during the time that he is causing things to be done justly throughout the earth.*

Even people living on the islands in [MTY] the oceans will confidently wait for him to teach them his laws."

⁵ *Yahweh our God created the sky and spread it out.*

He also created the earth and everything on it.

He gives breath to all the people on the earth; he causes them to live [DOU].

And he is the one who says to his special servant,

⁶ *"I, Yahweh, have chosen you to show people that I always act righteously/fairly.*

I will grasp your hand and protect you,

and I will present you to *my Israeli* people
to be the one who will put into effect my
agreement with them.

You will be like a light to the *other* nations.

⁷ You will enable blind [IDM] people to see,
you will free those who are in prison (OR,
who are bound *by the guilt of their sins*)
[MET]
and release those who are in dark dungeons.

⁸ I am Yahweh; that is my name.
I will not allow anyone else to receive the
honor that only I deserve.
And I will not allow idols to be praised like
only I should be praised.

⁹ Everything that I have prophesied has hap-
pened,
and now I will tell about other things that
will happen.

I will tell you things that will happen before they
happen.”

A song of praise to Yahweh

¹⁰ Sing a new song to Yahweh!
Sing to praise him throughout the world!
All you people who sail across the oceans, and
all you creatures that live in the oceans,
and all you people who live on islands far
away, sing!

¹¹ You people who live in towns in the desert,
sing loudly!
You people who live in the Kedar *area in the
north of Arabia*, you rejoice also!

You people in Sela *city in Edom*, you also should
sing joyfully;
shout *to praise him* from the tops of your
mountains!

12 Even people who live on distant islands should
honor Yahweh
and sing to praise him.

13 *It will be as though* Yahweh will march out like
[SIM] a mighty soldier;
he will show that he is very angry.

He will shout a battle-cry,
and *then* he will defeat all his enemies.

14 *He will say*, "I have remained silent [DOU] for
a long time;
I have restrained myself *from doing what I
need to do*.

But now, like [SIM] a woman who is giving birth
to a baby, I will cry out and gasp and pant.

15 I will level off the hills and mountains,
and I will cause all the plants and trees to
dry up.

I will cause the rivers to become small streams,
and little islands will appear in them,
and I will cause all the pools to become dry.

16 *My people who have been taken to Babylonia
are like* [MET] blind people,
but I will lead them along a road on which
they have not walked before,
on a road that they have not seen before.

They have felt *very helpless, as though* they were
walking in the darkness,
but I will take away that darkness

and I will make smooth the road that is in front of them.

Those are the things that I will do for them;
I will not abandon them.

17 But those who trust in carved idols,
and say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be completely humiliated/disgraced."

The people of Israel refused to heed Yahweh

18 You *Israeli people who have acted toward God like deaf people*, listen to what Yahweh says!

"You *who have been like* [MET] *blind people*, look!

19 No people are [RHQ] as blind as my people, who *should have been* serving me.

No people are [RHQ] as much like [MET] deaf people as *the Israelis, who should have been* my messengers.

No people are [RHQ] as much like [MET] blind people as those whom I chose to serve me.

20 You see and know what are the right things to do, but you do not do them.

You hear *what I say to you*, but you do not pay attention."

21 Because Yahweh is righteous,
he has honored his glorious laws.

22 But *the armies of Babylon have destroyed Jerusalem* and have completely ◀plundered/taken away▶ [DOU] all the valuable things,

and they have captured Yahweh's people and taken them away and put them in prison.

They have been captured easily,
 because there was no one to protect them;
 there was no one to say that they should be
 allowed to return home.

²³ Who among you will listen carefully to these
 things?

Who will pay attention from now on?

²⁴ Who allowed the valuable possessions of the
 people of Israel to be stolen [RHQ, DOU]?

It was Yahweh, because he is he one against
 whom we had sinned;
 we did not conduct our lives like he wanted us
 to,
 and we did not obey his laws.

²⁵ Therefore, he was extremely angry with us,
 and he caused our soldiers to be destroyed
 in battles.

It was as though [MET] he lit a fire around us,
 but we did not understand *what he was*
trying to tell us.

His being angry with us was like a fire that would
 burn us up,
 but we did not pay attention [IDM].

43

Israel's only Savior

¹ But now, you people of Israel, listen to Yahweh,
 the one who established your nation.

The one who caused you to become a nation
 [DOU] says this:

“Do not be afraid,
 because I previously rescued you.

I enabled you to have a personal relationship with me [MTY], and you belong to me.

² When you *experience dangerous situations*, and you *feel like* [MET] you are crossing deep rivers,

I will be with you.

When you have very big troubles/difficulties, you will [LIT] be able to endure them.

When *people try to kill you like they tried to kill Daniel's three friends* by throwing them in a fire,

you will not *die*, just like *Daniel's three friends were not* burned up,

³ because I am Yahweh, your God, the Holy One of Israel, the one who rescues you.

I will enable *the army of the emperor of Persia* to conquer Egypt instead of conquering you; similarly I will enable them to conquer Ethiopia, and Seba *in Arabia*, in order that you can be saved.

⁴ I will cause other countries to be conquered, instead of your country;

I will trade them for you, in order that you will not be killed,

because you are very precious [DOU] to me and because I love you.

⁵ Do not be afraid, because I am with you.

Some day I will gather your descendants from the east and from the west.

⁶ I will command the *rulers of the nations* to the north and to the south,

- ‘Allow all the people of Israel to return *to their country*,
 from the most distant places on the earth.
- 7 Allow all those who belong to me [MTY] to return,
 because I have caused them to become a nation in order that they would honor me;
 I am the one who has done that [DOU].’
- 8 Summon the people who have eyes but *it is as though* they are blind;
 summon those who have ears but *because they do not listen to me, it is as though* they are deaf.
- 9 Gather people of all nations together,
 ones from all people-groups,
and ask them this: ‘Has any of their idols foretold the things that are happening now?
 And can any of them predict what will happen in the future?’
- Then bring people who will testify and say ‘I heard them predict things,
 and what they predicted was what happened,’
but they will be lying.”
- 10 But Yahweh says, “You people of Israel ◀are my witnesses/know what I have done▶,
 and you are the ones who serve me.
 I chose you in order that you would know me,
 believe in me,
 and understand that I am the only one who is *truly* God.
 There is no other *true* God.
 There was no other *true* God previously,
 and there will never be another *true* God.

- 11 I, *only* I, am Yahweh,
and there is no other one who can save you.
- 12 I said that I would rescue *your ancestors*,
and then I rescued them, and I proclaimed
that I had done it.
- No foreign god among you did that!
And you are witnesses that only I, Yahweh,
am God.
- 13 I am God, the one who has existed forever
and who will exist forever;
no one can snatch people from my hand,
and no one can alter/change what I have
done.”

God promises to rescue his people from Babylon

- 14 Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, is the one who
rescues you; and this is what he says:
“For your sake, I will send *an army to attack*
Babylon.
They will force the people of that city to flee
in ships which they have been proud of.
- 15 I am Yahweh, your Holy One,
the one who caused Israel to become a
nation, and the one who is really your
king.
- 16 I am Yahweh, the one who opened a path
through the water,
making a road through the *Red Sea*.
- 17 Then I summoned the great army *of Egypt*
to come with all their chariots and horses.
But when they tried to pursue my people,
I caused the waves to flow over them *and they*
drowned;

their lives ended *like the light of a candle ends when someone* [MET] snuffs out the wick.

18 But do not think *only* about what happened in the past, long ago [DOU].

19 Instead, consider the new thing that I am going to do.

I have already started to do it;
can you see it?

I am going to make a road through the desert.

And I will cause there to be streams in the wasteland/desert.

20 The jackals/wolves and owls and other wild creatures will thank me for giving them water in the desert.

I will cause streams to appear in the dry desert in order that my people, the ones whom I have chosen, will have water;

21 I will do that for the people whom I have created *and chosen* to belong to me, and *some day* they will cause many others to praise me.

God's grievances concerning Israel

22 But now, you descendants of Jacob, you refuse to request my help.

It seems that you people of Israel have become tired of worshiping me.

23 You have not brought to me sheep or goats for offerings that will be completely burned *on the altar*;

you have not honored me by *bringing to me any* sacrifices,

even though the offerings of grain and incense
that I asked you to bring to me were not a
burden to you.

24 You have bought for me fragrant reeds,
and you have brought me the fat from your
sacrifices.

But these have not pleased me,
because you have burdened me by all the
sins that you have committed,
and made me weary because of all ◀your
iniquities/the wrong things that you have
done▶.

25 I am the one who is able to forgive you for all
your sins;
I am the only one who can do that,
with the result that I will never think about
them again.

26 Tell me what I have done that you do not like.
Do you think that when you state your case,
you will prove that you ◀are innocent/
have done nothing wrong▶ [IRO]?

27 No, *what has happened is that* the first ancestor
of you Israelis sinned *against me*,
and since then, all your leaders have re-
belled against me.

28 That is why I have caused your priests to be
disgraced;
and I have allowed others to destroy you
people of Israel
and caused you to be despised.”

44

Yahweh promised to bless Israel

- ¹ But now, you people of Israel whom Yahweh has chosen to serve him, listen to me.
- ² Yahweh, the one who created you and helps you, says this:
“You dear people of Israel whom I have chosen,
you who serve me,
do not be afraid.
- ³ I will pour water on your dry land
and cause streams to flow.
And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants
and greatly bless them.
- ⁴ They will grow up like [SIM] grass grows along the water,
like [SIM] willow/poplar trees grow well along a riverbank.
- ⁵ Some of them will say, ‘I belong to Yahweh,’
and others will say, ‘We are descendants of Jacob,’
and others will write on their hands, ‘We belong to Yahweh,’
and others will say, ‘We are Israelis.’ ”

Foolish worship of idols

- ⁶ Yahweh, the King of Israel, the one who saves us, the Commander of the armies of angels, says this:
“I am the one who begins everything and who ends everything;
there is no other God.
- ⁷ If there is anyone like me [RHQ],

he should proclaim it!
 He should speak and tell me *now*!
 He should tell what has happened since I
 caused my people *of Israel* to become a
 nation long ago,
 and he should also tell what things will happen;
 he should predict what will happen in the
 future.

⁸ *My people*, do not be afraid.
 Long ago I told you things that would happen
 [RHQ];
 I predicted them, and you can testify that I did
 that.
 There certainly is not [RHQ] any other God.
 There is no other God who is able to protect
 you [MET];
 I know that there is no other God!"

⁹ All those who make idols are foolish,
 and the idols that they ◀think highly of/
 greatly respect▶ are worthless.
 And the people who worship those idols— *it is*
as though they are blind,
 and they will be ashamed *for having wor-*
shipped those idols.

¹⁰ Only *foolish people* [RHQ] would make idols in
 a mold,
 idols that would never help them at all.

¹¹ Those who make idols and those who worship
 them will be ashamed.
 Those who make idols are only human beings,
but they claim that they are making gods!
 They should stand in front of God in a court,

and *when they hear what he says*, they will be terrified,
and they will all be disgraced.

12 Metalworkers stand in front of hot coals
in order to make idols.
They pound them strongly with hammers, and
shape them.

Because they work very hard, they become
hungry and weak;
they become very thirsty and feel exhausted.

13 Then a woodcarver takes a big block/piece of
wood and he measures it;
then he marks it to show where he will cut
it.

He uses a chisel and other tools
to carve it to resemble a human.

He causes it to become a very beautiful *idol*,
and then he puts it in a shrine.

14 *Before he carves an idol from that block of
wood*, he has cut down a cedar tree,
or he has selected a cypress tree or an oak
tree
and allowed it to grow tall in the forest.

Or, he has planted a pine/evergreen tree
and the rain has watered it *and caused it to
grow tall*.

15 *And after he uses part of the tree to make an
idol*,
he uses the other part of the tree to make a
fire,
either to warm himself or to bake bread.
But he uses *part of the same tree* to make for
himself an idol to worship!

He makes an idol and then he bows down to worship it.

- 16 He burns part of the wood of the tree to cook his meat and eats the meat and his stomach becomes full, and he burns part of the wood to warm his body, and he says, "I feel warm while I am watching the flames in the fire."

- 17 Then he takes the rest of the wood and makes an idol which is his god.

He bows down to it and worships it, and prays to it and says, "You are my god, so save me!"

- 18 Those people are very stupid and ignorant [SAR].
It is as though they are blind and cannot see, and their minds are closed and they cannot think well.

- 19 They do not think about what they are doing, that they are taking a block of wood and burning half of it to warm themselves and using some of the rest to bake bread and roast some meat!

They do not say to themselves,

"It is stupid [RHQ] to take the rest of the wood to make a detestable idol!

It does not make sense to bow down to a block of wood!"

- 20 They are very stupid to *worship something that if you burn it, it becomes ashes!*

They trust in something that cannot save them;

they do not admit, “In my hand I hold something that is not really a god! [RHQ]”

A plea to the Israelis

²¹ *Yahweh says, “You descendants of [MTY] Jacob, you people of Israel who should be serving me,*

I created you,
and I will not forget you.

²² I have gotten rid of your sins
like [SIM] *the wind blows away* a cloud.

It is as though your transgressions were a morning mist

[SIM] that I have blown away.

Return to me
because I have rescued you.”

²³ *The sun and moon and stars* in the sky should sing,

and all the things that are beneath the ground should shout joyfully!

All the mountains and forests, and all you trees, should sing loudly,

because Yahweh has rescued *the descendants of [MTY] Jacob;*

the people of Israel will praise/honor him.

Jerusalem will be rebuilt and inhabited again

²⁴ Yahweh, who saved you and created you, says this:

“I am Yahweh, the one who created everything. I am the only one who stretched out the sky.

There was [RHQ] no one who ◀was with/helped▶ me

when I created the earth.

- 25 I show that the false prophets are liars,
and I show that those who perform rituals
to predict the future are fools.
Some people who *falsely think that they* are [IRO]
wise *say that they* know a lot,
but I show that they are foolish.
- 26 But I always cause to happen what my
prophets predict [DOU].
I tell them to say to the people of [MTY]
Jerusalem, 'Some day people will live here
again.'
And I tell them to say to the people in other towns
in Judah *that Yahweh says,*
'Your towns will be rebuilt;
I will cause the places that are only ruins to
be rebuilt.'
- 27 When I say to the rivers, 'Dry up!',
they will become dry.
- 28 When I say about King Cyrus, 'He will *take care*
of my people like [MET] a shepherd *takes*
care of his sheep,
he will do what I want him to do,'
he will say about Jerusalem,
'We must rebuild it!',
and he will also say, 'We must rebuild the
temple!' "

45

Yahweh chose Cyrus to free the Israelis

- ¹ Cyrus is the one whom Yahweh has appointed
to be the emperor of Persia
and to whom he will give great power [IDM];
Yahweh will enable him to defeat other nations

and to take away the power of their kings.
He will cause gates of cities to be opened,
and no one will ever be able to shut them.

² This is what Yahweh says to him:

“Cyrus, I will go ahead of you
and level the mountains.
I will smash down bronze gates
and cut through iron bars.

³ I will give you treasures *that people have hidden*
in dark secret places [DOU].

I will do that in order that you will know that I
am Yahweh,
the God to whom the Israelis belong,
the God who calls you by your name.

⁴ I have summoned you, calling out your name,
for the sake of *the people of Israel* [DOU]
whom I have chosen, who serve me.

Even though you do not know me,
I will give you a title which has great honor.

⁵ I am Yahweh, and there is no other God [DOU].
Even though you do not know me,
I will give you power

⁶ in order that everyone in the world, from
the east to the west, will know that there
is no other *God*.

I am Yahweh, and there is no other *God*.

⁷ I created the light and the darkness.

I cause there to be peace and I cause there
to be disasters.

I, Yahweh, do all those things.”

⁸ *And Yahweh also says, “I want my rescue of my
people [MET] to fall from the sky like rain.
Just like the earth opens wide to accept rain,*

I will rescue/save my people and cause them to be treated justly.

I, Yahweh, am the one who will cause both of those things to happen.

⁹ Terrible things will happen to those who argue with me, the one who created them.

They are like [MET] a clay pot and I am like the one who made it;

so they certainly cannot [RHQ] criticize me.

A lump of clay certainly cannot [RHQ] argue with the one who shapes it *to form a pot*, saying,

'Why are you making me like this?'

The pot cannot say *'You have no skill, because what you made has no handles!'*

¹⁰ And it would be terrible if an unborn baby would say to its father,

'Why are you [RHQ] causing me to be born?'

or if it said to its mother,

"The result of your labor pains will be useless?" "

¹¹ Yahweh, the Holy One of the Israeli people, the one who created Israel, says this to them:

"◀Why do you ask questions about what I do for you, my children?/You should not ask questions about what I do for you, my children.▶ [RHQ]

◀Why do you tell me about the work that I should do?/You should not tell me about the work that I should do.▶ [RHQ]

¹² I am the one who created the earth and created people to live on it.

I stretched out the sky with my hands,
and I put the stars in their places.

¹³ And I will appoint Cyrus to do things that are
right/just,
and I will enable him to do all those things
easily [MET].

His *workers* will rebuild my city,
and he will free my people who have been
◀exiled/forced to leave their country▶.

And he will do it without my rewarding/paying
him!
*Those things will surely happen because I, the
Commander of the armies of angels, have
said it.*

¹⁴ And this is *also* what I, Yahweh, say to you,
my people:

‘You will rule the people of Egypt and Ethiopia,
and the tall people of Seba *in Arabia* will
become your slaves.

They will come to you bringing all the things that
they sell,
and it will all be yours.

As prisoners, they will have chains on their arms
as they follow you.

They will prostrate themselves in front of you
and say,

“God is with/helping you
and he is the only God;
there is no other God.” ‘ ‘ ”

¹⁵ God, although we cannot see you,

you are the one to whom *we* Israeli people
belong, the one who saves us.

16 All those who make idols will be humiliated.
They will all be disgraced together.

17 But you, Yahweh, will rescue *us*, *your* Israeli
people,
and we will be free forever.
Never again will we again be humiliated and
disgraced.

18 Yahweh is God;
he is the one who created the sky
and created and formed the earth.
He did not want it to remain with nothing living
on it;
he wanted people to live on it.

He says, "I am Yahweh;
there is no other *God*."

19 *What I proclaimed*, I did not speak secretly
or *hide what I was saying by speaking* in a
dark place.

When I spoke to the descendants of Jacob,
I did not tell them
'It will be useless for you to ◀seek for/pray to▶
me!'
I, Yahweh, speak *only* what is true and what
is right.

20 You people who are still alive after experienc-
ing great disasters,
should come and gather together *and listen
to this*:
The people who carry around their wooden idols

and pray to them are foolish, because those
idols cannot rescue them!

21 Talk among yourselves, and decide what you
will say to prove that *your praying to idols
is good.*

And when you do that, I will ask you,

‘Who predicted long ago *what has now hap-
pened?*

Did any idol tell you *that those things would
happen* [RHQ]?’

No, it was [RHQ] only I, Yahweh, who told you,
because I am the only God; there is no other
God.

I am a God who acts righteously and saves
people;
there is no other one *who does these things.*

22 Everyone in the world should ask me to save
them,
because I am the only God who can do that;
there is no other one.

23 I have solemnly declared, using my own name;
I [SYN] have spoken what is true,
and I will never change what I have said:

Some day, everyone [SYN] *will bow in front of
me,*
and they will all solemnly promise to be loyal
to me.

24 They will declare,

‘Yahweh is the one who enables us to live
righteously and to be strong.’”

And all those who have been angry at him will
come to him,

and they will be ashamed *for having been angry with him.*

- ²⁵ Yahweh is the only one who will enable us Israeli people in the future to defeat our enemies,
and then we will boast about what he *has done for us.*

46

The gods of Babylonia are useless

- ¹ *It is as though* Bel and Nebo, the statues of the gods of Babylonia,
are bowing down as those statues are put on animals and carried away!

The statues are heavy burdens and will cause the animals to become tired [SAR]!

- ² *It seems like* both gods are bowing down;
not only can they not save themselves,
but they themselves are being ◀exiled/taken to another country▶!

- ³ *Yahweh says,* “You descendants of Jacob who were exiled,
I am not like the gods of Babylonia that must be carried;
instead, it is as though I have carried you since you first became a nation [MET].

I carried you *even* before you became a nation.

- ⁴ I will be your God, and I will carry you for many years,
until *it is as though* [MET] your nation is an old man with gray hair.

I caused you to become a nation,

and I will sustain you and rescue you.

⁵ There is certainly [RHQ] no one to whom I can be compared.

There is [RHQ] no one who is equal to me [DOU].

⁶ *So it is stupid/ridiculous that* some people pour out gold and silver from their bags and weigh it on a scale.

Then they hire a man who makes things from gold to make an idol from it.

After he makes an idol, they bow down and worship it!

⁷ They lift it up and carry it on their shoulders.

They put it in a *special* place, and it stays there.

It cannot move!

And when someone prays to it, it does not answer.

So *obviously* it cannot rescue anyone from his troubles!

⁸ *You people of Judah,* do not forget this; keep thinking about it, you sinful people!

⁹ Think about the things *that I did* long ago.

Only I am God; I am God, and there is no one like me.

¹⁰ Only I can tell what will happen in the future before it occurs;

I tell it long before it happens.

I will accomplish everything that I plan to accomplish,

and I will do everything that I want to do.

- 11 So I will summon *someone to come* from the east *like a swift and powerful eagle*; he will come from a distant country. He will accomplish what I want him to. *He is the one who* will do what I have said that I want him to do, what I have planned.
- 12 You stubborn people *of Israel*, *you think that* it will be a long time before you are allowed to return to your own country.
- 13 But I will rescue you, and it will not be a long time *before that happens*. I will do it soon. I will rescue Jerusalem and show to you Israeli *people* that I am glorious.”

47

Prediction of the destruction of Babylon

- 1 *Yahweh also says*, “You people of Babylon, you should go and sit in the dust/dirt *to show that you are mourning*, because your time to rule [MTY] *other countries* is almost ended. People will never again say that Babylonia is beautiful *like a very attractive/ beautiful young woman*.
- 2 *You will be slaves*, so take heavy stones and grind grain *like slave women do*. Take off your *beautiful veils*

and take off your robes *as you prepare to cross streams to go where you will be forced to go.*

³ You will be naked and *very* ashamed.

I will get vengeance on you and not pity you.”

⁴ The one who frees us *people of Judah*, whom we call ‘the Commander of the armies of angels’,
is the Holy One of Israel.

⁵ *Yahweh* says, “You people of Babylon,
sit silently in the darkness,
because people will never again say that your city is *like* [MET] a queen that rules many kingdoms.

⁶ I was angry with the people whom I chose *to belong to me*,
and I punished them.

I allowed you *people of Babylon* to conquer them.
But *when you conquered them*, you did not have mercy on them.

You ◀oppressed/treated cruelly▶ [MET] even the old people.

⁷ You said, ‘We will rule *other nations* forever;
it is as though our city will be the queen of the world forever!’

But you did not think about the things *that you were doing*,
or think about what would result.

⁸ You *people of Babylon* who enjoy pleasure and sex,

listen to this:

You enjoy a luxurious life and you feel secure.

You say, 'We are *like gods*,
and there are no others like us.

Our women will never become widows,
and our children will never be killed *in wars*.'

⁹ But both of those things will happen to you suddenly:

Many of your women **will** become widows
and many of your children **will** die,
even though you perform much sorcery and
many kinds of magic *to prevent bad things
from happening to you*.

¹⁰ You felt protected even though you were doing
many wicked things,
and you said, 'No one will see what we *are
doing!*'

You thought that you were very wise and knew
many things,
and you said, 'We are gods, and there are no
others like us,'
but you deceived yourselves.

¹¹ So you will experience terrible things,
and you will not be able to prevent them by
working magic.

You will experience disasters,
and you will not be able to pay anyone to
prevent those things from happening.

◀A catastrophe/Something terrible▶ will happen
to you suddenly,
something that you will not realize *is about
to happen*.

12 So you can continue to perform all your magic spells [IRO]!

You can perform the many kinds of sorcery that you have practiced for many years!

Perhaps *doing those things will enable you to be successful;*

perhaps you will be able to cause your enemies to be afraid of you!

13 But *all that has resulted from your* doing all the things that the magicians have told you to do is that you have become tired!

The men who look at the stars every month and predict what will happen

should come forward and rescue you *from the disasters that you are about to experience.*

14 But *they cannot do that, because* they are like [SIM] straw that is burning in a fire;

they cannot save themselves from being burned up in the flames.

Those men are unable to help you [MET];

they are as useless as stubble *that burns quickly and produces no heat* for you.

15 The people whom you have associated with and worked with since you were young *will not help you,*

because they will just continue doing their own foolish things,

and they will not pay any attention to you *when you cry out for help."*

48

The people of Israel are stubborn

- ¹ *Yahweh* says, “You descendants [MTY] of Jacob, who are *also* descendants of Judah and are now called *the people of Israel*,
Listen to me!
You make solemn promises using my name, Yahweh,
and you request that I, the God to whom you Israeli people belong, *will hear you*,
but you do not do it sincerely.
- ² You say that you live in the holy city of *Jerusalem*,
and you *insincerely* say that you are relying on me, the God to whom you *people of Israel* belong,
the one who is the Commander of the armies of angels.
- ³ Long ago I [MTY] predicted what would happen [DOU].
And then suddenly, I caused those things to happen.
- ⁴ I knew that you people are very stubborn;
I knew that your heads are [MET] *as hard as iron or brass* [DOU].
- ⁵ That is why I told you those things long ago.
Long before they occurred, I announced that they would occur,
in order that *when they happened* you could not say
‘Our idols did it;
our statue made of wood and our idol made of metal caused them to happen.’
- ⁶ You have heard those things *that I predicted*
and now you have seen that they have all occurred,

so why do you not admit it [RHQ]?

Now I will tell you new things,
things that you have not known previously.

⁷ I am causing them to happen now;
they are not things I did long ago.

So you cannot say, 'We already knew about those things.'

⁸ *I will tell you about* things that you have never heard about or understood before.
Even long ago you did not pay attention to me [IDM].

I know that you act very deceitfully/treacherously;
you have rebelled against me since you first became a nation [MTY].

⁹ But, for my own sake, in order that I will be honored,
I will not punish [MTY] you immediately and I will not completely get rid of you.

¹⁰ I have purified you, but not the way *people refine* silver.

Instead, I have caused you to suffer very much
to get rid of your impure behavior,
like [MET] *people put metal in a very hot furnace to get rid of the impurities.*

¹¹ But for my [MTY] own sake I will delay punishing you more;

I will do it for my own sake
in order that my reputation will not be damaged [RHQ].

I will not allow any *person or any idol* to be honored as I *deserve to be* honored."

The people of Israel should leave Babylon because that city will be destroyed

12 “You descendants [MTY] of Jacob, you people of Israel whom I have chosen, listen to me!

Only I am God;

I am the one who begins everything and who causes everything to end.

13 I [SYN] am the one who laid the foundation of the earth.

I stretched out the sky with my hand.

And when I tell *the stars* to appear, they all do what I tell them.

14 All of you, gather together and listen to me.

None of your idols has [RHQ] told this to you:

I, Yahweh, have chosen *Cyrus* to assist me,

and he will do to Babylon what I want him to do,

and his army will get rid of *the army of Babylonia*.

15 I have said it;

I have summoned *Cyrus*.

I have appointed him,

and he will accomplish everything that he attempts to do.

16 Come close to me and listen to what I say.

Long ago [MTY] I told you plainly/clearly [LIT] *what would happen*,

and when those things occurred, I was *causing them to happen.*”

And now Yahweh the Lord and his Spirit have sent me *to give you a message*.

17 This is what Yahweh, the one who saves you, the Holy God of us Israelis, says:

“I am Yahweh, your God;

I teach you what is important for you *to know*;
I direct you and lead you to the roads that you should walk on [MET].

18 I wish that you had paid attention to my commands!

If you had done that, things would have gone well for you

like [SIM] a river that flows gently;

you would have been successful again and again, like [SIM] waves that come without ceasing.

19 Your descendants would have been *as many as* [MET] the grains of sand *on the seashore which no one can count*.

I would not have needed to get rid of you; the country of [MTY] *Israel* would not have been destroyed.”

20 *However, now I tell you, leave Babylon!*

Flee from *being slaves of the people of Babylonia!* Proclaim this message joyfully;

send it to the most remote/distant places on the earth:

Yahweh freed the people of Israel *from being slaves in Egypt*.

21 They were not thirsty when he led them through the desert, because he split open the rock

and caused water to gush/flow out for them
to drink.

²² “But things will not go well *like that* for wicked people,” says Yahweh.

49

Yahweh appointed his special servant

¹ All you people who live on islands *in the ocean*
and in other distant areas,
pay attention [DOU] to what I will say!
Yahweh called/chose me before I was born;
he chose/appointed me when I was still in
my mother’s womb.

² *When I grew up*, he caused my messages to be
like [SIM] a sharp sword.
He has protected me with his hand [SYN].
He protects me [MET] like someone protects
sharp arrows in a quiver.

³ He said to me, “You will serve my Israeli *people*,
and you will cause people to honor me.”

⁴ I replied, “My work has been useless;
I have used my strength, but I have accom-
plished nothing worthwhile;
everything that I have done has been ◀in
vain/useless▶.

However, Yahweh can honor me as he pleases;
my God is the one who will reward me *as I
deserve.*”

⁵ Yahweh formed me when I was in *my mother’s*
womb in order that I would serve him;
he appointed me to bring *the people of Israel*
back to himself [DOU].

Yahweh has honored me,
and he is the one who has caused me to be
strong.

⁶ He says to me,

“It is not enough for you to serve me
by bringing the descendants of Jacob back to
worship me again [DOU];

I also want you to be like [MET] a light for the
non-Jews;

I want you to take my *my message* about how
to be saved to *people* all over the world.”

⁷ Yahweh, the one who saves us,

the Holy God of us Israeli *people*,

says to the one who was despised and rejected
by the *people of many* nations,

the one who is the slave of rulers,

“*Some day* kings will stand up to respect you
when they see you,

and princes will bow down before you

because *you serve* me, Yahweh, the one who
faithfully *does what I promise*.

I am the Holy God to whom you Israelis
belong, the one who has chosen you.”

The promise to restore Israel

⁸ This is also what Yahweh says:

“At a time when it pleases me, I will answer your
prayers.

On the day when you will be rescued *from*
your oppressors, I will help you.

I will protect you and enable you to establish an
agreement with other nations.

And by what you do, I will re-establish your nation of Israel and allow you to live/settle again in your land that was abandoned.

⁹ I will say to those who were captured *and* ◀*exiled/taken to Babylonia*▶, 'Leave *Babylonia* and return to your own country!'

And I will say to those who are in dark prisons, 'Come out into the light!'

When that happens, they will again be like [MET] sheep

that eat grass in green pastures, on hills where *previously* there was no grass.

¹⁰ They will not be hungry or thirsty *any more*; the hot sun will not beat upon them again [DOU].

I, Yahweh, will act mercifully toward them and lead them;

I will lead them to where there are springs of cool water.

¹¹ And I will cause the mountains to become *as though they were* level roads, and I will prepare good highways *for my people to travel on, to return to Jerusalem.*

¹² My people will return from far away; some will come from the north, some from the west, some from southern Egypt."

¹³ *Because of what Yahweh has promised to do, everything should shout joyfully— the sky and the earth and the mountains should sing,*

because Yahweh comforts his people,
and he will pity those who are suffering.

¹⁴ *The people of Jerusalem say,*
“Yahweh has abandoned us;
he has forgotten about us.”

¹⁵ But *Yahweh replies,*
“That is not true! ◀Can a woman forget the
infant that she is nursing?/A woman cer-
tainly cannot forget the infant that she is
nursing!▶ [RHQ]
◀Can she stop being kind to the child to
whom she has given birth?/She certainly
cannot stop being kind to the child to
whom she has given birth!▶ [RHQ]

But even if a woman would do that,
I will not forget you!

¹⁶ Note that I have written your *names* on the
palms of my hands;
in my mind I can always see the walls of your
city.

¹⁷ Soon your children will be returning there
(OR, Those who rebuild your city will work
more quickly than those who destroyed it),
and all those who destroyed your city will
leave.

¹⁸ You will look around and see
all of your children coming back to you.

As surely as I live,
they will be around you *for you to show to
people*

like [SIM] a bride shows her wedding ornaments!

19 Your land has been ruined and caused to become desolate/abandoned [DOU], but *some day* it will be filled with people, and those who conquered you will be far away.

20 The children who were born while you were ◀exiled/in Babylonia▶ [MET] will return to *Jerusalem* and say,
‘This city is too small for us;
We need more space to live in!’

21 Then you will think to yourselves [MTY],
‘It is amazing that we have [RHQ] all these children!

Most of our children were dead,
and the rest were exiled.
We were left here alone;

so we do not know [RHQ] where all these children have come from!
Who raised them?’ ”

22 This is what Yahweh our God says:
“Watch! *It is as though* I will lift up my hand to signal to those who are not Israelis.
And they will carry your little sons and daughters on their shoulders
and bring them back to you.

23 Kings will serve you and will tutor/teach your children,
and their queens will take care of your young children.

They will prostrate themselves in front of you

and *humble themselves* by licking the dust off your feet.

When that happens, you will know that I, Yahweh, *have the power to do what I say that I will do*; and those who trust in me will never be disappointed.”

²⁴ There is no one [RHQ] who can snatch valuable things from a soldier who has captured those things *in a war*; there is no one [RHQ] who can force a ◀tyrant/cruel man▶ to free the people whom he has captured.

²⁵ But Yahweh says this:

“*Some day*, those who have been captured will be freed, and the valuable things that ◀tyrants/cruel men▶ have snatched from others will be returned, because I will fight against those who fight against you, and I will rescue your children.

²⁶ And I will cause your enemies to destroy themselves [MET] instead of murdering others.

When that happens, everyone *in the world* will know that I, Yahweh, am the one who saves you, the one who rescues you from your enemies; everyone will know that I am the mighty God to whom *you descendants of* [MTY] Jacob belong.”

50

Yahweh's power

¹ This is *also* what Yahweh says:

"You *Israeli children*, do not think [RHQ] that I
forced your parents to be exiled/taken to
Babylonia [MET]

like some men send away their wives
 after giving them a paper
 on which they state that they were divorcing
 them!

I certainly did not [RHQ] get rid of you like a man
 who sells his children to get money to pay
 what he owes.

No, the reason that I forced you to be exiled
was to punish you because of the sins that
 you have committed [DOU].

² When I came to you *to rescue you*,
 why did no one answer when I called out to
 you [RHQ]?

Was there no one there [RHQ]?
 Or, did you think that I do not have the
 power [MTY] to rescue you [DOU]?

Think about this:
 I can speak to a sea and cause it to become
 dry!

I can cause rivers to become deserts,
 with the result that the fish in the rivers die
 from thirst and they rot.

³ I cause the sky to become dark,
as though [MET] it was wearing black clothes
because it was mourning because someone
had died."

⁴ Yahweh our God has given me his wise message
 [MTY]
 in order that I may encourage those who are
 weary.

Each morning he awakens me,
 in order that I [SYN] may listen to what he
 teaches [SIM] me.

⁵ Yahweh our God has spoken to me [IDM],
 and I have not rejected what he told me;
 I have accepted [LIT] it.

⁶ I allowed people to beat me on my back
 and to pull out the whiskers in my beard
because they hated me.

I did not turn away [MTY] from them
 when they made fun of me and spat on me.

⁷ But, because the Lord our God helps me,
 I will never be humiliated.

Therefore, I am strongly determined [IDM] to
 face/endure difficulties,
 and I know that nothing will cause me to be
 ashamed.

⁸ God, the one who vindicates me, is near to me;
 so if anyone [RHQ] stands in front of me and
 accuses me in a court,
 he will not be able *to show that I have done
 anything that is wrong.*

⁹ The Lord our God defends me *in court*,
 so no one [RHQ] will be able to ◀condemn
 me/declare that I am guilty▶.

All those who accuse me will disappear
 like [SIM] old clothes that have been eaten
 by ◀larvae of moths/cockroaches▶.

¹⁰ If you revere Yahweh

and do what his servant tells you to do,
 even if you are ◀walking in darkness/enduring
 suffering▶, and it seems that [MET] there
 is no light,

trust in Yahweh your God [DOU] *to help you.*

¹¹ But you people who *oppose me*,
who would like to throw me into a blazing
fire,

walk in your own fires

and burn yourselves with your own torches!

This is what Yahweh will cause to happen to you:

You will be enduring great torment when
 you die [EUP]!

51

Yahweh will bless the descendants of Abraham

¹ *Yahweh says, “You people who desire to act*
righteously/justly,
who want to do what I want you to do,
 listen to me!

Think about Abraham!

It is as though [MET] he was a huge rock cliff;
 and when you *people of Israel became a nation,*
it was as though [MET] you were cut from
that rock [DOU].

² Think about your ancestor Abraham and *his*
wife Sarah, of whom all of you are descen-
dants.

When I first spoke to Abraham,
 he had no children.

But after I blessed him, he had a huge
 number of descendants.

³ *Some day I, Yahweh, will encourage his descendants again,*
and I will comfort all *the people who live in the ruins of Jerusalem.*

The desert in that area will become like Eden,
like the garden that I, Yahweh, *made/planted.*
All the people there will be joyful and happy;
they will thank me and sing.

⁴ My people of Judah, listen carefully [DOU] to me,
because *I want you to* proclaim my laws;
the just/right things that I do will be *like* [MET] a light for the people of the nations.

⁵ I will soon/quickly rescue you [DOU];
by my power [MTY] I will bring you back
from being exiled in Babylonia [DOU].

The people who live on islands in the ocean will wait for me *to help them,*
confidently expecting for me to use my power [MTY].

⁶ Look up at the sky,
and look at the earth,
and see what they are like now,
because *some day* the sky will disappear like [SIM] smoke,
and the earth will wear out like [SIM] old clothes wear out,
and people on the earth will die like gnats/flies.
But I will rescue/save you, and you will remain free forever,
and I will rule you righteously/fairly forever.

7 You people who know what things are right to do,
 and who know in your inner beings *what is written in my laws*,
 listen to me!
 Do not be afraid of people who taunt/insult you;
 do not be disturbed/upset when people revile you,
 8 because *some day they will be destroyed*
 like [MET] clothing that is eaten by ◀larvae of moths/cockroaches▶,
 like wool garments that have been eaten by worms.
 I will save you people, and you will be saved forever."

A prayer for God's help

9 Yahweh, wake up *and do something for us!*
 Show your power!
 Do mighty things
 like you did long ago,
 when you stabbed [RHQ] that sea monster/dragon Rahab and cut it into pieces.
 10 Surely you are [RHQ] the one who caused the Red Sea to become dry
 and made a path through that deep water
 in order that your people could cross it!
 11 And those whom Yahweh will rescue *from being exiled in Babylonia*
 will *similarly* return to Jerusalem, singing.
 Their being joyful forever will be *like* [MET] a crown on their heads.
 They will not be sad or mourn any more;

they will be *completely* joyful and happy.

12 *Yahweh says,*

“I am the one who encourages you.

So ◀why are you/you should not be▶ [RHQ]
afraid of humans
who will *wither and disappear like* [MET]
grass.

13 ◀Why have you/You should not have▶ [RHQ]
forgotten *me*, Yahweh, the one who cre-
ated your nation,
the one who stretched out the sky
and laid the foundations of the earth.

◀Why are you/You should not be▶ [RHQ] contin-
ually afraid of those who are angry with
you and ◀oppress you/treat you cruelly▶
and want to get rid of you.

You should not be afraid of them now,
because those angry people have now disap-
peared!

14 Soon you people who have been caused to be
slaves *in Babylonia* will be freed!

You will not remain in prison, and you will not
die of hunger,

15 because I am Yahweh, your God,
the one who stirs up the sea and causes the
waves to roar;

I am the Commander of the armies of angels!

16 I have given you my message [MTY] to pro-
claim,
and I have protected you with my hand
[MTY].

I stretched out the sky
and laid the foundation of the earth.

And I am the one who says to you Israeli people,
 ‘You are my people!’ ”

A warning to the people of Jerusalem

17 *You people of* [APO] Jerusalem, wake up [DOU]!
 You have experienced Yahweh severely punishing [MTY] you.

Yahweh has caused you to suffer much,
 all that he wanted you to suffer,
 like [MET] someone who causes another person
 to suffer
 by forcing him to drink every drop of [MTY]
 a cupful of bitter liquid.

18 *Now* you do not have any children who are
 alive [DOU]
 and able to take your hand and guide you.

19 You have experienced several disasters:
 Your country has become desolate/deserted;
your cities have been destroyed;
many people have died from hunger;
many people have been killed by your ene-
 mies’ swords.

Now, there is no one [RHQ] left to console/
 comfort you and sympathize with you.

20 Your children have fainted and lie in the
 streets;
 they are *as helpless as* [SIM] an antelope *that*
has been caught in a net.

What has happened to them is because Yahweh
 has been very angry with them;
 he has rebuked them severely.

21 So now, you people who have suffered much,
you act as though you are drunk,

but it is not because you have drunk a lot of wine.

²² Yahweh, your Lord and your God,
the one who argues/pleads your case, says
this:

“Note this: *It is as though* [MET] I have taken that
cup of bitter liquid from your hands;
I will not be angry with you and cause you
to suffer any more.

²³ Instead, I will cause those who have tormented
you to suffer;

I will severely punish those who said to you,
'Prostrate yourselves in order that we may
walk on you;

lie down on your stomachs

in order that your backs will be like [SIM]
streets that we can walk on.' ”

52

Jerusalem's suffering will end

¹ *You people who live in the* holy city of Jerusalem
[APO], wake up!

Be strong again!

Show that [MTY] your city is beautiful and
glorious;

foreigners who do not believe in God will not
enter your city again *to attack you*.

² People of Jerusalem, get up from *humbly* sitting
in the dust

and sit in places where people are honored!

You people who have returned from being exiled,

take off from your neck the chains which
were fastened around you *as slaves in
Babylonia,*

³ because this is what Yahweh says:
“*When you were taken to Babylonia,*
no one paid me for doing that.
So now I will bring you back
without *being required to pay for you!*”

⁴ Yahweh *our* Lord *also* says this:
“Long ago, my people went to Egypt to live there.
Later they were being ◀oppressed/treated
cruelly▶ by *the soldiers of Assyria.*

⁵ But now think about what is happening:
My people are being forced to be slaves again,
this time by the *people of Babylonia.*
And *those who have conquered them this time*
have also paid me nothing,
and they despise me [MTY] continually [DOU].

⁶ But my people will then have a close relation-
ship with [MTY] me,
and when that happens, they will know that
I am the one who predicted/promised *that*
it would happen.

It is I, *Yahweh, who will do it.*”

A message of encouragement for Jerusalem

⁷ It is a wonderful thing when messengers [MTY]
arrive on the mountains/hills,
bringing good news,
the news about *God giving us* peace and saving
us,
the news that the God to whom we *Israeli people*
belong is now ruling/king!

8 The watchmen *who are guarding the city* will shout and sing joyfully,
because while they are watching
they will see Yahweh returning to Jerusalem.

9 Jerusalem has been ruined,
but the people who are there now should start to sing joyfully,
because Yahweh will encourage his people;
he will set his people free and bring them back to Jerusalem.

10 Yahweh will show all the nations that he is holy and powerful.
People in the most remote/distant places on earth will know
that he has rescued his people.

11 So, leave *the places where you were taken to when you were captured*,
where *everything is unacceptable to God*.
You men who carry the items used for the worship of Yahweh,
leave there *and return to Jerusalem*,
and purify yourselves *in order to be acceptable to worship God*.

12 But it will not *be necessary* for you to leave suddenly,
to flee in panic,
because Yahweh will ◀go in front of/lead▶ you;
and he will *also* protect you *from being attacked* at the rear *while you travel*.

God's suffering servant

- 13 *Yahweh says*, “Listen carefully!
My servant will act wisely (OR, do the right things to accomplish what he wants to),
and I will highly exalt him.”
- 14 But many people will be appalled when they see what has happened to him.
Because of his being beaten very badly, his appearance will be changed;
people will hardly recognize that he is a human.
- 15 But he will cause *people of* many nations to be surprised;
even kings will be silent when they stand in front of him,
because they will see someone that no one had told them about *previously*,
and they will understand things that they had not heard about *before*.

53

- 1 ◀Who will believe what we will tell them *about God's servant?*/Hardly anyone will believe what we will tell them *about God's servant*.▶ [RHQ]
◀Who will see what Yahweh does by his great power?/Very few people will see what Yahweh does by his great power.▶ [MTY, RHQ]
- 2 While God watches, his servant will grow up *appearing/seeming to be very insignificant/unimportant*,

like a weak young plant that shoots up from
a root *of a tree that is growing* in dry
ground.

There will be nothing beautiful or majestic about
him,
nothing that would cause us to want to be
with him.

³ People will despise and reject him. {He will be
despised and rejected.}

He will endure much pain, and he will suffer
much.

Because his face will be very disfigured, people
will not *want to* look at him;
people will despise him and think that he is
not worth paying any attention to.

⁴ But he will be *punished for* the sicknesses *of our
souls*;

he will endure great pain for us.

But we will think that he is being punished by
God,
afflicted/punished *for his own sins*.

⁵ But his body will be bruised because of the evil
things that we did,

wounded because of our sins.

He will be beaten in order that things will go
well for our *souls*;

and because he will be whipped, *our souls* can
be healed.

⁶ All of us have gone away *from God* like [SIM]
sheep who have strayed away *from their
shepherd*.

We have turned away *from doing the things that God wants in order to do the things that we wanted* [MET].

We deserve to be punished, but Yahweh will punish him instead of punishing us for all of our sins.

⁷ He will be abused and caused to suffer,
but he will not say anything *to complain*.

They will lead him *to where they will execute him, like they lead a lamb to where it will be slaughtered*.

And like a sheep does not ◀bleat/make any noise▶ when the shearer *cuts off its wool*, he will not say anything [MTY] *to defend himself when he is killed*.

⁸ After he is arrested and put on trial,
he will be taken away *and executed*.

And no one [RHQ] will be able to talk about his descendants,
because he will die [EUP] *without being married and having children*.

He will be ◀afflicted/caused to suffer▶ for the wrong things that we have done.

⁹ Although he will never have done any wrong or deceived [MTY] anyone,
people will plan to bury his corpse where wicked people are buried,

but instead, a rich man will *bury him* after he dies.

¹⁰ But it will be Yahweh's will that he be afflicted and caused to suffer.

And *when he dies*, Yahweh will cause him to be an offering to remove the guilt of sinners.

But later he will have many *spiritual* children, and he will live ◀a long time/forever▶ after he *dies and becomes alive again*, and he [MTY] will accomplish everything that Yahweh has planned.

¹¹ When he sees all that he will accomplish because of his suffering,

he will be satisfied.

And because of what will have happened to him,

Yahweh's righteous servant will cause the guilt of many people to be ended, because he will remove *the guilt for* their sins.

¹² So Yahweh will consider him to be one of the truly great people;

he will *be like a king who divides up among his soldiers* the ◀spoils/things they took from their enemies after defeating them▶ [MET],

because he will sacrifice himself and die.

Even though people will consider him to be a sinner,

he will remove the guilt of many *people*, and he will intercede/pray that those who have done things that are wrong *will be forgiven*.

54

Yahweh promised that his people would return to Jerusalem

¹ Yahweh says, “You *people of Jerusalem* [MET], start to sing!

You *who are like* [MET] women who have never given birth to children, sing loudly and shout joyfully,

because you, *who are like* [MET] childless women who have been abandoned *by their husbands*, will soon have more children than women who have never had any children.

² Make your tents larger; make them wider, and fasten them firmly with tent pegs.

³ *You will need to make your city much larger* because soon you and your descendants will spread all over the land.

They will force the people of *other nations who now live in your cities* to leave, and you will live *again* in those cities *that were previously abandoned*.

⁴ Do not be afraid; you will no *longer* be ashamed. Previously you were ashamed *because your enemies conquered you*

and caused many of your women to become widows, but soon you will not even remember that.

⁵ *I*, the Commander of the armies of angels, the Holy one of Israel, who rules over the whole earth,

- the one who created you,
will be *like* [MET] a husband to you.
- ⁶ You were like a woman whose husband left her,
and caused you to be very sad;
you were like a young woman who got married
when she was *very* young,
and then her husband abandoned her.
- ⁷ I abandoned you *people of Jerusalem* for a
while,
but *now* I am saying, 'I will take you back.'
- ⁸ I was very angry with you for a while,
and I turned away from you.
But I will act mercifully toward you
and I will faithfully love you forever.
That is what *I, Yahweh*, your protector, say
to you.
- ⁹ During the time that Noah lived,
I solemnly promised that I would never
again allow a flood to cover the earth.
So *now* I solemnly promise that I will not be
angry with you again and ◀rebuke you/
threaten to punish you▶.
- ¹⁰ Even if the mountains and hills shake and
collapse,
I will not stop faithfully loving you,
and I will not cancel my agreement
to cause things to go well for you.
That is what *I, Yahweh*, who act mercifully,
say.
- ¹¹ You *people of Jerusalem* [APO],, *your enemies*
acted very violently toward you;

it was as though your city was battered by a severe storm,
and no one helped you.

But *now* I will cause your city to be rebuilt with stones made of ◀turquoise/valuable stones▶,
and I will cause the foundations of the city to be made of ◀sapphires/valuable blue stones▶.

12 I will cause the towers on the city wall to be made of ◀rubies/valuable red stones▶,
and all the gates of the city will be made of *other* very valuable stones.

13 I will be the one who will teach you people and cause things to go well with you.

14 Your *government* will be strong because of acting justly/fairly;
no one will ◀oppress you/cause you to suffer▶;
you will not be afraid,
because there will be nothing [PRS] that will ◀terrorize you/cause you to become extremely afraid▶.

15 If any army attacks you,
it will not be because I have incited them to do that,
and you will defeat any group that attacks you.

16 Think about this:
◀Blacksmiths/Men who make things from metal▶ fan the coals to make a very hot flame
in order to produce weapons that can be used *in battles*,
but I am the one who has produced blacksmiths!

And I am also the one who created people who
destroy *other people and cities*.

¹⁷ *But I am promising you that I will not allow you
to be defeated/injured by soldiers using
weapons*

that have been made to attack you,
and when others try to accuse you, you will
◀refute them/show that they are wrong▶.

That is the reward that I will give to the
people who serve me;

I will defend them;
that is what *I, Yahweh, promise.*”

55

The future glory of Jerusalem

¹ “All you *people who are in exile*,
listen to me!

It is as though [MET] you are thirsty,
so come and get water from me!

It is as though you have no money,
but you can come and get things from me
that are like wine and milk!

You can get *what you need from me*,
*and you will not need to give me any money
for them!*

² *What you really need is to have a close relation-
ship with me,*

so ◀*why do you spend money to buy things
that do not supply what you really need?/
you should not spend money to buy things
that do not supply what you really need.*▶
[RHQ]

◀Why do you work hard to get money to buy things that do not <satisfy your *inner beings*/cause you to be happy?▶ [RHQ]

Pay attention to what I say

and acquire what is really good [MET]!

If you do that, then you will truly be happy [MET].

³ Listen to me and come to me;

pay attention to me, and if you do that, you will have new life in your souls.

I will make an agreement with you that will last forever

to faithfully love you like I loved *King David*.

⁴ By what he did, I showed *my power to many people-groups*;

I caused him to be a leader and commander [DOU] over *the people of many nations*.

⁵ And similarly, you will summon people of other nations to come to you,

nations that previously you have not heard about,

and they had not heard about you;

and they will come to you quickly

because *they will have heard that I, Yahweh, your God, the Holy One of Israel, have honored you.*

⁶ Seek *to know* me while it is still possible for you to do that;

call to me while I am near!

⁷ Wicked *people* should abandon their wicked behavior;

and evil people should stop thinking what is evil.

They should turn to me,

and if they do that, I will act mercifully
toward them;
they should turn to me, their God,
because I will fully pardon them *for all the
wicked things that they have done.*

⁸ I, Yahweh, declare that what I think is not the
same as what you think,
and what I do is very different from what
you do.

⁹ Just as the sky is far above the earth,
what I do is far greater than what you do,
and what I think is much greater than what you
think.

¹⁰ Rain and snow come down from the sky,
and they cause the ground to be moist
before the moisture returns *to the sky and
produces more clouds.*

When the ground becomes moist, it causes plants
to sprout and grow,
with the result that the soil produces seed for
the farmer *to plant* and *grain to produce
flour to make* bread for people to eat.

¹¹ And similarly the things that I promise to do,
I will *always* cause to happen;
my promises will *always* be fulfilled [LIT].
They will accomplish the things that I gave them
to accomplish [DOU].

¹² You will leave *Babylon* joyfully,
you will have peace as I lead you out.
It will be as though the hills and mountains will
sing joyfully,

and the trees in the fields will clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of thornbushes and briers,
pine/cypress *trees* and myrtle *trees* will grow
in your land.

As a result of that, people will honor me much more;
and what I do will remind everyone that *I do what I have promised.*"

56

God will bless all the nations

¹ Yahweh says *to all the people of Judah,*
"Do the things that are fair and just,
because I will soon come to rescue [DOU]
you.

² I will bless those who faithfully obey my laws
about the Sabbath/rest days.

I will bless those who ◀keep sacred/honor▶ my
Sabbath/rest days,
and who do not do any work on those days,
and who refrain from [MTY] doing anything
that is evil.

³ And foreigners who have believed in me should
not say,

'Yahweh will surely not allow me to belong
to his people.'

And eunuchs should not say,

'*Because I am unable to have children, I
cannot belong to Yahweh;*

I am like [MET] a tree that has completely
withered.'

⁴ They should not say that, because *I*, Yahweh, say this to the eunuchs who obey my laws about the Sabbath, and who choose to do the things that please me, and who obey all *the other laws of the agreement that I made with the Israeli people*:

⁵ I will cause to be put inside the walls of my temple a monument [DOU] to them; because of that monument, they will be honored more than they would have if they had children; they will be honored forever.

⁶ I will also bless those who are not Israelis, who ◀join themselves to/believe in▶ me, and who serve me and worship and love me, and who obey my laws about the Sabbath, and who faithfully obey *all the other laws of the agreement that I made with the Israeli people*.

⁷ I will bring them to my sacred hill *in Jerusalem*, I will cause them to be *very* joyful in my temple where people pray to me, and I will accept the sacrifices that they completely burn *on my altar* and other sacrifices that they offer.

I will do those things for them because I want my temple to be a building where people of **all** nations pray to me.

⁸ *I*, Yahweh, the Lord, the one who will bring back the people of Israel who have been ◀forced to go/exiled▶ to other countries, say this:

'I will bring *from other countries* many more people to join those Israelis whom I have brought back.' "

God promised to punish the Israeli leaders

⁹ "You *surrounding nations* have armies that are like [MET] animals in the forest; come and attack/destroy *Israel!*

¹⁰ The Israeli leaders *should be like* watchdogs to protect the people, but *it is as though* they are blind.

They are stupid.

They are all *like* [MET] dogs that cannot bark. *Good watchdogs bark when strangers approach, but the Israeli leaders do not warn the people that their enemies are coming.*

Instead, they just want to lie down and sleep and dream.

¹¹ *And they are like* greedy dogs; they never get all that they want.

They are *supposed to lead the people, like good* shepherds *lead their flocks,* but they are ignorant, and they each do whatever they want to do.

¹² They say to each other, 'Come, let's go and get some wine and *other* alcoholic/strong drinks,

and let's become drunk!

And tomorrow we will enjoy drinking even more!' "

- ¹ Righteous people *sometimes* die *when they are still young*,
and no one is concerned about it.
Godly people *sometimes* die because of disasters,
and no one understands why.
They are taken away in order that they will not
endure more calamities,
² and now they have peace.
They *continually* lived righteously,
and *now* they rest *peacefully* in their graves.
- ³ *Yahweh* says, “But you who practice sorcery,
come here!
You who worship idols [MET],
listen to me!”
- ⁴ Do you realize [RHQ] whom you are ridiculing,
and whom you are insulting?
Do you realize [RHQ] to whom you are
sticking out your tongues?
You are insulting me, Yahweh!
You are [RHQ] always rebelling against me
and always lying.
- ⁵ You are eager to have sex under every *big* green
tree where you worship your gods.
You kill your children as sacrifices *to your idols*
in the dry riverbeds,
and *also* offer them *as sacrifices to your idols*
in the rocky caves.
- ⁶ *You take big* smooth stones from the riverbeds
and worship them as your gods.
You pour out *wine* to be an offering to them,
and you bring grain *to burn for* an offering
to them.

Do you think that I should not punish you for doing all those things?

⁷ You have sex [EUP] *with cult prostitutes* on every hill and mountain, and you go there to offer sacrifices *to your gods*.

⁸ You have put ◀fetishes/pagan symbols▶ behind your doors and doorposts, and you have deserted me.

You have taken off your clothes [EUP] and climbed into your bed and invited more *of your lovers* to come to bed with you.

You have paid them to have sex with you, and you have fondled their sexual organs.

⁹ You have given *fragrant* oil and lots of perfume to your god Molech, and you sent messengers to distant countries *to find other gods to worship*; you *even tried to send messengers* to the place of the dead *to search for new gods*.

¹⁰ You became weary because of doing all those things, but you never said, 'It is useless *for us to do that*.'

You found new strength for worshiping idols, so you continued to do that [LIT].

¹¹ Was it because you were afraid *of those idols more than you were afraid of me* that you lied *about what you were doing*, and you do not even think about [DOU, RHQ] me?

Was it because I did not punish you for a long time that you are not afraid of me [RHQ]?

¹² You *think that* [IRO] the things that you have done are right,

but I will tell the truth.

It will not help you to do any of those things.

¹³ When you cry out *for help* to your collection of idols,

they will not rescue you.

The wind will blow them away [DOU].

But those who trust in me will live in the land of *Israel*,

and *they will worship me on Zion*, my sacred hill.”

Yahweh will rescue his people.

¹⁴ Yahweh will say, “Prepare *yourselves to receive me*,

like [MET] people build and prepare a road *for a king to come on*.

Get rid of *the things that are causing you to sin*

like [MET] people remove from a road ◀obstacles/things that cause people to stumble▶.

¹⁵ Because this is what *I*, Yahweh, who am holy and greatly honored and who live forever, say:

I live in the highest heaven, where *everything* is holy,

but I also am with those who are humble and who are sorry for the sinful things that they have done.

I will greatly encourage [DOU] those who have repented.

¹⁶ I will not accuse *people* forever;

I will not always be angry *with them*,
because *if I did that*, people would become weak/
discouraged;

all the people whom I created and caused to
live would die.

¹⁷ I was angry *with my people* because they
sinned by wanting the things that others
had.

So because I was angry, I punished them and
turned away from them,
but they continued sinning.

¹⁸ I have seen the evil things that they continually
do,

but I will restore them and lead them.

I will encourage/comfort them.

And to those who are mourning,

¹⁹ I will enable them to sing songs to praise
me.

I will restore *all my people*, those who live near
Jerusalem and those who live far away,
and I will cause things to go well for them.

²⁰ Wicked *people do not have peace in their inner
beings*;

they are like [SIM] a sea *whose waves are
always churning up mud*,

²¹ and *I, Yahweh*, say that things will never ◀go
well/be peaceful▶ for those who are evil.”

58

True worship

¹ *Yahweh said to me*,
“Shout loudly!

Shout like [SIM] a loud trumpet!

Shout to warn my Israeli people about their sins
[DOU]!

² They worship me every day;
*they come to my temple because they say that
they are eager to know what I want them
to do.*

They act as though they are a nation that does
things that are righteous,
who would never abandon their God.

They request me to decide matters justly,
and they delight to come to worship me.

³ *They say, 'We have ◀fasted/abstained from
eating food▶ to please you,
but you did not [RHQ] notice our doing that.*

We humbled ourselves,
but you did not [RHQ] pay any attention!'

I will tell you why I did not pay attention.

It is because when you fast,
you do it only to please yourselves,
and you act cruelly toward all your workers.

⁴ You fast, but you also quarrel and fight *with
each other* with your fists.

*Doing things like that while you fast will cer-
tainly not cause me to hear your prayers
where I am, high in heaven.*

⁵ You *act as though* [IRO] you humble yourselves
[RHQ] by bowing your heads

like [SIM] *the tops of reeds bend when the
wind blows,*

and you wear [RHQ] rough clothes and cover
your heads with ashes *like people do when
they are grieving.*

That is what you do when you are fasting,
but do you really think [RHQ] that will please
me?

⁶ No, that is not the kind of fasting that I desire.
What I really want [RHQ] is for you to free those
who have been unjustly put in prison
[DOU],
and to encourage those who are ◀treated
cruelly/oppressed▶;

I want you to free those who have been op-
pressed in any way.

⁷ I want you to [RHQ] share your food with those
who are hungry
and to allow those who have no houses to
stay in your houses.

Give clothes to those who do not have clothes,
and do not hide from your relatives who
need help from you.

⁸ If you do those things,
what you do for others will be like [SIM] a light
that shines when it dawns.
The troubles *that have been caused by your
sins* will end quickly.

Others will know about your righteous behavior,
and with my glorious presence I will protect
you from behind
*like I protected the Israeli people when they
left Egypt.*

⁹ Then you will call out to me,
and I will *quickly answer and say that I will
help you.*

Stop ◀oppressing people/treating people cruelly▶;
stop falsely accusing people;
and stop saying evil *things about people*.

10 Give food to those who are hungry,
and give to people who are afflicted/suffering the things that they need.

Your doing that will be like [MET] a light that shines in the darkness;
instead of doing evil to people [MET], *the good things that you do for them will be like* [SIM] sunshine at noontime.

11 *I*, Yahweh, will guide you continually,
and I will give you good things to satisfy you.
I will enable you to remain strong and healthy.

You will be like [SIM] a garden that is well watered,
like [SIM] a spring that never dries up.

12 *Your people* will rebuild the cities that were destroyed long ago;
they will build *houses* on top of the old foundations.

People will say that you are the ones who are repairing the holes *in the city walls*,
and who are repairing the streets where people live.

13 Do not travel [MTY] long distances on Sabbath/rest days,
and on Sabbath days do not do only the things that you delight to do.

Enjoy the Sabbath days, and consider them to be delightful.

The Sabbath days are my holy days.

Honor me, Yahweh, in everything that you do *on the Sabbath days*.

Do not talk about and do things *only* to please yourselves.

If you do all the things that I have just now told you to do,

¹⁴ I will enable you to be joyful.

I will greatly honor you;

I will honor you everywhere!

I will give to you the *blessings* that I gave to your ancestor Jacob.

Those things will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it."

59

Yahweh will rescue the people of Judah in spite of the evil things they have done

¹ Listen to this! Yahweh's power [MTY] is not ended/gone, with the result that he cannot save *you*.

He has not become deaf [MTY], with the result that he cannot hear *you when you call to him for help*.

² But, you have separated yourselves from your God by the sins that you have committed.

Because of your sins, he has turned away from you,

with the result that he does not pay attention to what you request him to do.

³ You do violent things [MTY] *to others*,

- with the result that your hands are stained
with their blood.
You *constantly* tell [MTY] lies,
and you say [MTY] evil things *about others*.
- 4 When you accuse someone in court, what you
say is not fair and it is not true.
You accuse people falsely.
You are *constantly* planning to cause trouble for
others,
and then you do those evil things that you
planned.
- 5 What you plan to do to harm people [MET]
is as dangerous as the eggs of a ◀cobra/
poisonous snake▶,
because cobras will hatch from those eggs.
You trap people like [MET] spiders trap/catch
insects in their webs.
- 6 We people cannot hide/cover our skin with
clothes made of spider webs [MET],
and similarly you cannot hide the evil things
that you have done.
You are *constantly* acting [MTY] violently.
- 7 You [SYN] are very quick to go and do evil
things,
and you hurry to murder people [MTY] who
are innocent.
You are *continually* thinking about sinning.
Wherever you go, you destroy things and
cause people to suffer.
- 8 You do not know how to act peacefully or to
treat others fairly.
You always are ◀dishonest/deceiving others▶
[MET],

and those who imitate your behavior never
have any inner peace.

⁹ Because of that, God does not rescue us *from
our enemies*;
it seems that he is not acting fairly/right-
teously toward us.

We expect *God to give us* light,
but all *he gives us* is darkness [DOU].

¹⁰ We are like [SIM] blind people who have to feel
along a wall to be able to walk anywhere.
We stumble *and trip* at noontime like [SIM]
we would when it is dark.

We are like [SIM] dead people who are among
healthy people.

¹¹ We growl like [SIM] *hungry* bears;
we continually moan like [SIM] doves.

We seek *people who do* what is just/fair,
but we cannot find any *anywhere*.

We want God to rescue us,
but *it seems that* he is far away.

¹² *But these things are happening* because *it is
as though* our sins are piled high in the
presence of God,
and that they testify [PRS] against us.

We cannot deny it;
we know that we have done many wrong
things.

¹³ *We know that* we have rebelled against Yah-
weh;
we have turned away from him.

We ◀oppress people/treat people cruelly▶ by
 what we testify *against them*;
 we do not allow them to get what they have
 a right to get.

We [SYN] think about the lies that we can tell,
 and then we tell them.

14 *In our courts, the judges* do not decide cases/
 matters fairly;
 no one is acting righteously.

In plazas where people gather together, no one
 tells the truth [PRS];
it seems that people are not allowed to say
 what is true.

15 No one tells the truth,
 and people try to ruin *the reputations of*
 those who quit doing evil.

Yahweh looked around, and he saw that no one
 was doing what is just/fair,
 and he was *very* displeased.

16 He was disgusted when he saw that no one
 tried to help *those who were being treated*
cruelly.

So he used his own power [MTY] to rescue
 them;

it is because he is always righteous that he did
 that [PRS].

17 *It is as though he is a soldier who* [MET] puts
 on his armor and a helmet;
 his continually doing what is right is like
 [MET] his armor, and his ability to rescue
 people is *like* his helmet.

His being extremely angry and his being ready to get revenge *on those who do evil* are like [MET] his robes.

18 He will repay his enemies for the evil things that they have done.

He will severely punish [MTY] even those who live far *from Jerusalem*.

19 When that happens, people everywhere, from the east to the west, will respect and honor Yahweh [MTY],

because he will come like [SIM] a rushing river that is pushed along by the strong wind that Yahweh sent.

20 And Yahweh says that he will come to Jerusalem to free *his people*;

he will come to rescue those in Judah who have quit ◀doing sinful things/their sinful behavior▶.

21 This is what Yahweh says to his people: “This is the agreement that I will make with you:

My Spirit will not leave you,

and you will always have my message.

You will *be able to* declare it [MTY],

and your children and grandchildren will *be able to* declare it forever.”

60

Israel's future glory

1 *You people of* Jerusalem [PRS], stand up!

Yahweh has done glorious things for you, and he has acted powerfully for you;

so show others that he is very great!

² *But spiritual darkness has covered all the other people-groups on the earth, complete darkness,*

but Yahweh will show you how great he is,
and other people will also see it.

³ By seeing what he has done for you, *people of all people-groups* will see that he is very great,
and kings will come to see the wonderful things that have happened to you.

⁴ *Yahweh says, "Look around and you will see the people who will be returning from ◀exile/ countries to which they have been forced to go▶!*

Your sons will come from distant countries;
others will carry your *little* daughters home.

⁵ When you look at this happening,
you will be very joyful [DOU],
because people will bring valuable goods to you
from all around the world.

They will bring in ships valuable things from
many nations.

⁶ People will *also* bring valuable goods to you on
herds/caravans of camels:
Camels from the Midian and Ephah *areas of northern Arabia.*

And from Sheba *in southern Arabia* they will
come, bringing gold and frankincense;
they will all come to praise *me*, Yahweh.

⁷ They will bring flocks *of sheep and goats* from
Kedar *in northern Arabia* and give them to
you.

They will bring [PRS] rams from Nebaioth for you *to sacrifice* on my altars, and I will accept them *happily*.
At that time I will cause my temple to be very beautifully decorated.

⁸ And what are those things that are moving swiftly like [SIM] clouds? They resemble [SIM] doves *returning* to their nests.

⁹ But they are really ships from Tarshish that are bringing your people back here. When your people come, they will bring with them *all* the valuable possessions that they have acquired, and *they will do that* to honor *me*, Yahweh, your God, the Holy One of Israel, because I will have greatly honored you.

¹⁰ Foreigners will *come and* rebuild the walls of your *cities*, and their kings will serve/help you. Although I punished you because I was angry with you, these things will happen now because I will act mercifully toward you because I am kind.

¹¹ The gates of your *cities* will be open during the day and *also* during the night, in order that people will be able to bring into your cities valuable things from *many* countries,

with their kings being led to you in the processions.

12 And the kingdoms and nations whose *people* refuse to allow you to rule them will be completely destroyed [DOU].

13 The glorious/beautiful things in Lebanon will be brought to you—
lumber from cypress trees and fir trees and pine trees —

to be used to make my temple beautiful.

When that is done, my temple [MTY] will *truly* be glorious!

14 The descendants of those who ◀oppressed you/
 treated you cruelly▶ will come and bow down to you;
 those who despised you will prostrate themselves in front of your feet.

They will say that your city on Zion Hill
 is the City of Yahweh,
 where the Holy One of Israel lives.

15 Previously everyone hated you and ignored you,
 but now your *city* will be majestic/honored forever;

and *I will cause you to be joyful* forever.

16 People of all nations and their kings will gladly bring [MET] their wealth to you.

And *when that happens*, you will realize that I truly am Yahweh,
 the one who saves you and rescues you *from your enemies*,

and that I am the mighty one to whom you
Israeli people belong.

17 Instead of *metals that are not valuable, like
bronze and iron,*
I will bring to you silver and gold.

Instead of wood and stones,
I will bring you bronze and iron *for your
buildings.*

There will be peace in your country,
and your rulers will do what is fair/just.

18 People in your country will no longer act
violently,
and people will no longer destroy your land
and cause it to become desolate/ruined.

The people in the city will be safe,
and everyone there will praise me [MTY].

19 And you will no longer need the sun and moon
to give you light,
because *I, Yahweh,* will give you more light
than the sun and moon;

I will be a glorious light for you forever.

20 *It will seem as though* the sun and moon will
always be shining [LIT],
because *I, Yahweh,* will be an everlasting
light for you.

You will never again be sad *because of things that
happen to you.*

21 Your people will all be righteous,
and they will occupy the land forever,
because I myself have put you there *like people
plant trees* [MET]

in order that you will show others that I am very great.

²² At that time, the *groups that are* very small now will become *very large* clans, and small clans will become great nations.

All those things will happen because, I, Yahweh, will cause them to happen at the right time."

61

Good news for oppressed people

¹ The Spirit of Yahweh *our* Lord is on me; he has appointed [MTY] me to bring good news to those who are oppressed, to comfort those who are discouraged, to free *all* those who are *as though they are chained/tied* [DOU] *by the wrong things that they continually do.*

² He has sent me to tell those who mourn *about the members of their families who died* (OR, *who are still in Babylonia*) that now is the time when Yahweh will act kindly *toward his people*; now is the time when our God will ◀get revenge on/punish▶ *their enemies.*

³ To *all* those in Jerusalem who mourn, he will give flower necklaces *to wear*; instead of ashes *that they put on their heads to show that they are sad*; he will cause them to rejoice [MTY] instead of being sad; he will enable them to be [MET] happy instead of being discouraged.

They will be called “people who continually do what is right,
people who are *like tall/strong oak trees* that Yahweh has planted”
to show others that he is very great.

⁴ *Those who return from Babylon* will rebuild the cities that *the soldiers from Babylon* tore down.
Even though those cities have been destroyed and abandoned for many years,
they will be restored/rebuilt.

⁵ Foreigners will be the ones who will take care of your flocks *of sheep and goats*,
and plow your fields and take care of your grapevines.

⁶ But you *are the ones who* will be like the priests to serve Yahweh,
to work for God.
You will enjoy valuable goods *that are brought* from other nations,
and you will be happy that those things have become yours.

⁷ Previously you were shamed and disgraced,
but now you will have great blessings;
previously *your enemies* humbled you,
but now you will have many good things;
you will be happy because of being in your land again,
and you will rejoice forever.

⁸ “I, Yahweh, am very pleased with those/judges who decide matters fairly;

- I hate *those who illegally* take things from other people.
 I will surely repay my people
 ◀for/because of▶ all that they have suffered
in the past.
 And I will make an everlasting agreement with them.
 9 Their descendants will be honored by people of other nations [DOU].
 Everyone who sees them will know that they are a nation that *I, Yahweh, have blessed.*”
- 10 I greatly rejoice because of what Yahweh *has done!*
 I am happy,
 because he has saved me and declared that I am righteous;
those blessings are like [MET] a robe that he has put on me.
 I am *as happy as* [SIM] a bridegroom in his wedding suit,
 or a bride wearing jewels.
- 11 Just as *seeds sown in* a garden sprout from the soil and grow [DOU],
 Yahweh *our* God will cause *people of* all nations to act righteously,
 with the result that they will praise him for doing that.

62

Isaiah's prayer for Jerusalem

- 1 Because I am very concerned about *the people of* Jerusalem [DOU],

I will do something to help them.
 I will not stop praying for them
 until they are rescued/freed *from their oppressors*,
 until that becomes as apparent to everyone as
 the dawn *every morning*,
 until people can see it as clearly as [SIM] they
 see a torch shining brightly *at night*.

² *Some day* the *people of many* nations will know
 that Yahweh has rescued you, *his people*.
 Their kings will see that your city is *very*
 great/glorious.

And Yahweh [MTY] will give your *city* a new
 name.

³ *It will be as though* Yahweh will hold you up in
 his hands in order that everyone can see
 you.

Under his authority [MTY], you will be *like* a
 glorious headband/turban worn by a king.

⁴ Your *city* will never again be called “the de-
 serted/abandoned city” and your country
 will never again be called “the desolate
 land”;

it will be called “the land that Yahweh
 delights in”,
 and *it will also be called* “married to Yah-
 weh”.

It will be called that because Yahweh will be
 delighted with you,
 and it will be as though you are his bride
 [MET].

⁵ You people will live in all the country of Judah
 like [SIM] a young man lives with his bride.

And our God will be happy that you *belong to him*
like [SIM] a bridegroom is happy that his
bride *belongs to him*.

⁶ You *people of* Jerusalem, I have placed watch-
men on your walls;
they will [LIT] earnestly pray to Yahweh day
and night.

You watchmen, you must not stop *praying*
and reminding Yahweh *about what he has*
promised to do!

⁷ And tell Yahweh that he should not rest
until he causes Jerusalem to be *a city that is*
famous throughout the world.

⁸ Yahweh has raised his right hand to solemnly
promise *to the people of Jerusalem,*
“I will use my power [MTY] and never again
allow your enemies to defeat you;
soldiers from other nations will never come again
to take away your grain
and the wine that you worked hard to
produce.

⁹ You yourselves grew the grain,
and you will be the ones who will praise
me, Yahweh, while you eat the bread made
from that grain.

Inside the courtyards of my temple
you yourselves will drink the wine made
from the grapes *that you harvested.”*

¹⁰ Go out through the *city gates!*

Prepare the highway on which people *will*
return from other countries!
 Cause the road to become smooth;
 clear off *all* the stones;
 set up signal flags to help the people-groups to
 see *where the road to Jerusalem is.*

- ¹¹ This is the message that Yahweh has sent to *the*
people of every nation:
 “Tell the people of Israel, “The one who will
 rescue/save you is coming!
 Look! He will be bringing to you ◀your reward/
 what you deserve *for the good things that*
you have done▶;
 those whom he is setting free will be going
 ahead of him.’ ”
- ¹² They will be called “Yahweh’s own people,
 the ones whom he rescued”.
 And Jerusalem will be known as the city that
Yahweh loves,
 the city that is no *longer* abandoned.

63

Yahweh’s punishment on the nations

- ¹ *I ask*, “Who is this who is coming from Bozrah
 city in Edom,
 whose clothes are stained red *from blood?*
 Who is this who is wearing beautiful robes?”
He replies, “It is I, *Yahweh*, declaring that I
 have defeated *your enemies*,
 and I am able to rescue you!”

² *I ask him, "What are those red spots on your clothes?
It appears that [SIM] you have been treading/
tramping on grapes to make wine."*

³ *He replies, "I have been treading on my enemies,
not on grapes.*

*I did it myself; no one helped me.
I punished them because I was very angry with
them,
and my clothes became stained with their
blood.*

⁴ *I did that because it was time for me [SYN] to
get revenge;
it was time to rescue my people from those
who had oppressed them.*

⁵ *I searched for someone who would enable me
to help my people,
but I was amazed/shocked that there was no
one to help me.*

*So I defeated their enemies with my own power/
strength [MTY];
I was able [PRS] to do that because of my
being very angry.*

⁶ *Because I was extremely angry, I punished the
nations;
I caused them to stagger like [MET] drunk
men,
and I caused their blood to pour out on the
ground."*

Yahweh's kindness to his people

⁷ *I will tell about Yahweh faithfully loving his
people,
and I will praise him for all that he has done.*

Yahweh has done good things for *us* people
[MTY] of Israel;
he has acted mercifully toward us,
and he has steadfastly and faithfully loved
us.

⁸ Yahweh said, "These are my people;
they will not deceive me;"
so he rescued us.

⁹ When we had many troubles,
he was sad *also*.

He sent his angel to rescue us.

Because he loved us and was merciful to us,
he saved us;

it was as though he picked our ancestors up
and carried them all those years *during*
which they were oppressed in Egypt.

¹⁰ But we rebelled against him,
and we caused his Holy Spirit to be sad.
So he became *like* [MET] an enemy
who fought against us.

¹¹ Then we thought about *what happened* long
ago,
during the time when Moses led *our ances-*
tors out of Egypt.

We cried out, "Where is the one who brought our
ancestors through the *Red Sea*
while Moses led them?

Where is the one who sent his Holy Spirit
to be among our ancestors?

¹² Where is the one who showed his glorious
power [MTY],
and caused the water to separate when
Moses lifted his arm above it,

with the result that he will be honored/praised forever?

13 Where is the one who led our ancestors while they walked through the sea bed?

They were like [SIM] horses that were racing along and never stumbled.

14 They were like [SIM] cattle that walk down into a valley *to rest*, and the Spirit of Yahweh enabled them to go to a place where they could rest.

Yahweh, you led your people, and you caused yourself [MTY] to ◀get a wonderful reputation/be greatly honored▶.”

A prayer for God's mercy and pardon

15 *Yahweh*, look down from heaven; look down on us from your holy and glorious home.

You were [RHQ] previously very concerned *about us*, and you acted powerfully *to help us*.

But it seems that you do not act mercifully and zealously for us any more.

16 You are our father. Abraham does not know *what is happening to us*, and Jacob is not concerned about us, *either*, but Yahweh, you are our father; you rescued us long ago.

17 Yahweh, why did you cause us to wander away from your road [RHQ]? Why did you cause us to be stubborn, with the result that we no *longer* revere you [RHQ]?

Help us like you did previously,
because we are the people who serve you
and belong to you.

18 We, your holy people, possessed your sacred
temple for only a short time,
and now our enemies have destroyed it.

19 Now it seems as though we never were ruled
by you,
as though we were never part of your family
[MTY].

64

1 “*Yahweh*, I wish that you would tear open the
sky and come down,
and cause the mountains to shake in your
presence.

2 *Be* like a fire that burns twigs
and causes water to boil!
Come down in order that your enemies will know
who you are,
and the *people of other* nations will tremble
in your presence.

3 You have done awesome things which we were
not expecting you to do;
the mountains shook when you came down
at Horeb Mountain.

4 Since ◀long ago/the world began▶, no one
[SYN] has *ever* seen or heard about a God
like you;
you help those who ◀depend on/trust in▶
you.

5 You help those who joyfully do what is right,
those who conduct their lives as you want
them to.

- But *we did not do that*; we continued to sin,
and so you became angry with us.
We have been sinning for a long time,
so only if we continually do what you want
us to do will we be saved.
- ⁶ We have all become people who are not fit to
worship you;
all of the good things that we have done are
only like [SIM] filthy/blood-stained rags.
Because of our sins, we are like [SIM] leaves that
dry up
and are blown away by the wind.
- ⁷ None of *our people* worships you,
and no one is completely dedicated to [IDM]
you.
You have turned away from us.
It is as though you have caused us to be
forced to continue our sinful behavior.
- ⁸ Yahweh, you are our father.
We are *like* [MET] clay,
and you created us, *like* [MET] a potter
creates pottery.
- ⁹ Yahweh, do not continue to be angry *with us*;
do not keep thinking about *our* sins forever.
Do not forget that we are all your people.
- ¹⁰ *All of your towns in Judah* have become like
[MET] deserts;
even Jerusalem has been destroyed.
- ¹¹ Your glorious temple on Zion Hill, where our
ancestors worshiped you,
has been destroyed by fire.
And all our *other* beautiful things have been
ruined.

- 12 Yahweh, you see all those things, so we worry
that you will refrain *from helping us*,
and that you will cause us to suffer much
more.

65

God's punishment of the rebellious Israelis

- ¹ *This is what Yahweh said:*
"I was ready to reply *to my people*,
but no one requested me *to help them*.
I was ready to help *even* those who did not call
out to me.
I continued to say, 'I am here *to help you!*'
- ² *It is as though* I have continually held out my
arms *to show that I am ready to help my*
people who rebel *against me*,
and who *continually* do the evil things that
they want to do.
- ³ They boldly continue to do things that cause me
to be angry:
They offer sacrifices *to their idols* in their
gardens,
and they burn incense *to them* on *altars made of*
bricks.
- ⁴ They secretly remain awake at night in burial
caves,
talking with the spirits of ◀*dead people/their*
ancestors▶.
They eat the meat of pigs,
and their pots are full of *other* meat that is
also unacceptable to me.
- ⁵ *Then* they say *to others*,
'Stay away from me; do not come near me,
because I am very holy,

with the result that you should not touch me.'
 People like that are *like* [MET] smoke in my nose
from a fire that burns continually.

⁶ I have written *a record of all the evil things that they have done.*

And I will not do nothing about all those things;

I will certainly punish them

⁷ for the sins that they and their ancestors have committed.

They have mocked/insulted me by burning incense *to their idols* on the hilltops.

So I will punish them like they deserve for doing those things."

⁸ This is *also* what Yahweh said:
 "When there is a cluster of nice grapes on a vine, people do not throw them away,

because they know that there is good juice in those grapes.

Similarly, because there are some people *in Judah* who faithfully serve/worship me,

I will not get rid of all of them.

⁹ I will spare some of the descendants of Jacob who are living on the hills of Judah.

I have chosen them, and they will possess that land;

they will worship/serve me, and they will live there.

¹⁰ *Then all the land from the Sharon Plain near the Mediterranean Sea and as far east as Achor Valley near Jericho* will become pastureland

where their cattle and sheep will rest.

- 11 But *it will be different* for you who have abandoned me,
you who do not worship me on Zion, my sacred hill,
you who worship Gad and Meni, *the gods who you think will bring you good luck and good fortune.*
- 12 *It is I, not Meni, who will decide/say what will happen to you;*
you will all *be slaughtered by swords.*
That will happen because you did not answer when I called out to you.
I spoke to you,
but you did not pay attention.
Instead, you did things that I said are evil;
you chose to do things that do not please me.
- 13 I, Yahweh the Lord, will give to those who worship and obey me things to eat and drink,
and they will be happy;
but *all* you evil people will be hungry and thirsty,
and you will be *sad and disgraced.*
- 14 Those who worship and obey me will sing joyfully,
but you *evil people* will wail loudly
because you will be suffering in your inner beings.
- 15 Those whom I have chosen will use your names when they curse people;
I, Yahweh the Lord, will get rid of you.
But I will give to those who worship and obey me a new name *that they will use when they bless people.*

16 The people in this land have had many troubles,
but I will cause those troubles to occur no more.
Therefore those who ask me to bless them
and those who solemnly promise to do something
should never forget that I am God, who
faithfully *do what I promise to do.*"

Yahweh's new creation

- 17 "Note this: *Some day* I will create a new heaven
and a new earth.
*They will be very wonderful, with the result
that you will no longer think about all the
troubles you had previously.*
- 18 Be glad and always rejoice because of what I
will do:
Jerusalem will be a place where *people*
rejoice;
the people who live there will always be
happy.
- 19 I will rejoice about Jerusalem,
and I will be delighted with my people.
People will no longer weep or cry because of
being distressed.
- 20 No child will die when it is still an infant;
all people will live until they are very old.
People will consider that anyone who is 100 years
old is still young;
they will consider that anyone who dies who
is younger than that has been cursed.

- 21 My people will build houses and *then* live in them.
They will plant vineyards and then eat grapes from those vineyards.
- 22 As for the houses that they build, no one will *take those houses away from them and* live in them.
No one will take a vineyard away from its owner.
My chosen people will live a long time, like trees do,
and they will enjoy what they have accomplished—
the houses that they have built and the crops that they have planted.
- 23 They will not work hard in vain,
and their children will not die from some
◀calamity/terrible thing happening to them▶.
- I will *certainly* bless their children and their grandchildren.
- 24 Before they call to me *to help them*, I will answer;
I will answer their prayers while they are still praying *for me to do something for them.*
- 25 No one will be harmed or injured anywhere on Zion, my sacred hill:
Wolves and lambs will eat grass together *peacefully*;
lions will eat hay like oxen do, *and they will not attack people.*
Snakes will *not hurt anyone; they will lie on the ground and eat only dirt.*

That is surely what it will be like because I, Yahweh, have said it."

66

Yahweh will judge all the nations

¹ Yahweh also said this:
*"All of heaven is like my throne,
 and the whole earth is like my footstool.
 So you could certainly not [RHQ] build a house
 that would be adequate for me to live in and
 rest!*

² I [MTY] have created everything;
 all things exist because I made them.
That is true because I, Yahweh, have said it.

The people I am most pleased with are those who
 are humble,
 who *patiently endure it when they* ◀suffer/
 are afflicted▶,
 and who tremble when they hear me *rebuk-*
ing them.

³ You have enjoyed *continually* doing the things
 that you want to do:
*Some of you slaughter oxen to sacrifice them to
 me,
 but you also bring human sacrifices to your
 idols!*

You sacrifice lambs *to me,*
 but you kill dogs *to offer them to your gods.*
 You offer grain to me,
 but you also bring pigs' blood *to your idols.*
 You burn incense *to me,*
 but you also praise your idols.
 You enjoy doing those disgusting things.

4 When I called *out to you*,
you did not answer.
When I spoke, you did not pay attention.
You did *many* things that I say are evil;
you chose *to do* things that I did not like.
So *now* I will punish you by causing you to
experience the things that you are *very*
afraid of.”

Yahweh will help the people of Jerusalem

5 But you people who tremble when you hear
what Yahweh says,
listen to what he says *now*:
“Some of your people hate you and reject you
because you belong to me.
They make fun of you, and they say,
‘Yahweh should show his glorious power!
We want to see him *do something to cause*
you to be truly happy.’
But *some day* those people will be *very* dis-
graced.”

6 *At that time*, you will listen to the noise in the
city.

You will hear the shouting in the temple.
It will be the sound of Yahweh shouting
while he is punishing his enemies!

7 No one [RHQ] ever heard that a woman gave
birth to a baby
when she was just starting to have birth
pains.

8 Certainly no one [RHQ] ever heard about such
a thing happening,

and no one has ever seen it happen.

Similarly, no one ever [RHQ] heard that a nation was created in one instant, not even in one day.

But Jerusalem is like [MET] *a woman who gives birth to children as soon as she starts to have birth pains.*

⁹ Women certainly do not [RHQ] bring infants to the time when they are ready to be born and then do not allow them to be born. *Similarly, he will do for Jerusalem [MET] what he has promised to do:*

He will cause Jerusalem to be full of people again. That will happen because Yahweh has said it.

¹⁰ You people in [APO] Jerusalem, rejoice! And all you people who love Jerusalem should also be happy.

You people who were sad because of *what happened to Jerusalem*, you should now be glad.

¹¹ *You people in Jerusalem will have everything that you need like [MET] a baby that gets all it needs from its mother's breasts.*

You will enjoy all the abundant and glorious things [MET] in the city.

¹² Yahweh has promised, "I will cause Jerusalem to be full of valuable things that come from other nations; those things will pour into Jerusalem; it will be like [SIM] a big flood.

I will take care of the people of Jerusalem

like women care for the babies that they nurse.

13 I will comfort you people in Jerusalem like [MET] mothers comfort their children.”

14 When you see *those things happen*, you [SYN] will rejoice.

Your *old bones* will become strong *again* like [SIM] grass *that grows quickly/well in the springtime*.

When that happens, everyone will know that Yahweh has power [MTY] to help those who worship and obey him, but that he is angry with his enemies.

15 Yahweh will come down with flames of fire, and his chariots *will come down* like [SIM] a whirlwind;

he will be extremely angry, and he will punish *his enemies* by burning them in a fire.

16 *It is as though* [MET] Yahweh has a *big sword*, and he will judge and execute many people.

17 Yahweh says, “Some of you people purify/ bathe yourselves and *then* go to a garden to worship your gods. You eat the meat of pigs and lizards and mice, *and other things that I have forbidden you to eat*. So I will get rid of you *for doing that*.”

18 I know *all the evil things* that you think and do. *It is now time* for me to gather together the people who live in all nations and who speak all languages, and to show them that I am very great.

¹⁹ I will put a mark on them, and those whom I have spared will go to various *distant* countries: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Tubal, Javan, and to distant islands. I will send them to proclaim to nations that have never heard about me that I am very great and glorious. ²⁰ Then they will bring back here your relatives *who have been* ◀exiled/forced to go to other countries▶, to be like [SIM] an offering to me. They will come on horses, in chariots, on mules, and on camels. They will come to *Zion*, my sacred hill in Jerusalem. That will be like [SIM] the offerings that *my* Israeli people used to bring in the correct manner to the temple. ²¹ *I solemnly promise that* I will appoint some of them to be priests, and others to do other work in my temple. *That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it.*

²² *I also* promise that just like the new heaven and the new earth will last forever, you will always have descendants, and you [MTY] will always be honored. ²³ At every festival to celebrate the Sabbath *each week* and the new moon *each month*, everyone will *come and* worship me. *That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it.* ²⁴ Then they will go out *of Jerusalem* and look at the corpses of those who rebelled against me. The maggots in those corpses will never die, the fire will never stop burning them, and everyone *who sees their corpses* will detest them.”

Translation for Translators
A Bible Translation for Bible Translators which
makes implied information explicit in the text as an
aid to the translator who may need that information
to correctly translate into a particular language.

Copyright © 2008-2017 Ellis W. Deibler, Jr.

Language: English

Dialect: American

This translation is made available to you under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license 4.0.

You have permission to share and redistribute this Bible translation in any format and to make reasonable revisions and adaptations of this translation, provided that:

You include the above copyright and source information.

If you make any changes to the text, you must indicate that you did so in a way that makes it clear that the original licensor is not necessarily endorsing your changes.

If you redistribute this text, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

Pictures included with Scriptures and other documents on this site are licensed just for use with those Scriptures and documents. For other uses, please contact the respective copyright owners.

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.

2024-02-21

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 22 Feb 2024 from source files dated 21 Feb 2024

b3899a17-7ffc-5e57-9e60-74fca60a0a67