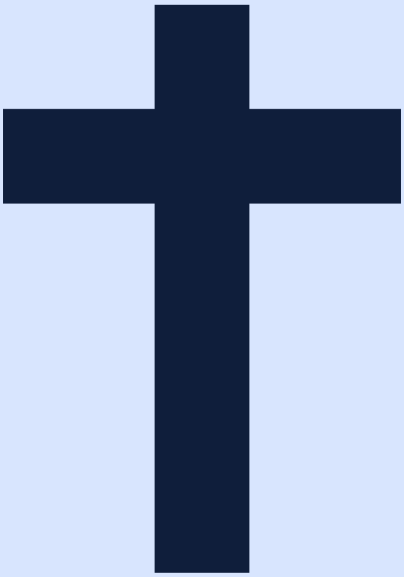
Masoretic English Tanakh



The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

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Public Domain

Language: English

Dialect: American

Extracted from the Berean Standard Bible 2026 and conformed to the Masoretic Text, as represented by the Westminster Leningrad Codex by David Kaye. Dedicated by David Kaye to the Public Domain 13 October 2026. The base Berean Standard Version was dedicated to the Public Domain by their translation team.

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Preface

The Masoretic English Tanakh presents the Hebrew Bible in English in the traditional Jewish order of Torah, Prophets and Writings. Its base is the 2026 edition of the Berean Standard Bible (BSB; public domain), revised so that the main text renders the Masoretic Text alone.

Text.

Where the Masoretic manuscripts differ, the Leningrad Codex governs. Aleppo Codex readings are given in the notes where the English would differ. Readings from the Septuagint (LXX), the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS), the Samaritan Pentateuch (SP), the Syriac, Vulgate and Targums, from parallel passages, and from conjectural emendation appear only in the footnotes. The Masoretic vowels govern, and no word is redivided in the text.

Ketiv and Qere.

Where the written (Ketiv) and read (Qere) forms differ, the text follows the reading adopted by the NJPS translation (1985), or the Qere where that is unclear. The other reading is noted where the English would differ.

Translation.

Where the BSB offers alternatives, whether marked “Or” or “Literally,” the text uses whichever rendering is closest to the NJPS, which was used for comparison only. The 1917 JPS transla- tion served as a third point of comparison. No wording of either translation has been copied. As in Jewish translations, pronouns referring to God are not capitalized; capitals are kept for the divine name and for titles of God such as Lord, Holy One and Rock.

Poetry and lists.

Poetic passages are set in lines, and lists (such as genealogies) as indented items, following the layout of the 2026 BSB.

The divine name.

LORD (or GOD, after “Lord”) in small capitals represents the divine name YHWH, which the Masoretic Text points to be read Adonai (or Elohim); so throughout.

Numbering.

Chapters and verses follow the Hebrew numbering. In Psalms the superscription is counted as part of the text, so verse numbers there often run one higher than in English Bibles. Footnotes. Each note begins with its chapter and verse. The usual forms are:

- LXX reading: the italic words give the reading of another witness (here the Septuagint); the text always follows the Masoretic Text, so it is not named.
- Qere; Ketiv reading: the text follows the Qere, and the italic words give the Ketiv.
- Or rendering: another way to translate the same Hebrew.
- Literally rendering: a word-for-word rendering of the Hebrew.

Genesis

1 When God began to create* the sky† and the earth—
2 the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of
the deep, and a wind from God‡ was hovering over the surface of the
waters—
3 God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
4 And God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from
the darkness.
5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”
And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.§
6 And God said, “Let there be an expanse* between the waters, to
separate the waters from the waters.”
7 So God made the expanse and separated the waters beneath it from
the waters above. And it was so.
8 God called the expanse “sky.”
And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.
9 And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered into one place,
so that the dry land may appear.” And it was so.
10 God called the dry land “earth,” and the gathering of waters he called
“seas.” And God saw that it was good.
11 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth vegetation: seed-bearing
plants and fruit trees, each bearing fruit with seed according to its kind on
the earth.” And it was so.
12 The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their
kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed according to their kinds. And God
saw that it was good.
13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.
14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to
distinguish between the day and the night, and let them be signs to mark
the seasons and days and years.
15 And let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon
the earth.” And it was so.
16 God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day and the
lesser light to rule the night. And he made the stars as well.
17 God set these lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth,
18 to preside over the day and the night, and to separate the light from
the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.
20 And God said, “Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds
fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky.”
21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living thing that
moves, with which the waters teemed according to their kinds, and every
winged bird after its kind. And God saw that it was good.
22 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the
waters of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

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* **1:1 1:1** Or *In the beginning God created*; Hebrew *bereshit bara elohim*, read as a temporal clause leading to verse 3 † **1:1 1:1** Or *the heavens*; Hebrew *shamayim*, as in verse 8 ‡ **1:2 1:2** Or *the spirit of God* § **1:5 1:5** Literally *day one* * **1:6 1:6** Or *a canopy* or *a firmament* or *a vault*; also in verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, and 20

23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.
24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to
their kinds: livestock, land crawlers, and beasts of the earth according to
their kinds.” And it was so.
25 God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds, the
livestock according to their kinds, and everything that crawls upon the
earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, to
rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and
over all the earth itself† and every creature that crawls upon it.”

27 So God created man in his own image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.
28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill
the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the
air and every creature that crawls upon the earth.”
29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on
the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit contains seed. They
will be yours for food.
30 And to every beast of the earth and every bird of the air and every
creature that crawls upon the earth—everything that has the breath of life
in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.
31 And God looked upon all that he had made, and indeed, it was very
good.
And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2

1 Thus the sky and the earth were completed in all their vast array.
2 And by the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing;
so on that day he rested from all his work.
3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on that
day he rested from all the work of creation that he had accomplished.
4 This is the account of the sky and the earth when they were created, in
the day that the LORD God made the earth and the sky.
5 Now no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth, nor had any
plant of the field sprouted, for the LORD God had not yet sent rain upon
the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.
6 But springs* welled up from the earth and watered the whole surface
of the ground.
7 Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and
breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living
being.†
8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, where he
placed the man he had formed.
9 Out of the ground the LORD God gave growth to every tree that is
pleasing to the eye and good for food. And in the middle of the garden
were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it
branched into four headwaters:

† **1:26 1:26** Syriac *and over all the beasts of the earth* * **2:6 2:6** Or *mist* † **2:7 2:7** Or *a living soul*

11 The name of the first river is the Pishon; it winds through the whole
land of Havilah, where there is gold.
12 And the gold of that land is pure, and bdellium and onyx are found
there.
13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the whole
land of Cush.
14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of
Assyria.
And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
15 Then the LORD God took the man and placed him in the Garden of
Eden to cultivate and keep it.
16 And the LORD God commanded him, "You may eat freely from every
tree of the garden,
17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil;
for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die."
18 The LORD God also said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will
make for him a suitable helper."
19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field
and every bird of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he
would name each one. And whatever the man called each living creature,
that was its name.
20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the air, and to
every beast of the field. But for Adam‡ no suitable helper was found.
21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while
he slept, he took one of the man's ribs§ and closed up the area with flesh.
22 And from the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man, he
made a woman and brought her to him.
23 And the man said:

"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for out of man she was taken."
24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united
to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*
25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and they were not
ashamed.

3

1 Now the snake was more crafty than any beast of the field that the
LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You
must not eat from any tree in the garden?' "
2 The woman answered the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of
the garden,
3 but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God has
said, 'You must not eat of it or touch it, or you will die.' "
4 "You will not surely die," the snake told the woman.
5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened
and you will be like gods,* knowing good and evil."

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‡ **2:20 2:20** Or *the man*, as in verses 19 and 21 § **2:21 2:21** Or *took part of the man's side*; similarly in verse 22 * **2:24 2:24** LXX *and the two will become one flesh* * **3:5 3:5** Or *like God*

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to
the eyes, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit
and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he
ate it.
7 And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they
were naked; so they sewed together fig leaves and made coverings for
themselves.
8 Then the man and his wife heard the voice of the LORD God walking in
the garden at the breezy time† of the day, and they hid themselves from
the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
9 But the LORD God called out to the man, “Where are you?”
10 “I heard your voice in the garden,” he replied, “and I was afraid
because I was naked; so I hid myself.”
11 “Who told you that you were naked?” asked the LORD God. “Have you
eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”
12 And the man answered, “The woman whom you gave me, she gave me
fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”
13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”
“The snake deceived me,” she replied, “and I ate.”
14 So the LORD God said to the snake:

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and every beast of the field!
On your belly will you go,
and dust you will eat,
all the days of your life.
15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.
They will strike at your head,
and you will strike at their heel.‡”
16 To the woman he said:

“I will sharply increase your pain in childbirth;
in pain you will bring forth children.
Your desire will be for your husband,§
and he will rule over you.”
17 And to Adam he said:

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten from the tree
of which I commanded you not to eat,
cursed is the ground because of you;
through toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life.
18 Both thorns and thistles it will yield for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your bread,

† **3:8 3:8** Or *in the breeze*; Hebrew *unto the Ruach* ‡ **3:15 3:15** Hebrew *he* and *his*, referring to *seed* (offspring) as a collective; or *he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.* The same Hebrew root is used for both actions. § **3:16 3:16** Or *you will desire to control your husband*

until you return to the ground—
because out of it were you taken.
For dust you are,
and to dust you shall return."
20 And Adam named his wife Eve,* because she would be the mother of
all the living.
21 And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and
he clothed them.
22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us,
knowing good and evil. And now, lest he reach out his hand and take also
from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever..."
23 Therefore the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to
work the ground from which he had been taken.
24 So he drove out the man and stationed cherubim on the east side of
the Garden of Eden, along with a whirling sword of flame to guard the
way to the tree of life.

4

1 And Adam had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave
birth to Cain.*
"With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man," she said.
2 Later she gave birth to Cain's brother Abel.
Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, while Cain was a tiller of the soil.
3 So in the course of time, Cain brought some of the fruit of the soil as an
offering to the LORD,
4 while Abel brought the best portions of the firstborn of his flock.
And the LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,
5 but he had no regard for Cain and his offering. So Cain became very
angry, and his countenance fell.
6 "Why are you angry," said the LORD to Cain, "and why has your
countenance fallen?
7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you refuse to do
what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires you,† but you must
master it."
8 Then Cain spoke to his brother Abel.‡ And while they were in the field,
Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.
9 And the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"
"I do not know!" he answered. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
10 "What have you done?" replied the LORD. "The voice of your brother's
blood cries out to me from the ground.
11 Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has
opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.
12 When you till the ground, it will no longer yield its produce to you.
You will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."
13 But Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment§ is greater than I can bear.
14 Behold, this day you have driven me from the face of the earth, and
from your face I will be hidden; I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the
earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

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* **3:20 3:20** *Eve* sounds like the Hebrew for *giving life* or *living.* * **4:1 4:1** *Cain* sounds like the Hebrew for *acquired* or *brought forth.* † **4:7 4:7** Or *it desires to control you* ‡ **4:8 4:8** SP, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Then Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field."* § **4:13 4:13** Or *guilt* or *sin*

15 “Very well!”* replied the LORD. “If anyone slays Cain, then Cain will be
avenged sevenfold.” And the LORD placed a mark on Cain, so that no one
who found him would kill him.
16 So Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and settled in the
land of Nod,† east of Eden.
17 And Cain had relations with his wife, and she conceived and gave
birth to Enoch. Then Cain built a city and named it after his son Enoch.
18 Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael,
and Mehujael was the father of Methusael, and Methusael was the father
of Lamech.
19 And Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other
Zillah.
20 Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents
and raise livestock.
21 And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play
the harp and flute.
22 And Zillah gave birth to Tubal-cain, a forger of every implement of
bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.
23 Then Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
wives of Lamech, listen to my speech.
For I have slain a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.
24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold,
then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”‡
25 And Adam again had relations with his wife, and she gave birth to a
son and named him Seth,§ saying, “God has granted me another seed in
place of Abel, since Cain killed him.”
26 And to Seth also a son was born, and he called him Enosh.
At that time men began to call upon* the name of the LORD.

5

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God
created man, he made him in his own likeness.
2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them. And in the day
they were created, he called them “man.”*
3 When Adam was 130 years old, he had a son in his own likeness, after
his own image; and he named him Seth.
4 And after he had become the father of Seth, Adam lived 800 years and
had other sons and daughters.
5 So Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.
6 When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of Enosh.
7 And after he had become the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and
had other sons and daughters.
8 So Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.
9 When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan.

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* **4:15 4:15** Or *“Therefore:”*; LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *“Not so!”* † **4:16 4:16** *Nod* means *wandering*. ‡ **4:24 4:24** LXX can be translated as either *seventy times seven* or *seventy-sevenfold* § **4:25 4:25** *Seth* probably means *granted* or *appointed*. * **4:26 4:26** Or *to proclaim*; some translators *to invoke* or *to call themselves by* or *to profane* * **5:2 5:2** Hebrew *Adam*

10 And after he had become the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years
and had other sons and daughters.
11 So Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.
12 When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel.
13 And after he had become the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840
years and had other sons and daughters.
14 So Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.
15 When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared.
16 And after he had become the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830
years and had other sons and daughters.
17 So Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.
18 When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch.
19 And after he had become the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years
and had other sons and daughters.
20 So Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.
21 When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah.
22 And after he had become the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked
with God† 300 years and had other sons and daughters.
23 So Enoch lived a total of 365 years.
24 Enoch walked with God, and then he was no more, because God had
taken him away.‡
25 When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech.
26 And after he had become the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782
years and had other sons and daughters.
27 So Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.
28 When Lamech was 182 years old, he had a son.
29 And he named him Noah,§ saying, “May this one comfort us in the
labor and toil of our hands caused by the ground that the LORD has
cursed.”
30 And after he had become the father of Noah, Lamech lived 595 years
and had other sons and daughters.
31 So Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.
32 After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham,
and Japheth.

6

1 Now when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and
daughters were born to them,
2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and
they took as wives whomever they chose.
3 So the LORD said, “My spirit will not contend with man forever,* for he
is mortal; his days shall be 120 years.”
4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and afterward as
well—when the sons of God had relations with the daughters of men. And
they bore them children who became the mighty men of old, men of
renown.
5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the
earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was
altogether evil all the time.

† **5:22 5:22** LXX *pleased God*; also in verse 24 ‡ **5:24 5:24** LXX *and he was not found, because God had taken him away* § **5:29 5:29** *Noah* sounds like the Hebrew for *rest* or *comfort*. * **6:3 6:3** LXX and Syriac *my spirit will not remain in man forever*

6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he
was grieved in his heart.
7 So the LORD said, “I will blot out man, whom I have created, from the
face of the earth—every man and beast and crawling creature and bird of
the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.”
8 Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in
his generation; Noah walked with God.
10 And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and full of violence.
12 And God looked upon the earth and saw that it was corrupt; for all
living creatures† on the earth had corrupted their ways.
13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all living creatures has come
before me, because through them the earth is full of violence. Now
behold, I will destroy both them and the earth.
14 Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood;‡ make rooms in the ark and
coat it with pitch inside and out.
15 And this is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 300 cubits long, 50
cubits wide, and 30 cubits high.§
16 You are to make a skylight* for the ark, finish its walls a cubit from
the top,† place a door in the side of the ark, and build lower, middle, and
upper decks.
17 And behold, I will bring floodwaters upon the earth to destroy every
creature under the heavens that has the breath of life. Everything on the
earth will perish.
18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the
ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you.
19 And you are to bring two of every living creature into the ark—male
and female—to keep them alive with you.
20 Two of every kind of bird and animal and crawling creature will
come to you to be kept alive.
21 You are also to take for yourself every kind of food that is eaten and
gather it as food for yourselves and for the animals.”
22 So Noah did everything precisely as God had commanded him.

7

1 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your family,
because I have found you righteous in this generation.
2 You are to take with you seven pairs of* every kind of clean animal, a
male and its mate; a pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its
mate;
3 and seven pairs of every kind of bird of the air, male and female, to
preserve their offspring on the face of all the earth.
4 For seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days
and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living
thing I have made.”

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† **6:12 6:12** Literally *all flesh*; similarly in verses 13, 17, and 19 ‡ **6:14 6:14** *Gopher* is an unknown kind of tree; possibly *cypress* or *cedar*. § **6:15 6:15** The ark was approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (137.2 meters long, 22.9 meters wide, and 13.7 meters high). * **6:16 6:16** Or *roof* or *window* † **6:16 6:16** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters. * **7:2 7:2** Or *by sevens*; also in verse 3

5 And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.
6 Now Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters came upon the earth.
7 And Noah and his wife, with his sons and their wives, entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.
8 The clean and unclean animals, the birds, and everything that crawls along the ground
9 came to Noah to enter the ark, two by two, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.
10 And after seven days the floodwaters came upon the earth.
11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.
12 And the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.
13 On that very day Noah entered the ark, along with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and his wife, and the three wives of his sons—
14 they and every kind of wild animal, livestock, crawling creature, bird, and winged creature.
15 They came to Noah to enter the ark, two by two of every creature† with the breath of life.
16 And they entered, the male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.
17 For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and the waters rose and lifted the ark high above the earth.
18 So the waters continued to surge and rise greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the waters.
19 Finally, the waters completely prevailed upon the earth, so that all the high mountains under all the heavens were covered.
20 The waters rose and covered the mountaintops to a depth of fifteen cubits.‡
21 And every living thing that moved upon the earth perished—birds, livestock, animals, every creature that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind.
22 Of all that was on dry land, everything that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.
23 And every living thing on the face of the earth was destroyed—man and livestock, crawling creatures and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth, and only Noah and those with him in the ark remained.
24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth for 150 days.

8

1 But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. And God sent a wind over the earth, and the waters began to subside.
2 The springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens were closed, and the rain from the sky was restrained.
3 The waters receded steadily from the earth, and after 150 days the waters had gone down.
4 On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

† **7:15 7:15** Literally *of all flesh*; similarly in verses 16 and 21 ‡ **7:20 7:20** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters.

5 And the waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the
first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.
6 After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark
7 and sent out a raven. It kept flying back and forth until the waters had
dried up from the earth.
8 Then Noah sent out* a dove to see if the waters had receded from the
surface of the ground.
9 But the dove found no place to rest her foot, and she returned to him
in the ark, because the waters were still covering the surface of all the
earth. So he reached out his hand and brought her back inside the ark.
10 Noah waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the
ark.
11 And behold, the dove returned to him in the evening with a freshly
plucked olive leaf in her beak. So Noah knew that the waters had receded
from the earth.
12 And Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove again, but
this time she did not return to him.
13 In Noah's six hundred and first year, on the first day of the first
month, the waters had dried up from the earth. So Noah removed the
covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry.
14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was fully
dry.
15 Then God said to Noah,
16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife, along with your sons and
their wives.
17 Bring out all the living creatures that are with you—birds, livestock,
and everything that crawls upon the ground—so that they can spread out
over the earth and be fruitful and multiply upon it."
18 So Noah came out, along with his sons and his wife and his sons'
wives.
19 Every living creature, every creeping thing, and every
bird—everything that moves upon the earth—came out of the ark, kind by
kind.
20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. And taking from every kind of
clean animal and clean bird, he offered burnt offerings on the altar.
21 When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, he said in his heart,
"Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every
inclination of his heart is evil from his youth. And never again will I
destroy all living creatures as I have done.

22 As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
shall never cease."

9

1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and
multiply and fill the earth.

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* **8:8 8:8** Literally *sent out from him* or *sent out from it*

2 The fear and dread of you will fall on every living creature on the
earth, every bird of the air, every creature that crawls on the ground, and
all the fish of the sea. They are delivered into your hand.
3 Everything that lives and moves will be food for you; just as I gave you
the green plants, I now give you all things.
4 But you must not eat meat with its lifeblood still in it.
5 And surely I will require the life of any man or beast by whose hand
your lifeblood is shed. I will demand an accounting from anyone who
takes the life of his fellow man:

6 Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man his blood will be shed;
for in his own image
God has made mankind.
7 But as for you,
be fruitful and multiply;
spread out across the earth
and multiply upon it."
8 Then God said to Noah and his sons with him,
9 "Behold, I now establish my covenant with you and your descendants
after you,
10 and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the
livestock, and every beast of the earth—every living thing that came out of
the ark.
11 And I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut
off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the
earth."
12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between
me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all
generations to come:
13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the
covenant between me and the earth.
14 Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in
the clouds,
15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and every living
creature of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to
destroy all life.
16 And whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and
remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living
creature of every kind that is on the earth."
17 So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have
established between me and every creature on the earth."
18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and
Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan.
19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from them the whole earth
was populated.
20 Now Noah, a man of the soil, was the first* to plant a vineyard.
21 But when he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and uncovered
himself inside his tent.
22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told
his two brothers outside.

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* **9:20 9:20** Or *proceeded*

23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment and placed it across their
shoulders, and walking backward, they covered their father's nakedness.
Their faces were turned away so that they did not see their father's
nakedness.
24 When Noah awoke from his drunkenness and learned what his
youngest son had done to him,
25 he said,

"Cursed be Canaan!
A slave of slaves
shall he be to his brothers."
26 He also declared:

"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem!
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.
27 May God expand the territory of Japheth;†
may he dwell in the tents of Shem,
and may Canaan be his slave."
28 After the flood, Noah lived 350 years.
29 So Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died.

10

1 This is the account of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, who also
had sons after the flood.
2 The sons of Japheth:
Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.
3 The sons of Gomer:
Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.
4 And the sons of Javan:
Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites, and the Dodanites.*
5 From these, the maritime peoples separated into their territories,
according to their languages, by clans within their nations.
6 The sons of Ham:
Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.
7 The sons of Cush:
Seba, Havilah, Sabtah,† Raamah, and Sabteca.
And the sons of Raamah:
Sheba and Dedan.
8 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who began to be a mighty one‡ on the
earth.
9 He was a mighty hunter before§ the LORD; so it is said, "Like Nimrod, a
mighty hunter before the LORD."
10 His kingdom began in Babylon, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land
of Shinar.*
11 From that land he went forth into Assyria, where he built Nineveh,
Rehoboth-Ir, Calah,
12 and Resen, which is between Nineveh and the great city of Calah.
13 Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, the Anamites, the Lehabites,
the Naphtuhites,

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† **9:27 9:27** *Japheth* sounds like the Hebrew for *expand.* * **10:4 10:4** Leningrad Codex and most MT manuscripts; SP and some MT manuscripts (see also LXX and 1 Chronicles 1:7) *Rodanites* † **10:7 10:7** *Sabtah* is a variant of *Sabta*; see 1 Chronicles 1:9. ‡ **10:8 10:8** Or *who established himself as a mighty warrior* or *who became the first fearless leader* § **10:9 10:9** Or *in defiance of*; twice in this verse * **10:10 10:10** That is, Babylonia

14 the Pathrusites, the Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came), and
the Caphtorites.†
15 And Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn,‡ and of the Hittites,
16 the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,
17 the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,
18 the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.
Later the Canaanite clans were scattered,
19 and the borders of Canaan extended from Sidon toward Gerar as far
as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far
as Lasha.
20 These are the sons of Ham according to their clans, languages, lands,
and nations.
21 And sons were also born to Shem, the older brother of Japheth;§ Shem
was the forefather of all the sons of Eber.
22 The sons of Shem:
Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.
23 The sons of Aram:
Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.*
24 Arpachshad was the father of Shelah,† and Shelah was the father of
Eber.
25 Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg,‡ because in his
days the earth was divided, and his brother was named Joktan.
26 And Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,
27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,
28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba,
29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.
30 Their territory extended from Mesha to Sephar, in the eastern hill
country.
31 These are the sons of Shem, according to their clans, languages, lands,
and nations.
32 All these are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their generations
and nations. From these the nations of the earth spread out after the flood.

11

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common form of speech.
2 And as people journeyed from the east,* they found a plain in the land
of Shinar† and settled there.
3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them
thoroughly." So they used brick instead of stone, and tar instead of mortar.
4 "Come," they said, "let us build for ourselves a city with a tower that
reaches to the heavens, that we may make a name for ourselves and not
be scattered over the face of all the earth."
5 Then the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the sons
of men were building.
6 And the LORD said, "If they have begun to do this as one people
speaking the same language, then nothing they devise will be beyond
them.

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† **10:14 10:14** Some translators adjust the Hebrew word order to *the Casluhites, and the Caphtorites (from whom the Philistines came)*; see also Jeremiah 47:4 and Amos 9:7. ‡ **10:15 10:15** Or *of the Sidonians, the foremost* § **10:21 10:21** Or *Shem, whose older brother was Japheth* * **10:23 10:23** LXX and 1 Chronicles 1:17 *Meshech* † **10:24 10:24** LXX *And Arpachshad was the father of Cainan, and Cainan was the father of Shelah,* ‡ **10:25 10:25** *Peleg* means *division.* * **11:2 11:2** Or *eastward* or *in the east* † **11:2 11:2** That is, Babylonia

7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language, so that they will not
understand one another's speech."
8 So the LORD scattered them from there over the face of all the earth,
and they stopped building the city.
9 That is why it is called Babel,‡ for there the LORD confused the
language of the whole world, and from that place the LORD scattered
them over the face of all the earth.
10 This is the account of Shem. Two years after the flood, when Shem
was 100 years old, he became the father of Arpachshad.
11 And after he had become the father of Arpachshad, Shem lived 500
years and had other sons and daughters.
12 When Arpachshad was 35 years old, he became the father of Shelah.
13 And after he had become the father of Shelah, Arpachshad lived 403
years and had other sons and daughters.§
14 When Shelah was 30 years old, he became the father of Eber.
15 And after he had become the father of Eber, Shelah lived 403 years
and had other sons and daughters.
16 When Eber was 34 years old, he became the father of Peleg.
17 And after he had become the father of Peleg, Eber lived 430 years and
had other sons and daughters.
18 When Peleg was 30 years old, he became the father of Reu.
19 And after he had become the father of Reu, Peleg lived 209 years and
had other sons and daughters.
20 When Reu was 32 years old, he became the father of Serug.
21 And after he had become the father of Serug, Reu lived 207 years and
had other sons and daughters.
22 When Serug was 30 years old, he became the father of Nahor.
23 And after he had become the father of Nahor, Serug lived 200 years
and had other sons and daughters.
24 When Nahor was 29 years old, he became the father of Terah.
25 And after he had become the father of Terah, Nahor lived 119 years
and had other sons and daughters.
26 When Terah was 70 years old, he became the father of Abram, Nahor,
and Haran.
27 This is the account of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram,
Nahor, and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot.
28 During his father Terah's lifetime, Haran died in his native land, in Ur
of the Chaldeans.
29 And Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. Abram's wife was
named Sarai, and Nahor's wife was named Milcah; she was the daughter
of Haran, who was the father of both Milcah and Iscah.
30 But Sarai was barren; she had no children.
31 And Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his
daughter-in-law Sarai the wife of Abram, and they set out from Ur of the
Chaldeans for the land of Canaan. But when they arrived in Haran, they
settled there.

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‡ **11:9 11:9** Or *Babylon*; the Hebrew word for *Babel* sounds like the Hebrew for *confused.* § **11:13 11:13** LXX *(12) When Arpachshad was 135 years old, he became the father of Cainan. (13) And after he had become the father of Cainan, Arpachshad lived 430 years and had other sons and daughters, and then he died. When Cainan had lived 130 years, he became the father of Shelah. And after he had become the father of Shelah, Cainan lived 330 years and had other sons and daughters.* LXX also adds 100 years to the ages of Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, and Nahor in this genealogy.

32 Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

12

1 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Leave your country, your kindred, and
your father’s household, and go to the land I will show you.

2 I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you;
and all the families of the earth
will bless themselves by you.*”
4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had directed him, and Lot went with
him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.
5 And Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions
and people they had acquired in Haran, and set out for the land of Canaan.
When they came to the land of Canaan,
6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the Terebinth† of
Moreh at Shechem. And at that time the Canaanites were in the land.
7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to
your offspring.” So Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had
appeared to him.
8 From there Abram moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and
pitched his tent, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built
an altar to the LORD, and he called on the name of the LORD.
9 And Abram journeyed on toward the Negev.
10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to
live there for a while because the famine was severe.
11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “Look, I know
that you are a beautiful woman,
12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then
they will kill me but will let you live.
13 Please say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your
sake, and on account of you my life will be spared.”
14 So when Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman
was very beautiful.
15 When Pharaoh’s officials saw Sarai, they commended her to him, and
she was taken into the palace of Pharaoh.
16 He treated Abram well on her account, and Abram acquired sheep
and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female slaves, and camels.
17 The LORD, however, afflicted Pharaoh and his household with severe
plagues because of Abram’s wife Sarai.
18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram and asked, “What have you done to
me? Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife?
19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her as my wife? Now
then, here is your wife. Take her and go!”
20 Then Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning Abram, and they sent
him away with his wife and all his possessions.

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* **12:3 12:3** Or *will be blessed through you* † **12:6 12:6** Or *Oak* or *Great Tree*

13

1 So Abram went up out of Egypt into the Negev—he and his wife and all
his possessions—and Lot was with him.
2 And Abram had become extremely wealthy in livestock and silver and
gold.
3 From the Negev he journeyed from place to place toward Bethel, until
he came to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had formerly
been pitched,
4 to the site where he had built the altar. And there Abram called on the
name of the LORD.
5 Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks and herds and
tents.
6 But the land was unable to support both of them while they stayed
together, for they had so many possessions that they were unable to
coexist.
7 And there was discord between the herdsmen of Abram and the
herdsmen of Lot. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were also
living in the land.
8 So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no contention between you
and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen. After all, we are
kinsmen.
9 Is not the whole land before you? Now separate yourself from me. If
you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the
left.”
10 And Lot looked out and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan, all the
way to Zoar, was well watered like the garden of the LORD, like the land of
Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)
11 So Lot chose the whole plain of the Jordan for himself and set out
toward the east. And Abram and Lot parted company.
12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, but Lot settled in the cities of the
plain and pitched his tent toward Sodom.
13 But the men of Sodom were wicked, sinning greatly against the LORD.
14 After Lot had departed, the LORD said to Abram, “Now lift up your
eyes from the place where you are, and look to the north and south and
east and west,
15 for all the land that you see, I will give to you and your offspring
forever.
16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if one
could count the dust of the earth, then your offspring could be counted.
17 Get up and walk around the land, through its length and breadth, for I
will give it to you.”
18 So Abram moved his tent and went to live near the Terebinths* of
Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

14

1 In those days Amraphel king of Shinar,* Arioch king of Ellasar,
Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim
2 went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah,
Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela
(that is, Zoar).
3 The latter five came as allies to the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt
Sea†).

* **13:18 13:18** Or *Oaks* or *Great Trees* * **14:1 14:1** That is, Babylonia; also in verse 9 † **14:3 14:3** That is, the Dead Sea

4 For twelve years they had been subject to Chedorlaomer, but in the
thirteenth year they rebelled.
5 In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer and the kings allied with him
went out and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzites in
Ham, the Emites in Shaveh-kiriathaim,
6 and the Horites in the area of Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is
near the desert.
7 Then they turned back to invade En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they
conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites
who lived in Hazazon-tamar.
8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the
king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and
arrayed themselves for battle in the Valley of Siddim‡
9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel
king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five.
10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and as the kings of
Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some men fell into the pits, but the survivors
fled to the hill country.
11 The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all
their food, and they went on their way.
12 They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since
Lot was living in Sodom.
13 Then an escapee came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now
Abram was living near the Terebinths§ of Mamre the Amorite, a brother
of Eshcol and Aner, all of whom were bound by treaty* to Abram.
14 And when Abram heard that his relative had been captured, he
mobilized the 318 trained men born in his household, and they set out in
pursuit as far as Dan.
15 During the night, Abram divided his forces and routed
Chedorlaomer's army, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.
16 He retrieved all the goods, as well as his relative Lot and his
possessions, together with the women and the rest of the people.
17 After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings
allied with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of
Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).
18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine—since
he was priest of God Most High†—
19 and he blessed Abram and said:

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth,
20 and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand."
Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.
21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, but take the
goods for yourself."
22 But Abram replied to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the
LORD God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

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‡ **14:8 14:8** That is, the Valley of the Dead Sea § **14:13 14:13** Or *Oaks* or *Great Trees* * **14:13 14:13** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*. † **14:18 14:18** Hebrew *El-Elyon*; also in verses 19, 20, and 22

23 that I will not accept even a thread, or a strap of a sandal, or anything
that belongs to you, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'
24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share for
the men who went with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre. They may take
their portion."

15

1 After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward."
2 But Abram replied, "O Lord GOD, what can you give me, since I remain
childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"
3 Abram continued, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, so a
servant in my household will be my heir."
4 Then the word of the LORD came to Abram, saying, "This one will not
be your heir, but one who comes from your own body will be your heir."
5 And the LORD took him outside and said, "Now look to the heavens and
count the stars, if you are able." Then he told him, "So shall your offspring
be."
6 Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as
righteousness.*
7 The LORD also told him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of
the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."
8 But Abram replied, "Lord GOD, how can I know that I will possess it?"
9 And the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each
three years old, along with a turtledove and a young pigeon."
10 So Abram brought all these to him, split each of them down the
middle, and laid the halves opposite each other. The birds, however, he did
not cut in half.
11 And the birds of prey descended on the carcasses, but Abram drove
them away.
12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and suddenly
great terror and darkness overwhelmed him.
13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your
descendants will be strangers in a land that is not their own, and they will
be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.
14 But I will judge the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they
will depart with many possessions.
15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe
old age.
16 In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the
iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."
17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, behold, a smoking
firepot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the halves of
the carcasses.
18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your
descendants I have given this land—from the river of Egypt to the great
River Euphrates—

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* **15:6 15:6** Hebrew *and he reckoned it to him as righteousness*: either the LORD credited it to Abram, or Abram counted it to the LORD as righteousness.

19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,
20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,
21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites."

16

1 Now Abram's wife Sarai had borne him no children, but she had an
Egyptian slave woman named Hagar.
2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Look now, the LORD has prevented me from
bearing children. Please go to my slave woman; perhaps I can build a
family by her."
And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
3 So after he had lived in Canaan for ten years, his wife Sarai took her
Egyptian slave woman Hagar and gave her to her husband Abram to be
his wife.
4 And he slept with Hagar, and she conceived. But when Hagar realized
that she was pregnant, her mistress became despised in her sight.*
5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be upon you! I
delivered my slave woman into your arms, and ever since she saw that
she was pregnant, she has treated me with contempt. May the LORD judge
between you and me."
6 "Here," said Abram, "your slave woman is in your hands. Do whatever
you want with her." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she fled from
her.
7 Now the angel of the LORD found Hagar by a spring of water in the
desert—the spring along the road to Shur.
8 "Hagar, slave of Sarai," he said, "where have you come from, and where
are you going?"
"I am running away from my mistress Sarai," she replied.
9 So the angel of the LORD told her, "Return to your mistress and submit
to her authority."
10 Then the angel added, "I will greatly multiply your offspring so that
they will be too numerous to count."
11 The angel of the LORD proceeded:

"Behold, you have conceived and will bear a son.
And you shall name him Ishmael,†
for the LORD has heard your cry of affliction.
12 He will be a wild donkey of a man,
and his hand will be against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him;
he will live in hostility
toward all his brothers."
13 So Hagar gave this name to the LORD who had spoken to her: "You are
the God who sees me,‡" for she said, "Here I have seen the One who sees
me!"
14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi.§ It is located between
Kadesh and Bered.
15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to
the son she had borne.
16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

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* **16:4 16:4** Or *she began to despise her mistress* † **16:11 16:11** *Ishmael* means *God hears.* ‡ **16:13 16:13** Hebrew *El-Roi* § **16:14 16:14** *Beer-lahai-roi* means *well of the Living One who sees me.*

17

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him
and said, “I am God Almighty.* Walk before me and be blameless.
2 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and I will multiply
you exceedingly.”
3 Then Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,
4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of
many nations.
5 No longer will you be called Abram,† but your name will be Abraham,‡
for I have made you a father of many nations.
6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; I will make nations of you, and
kings will descend from you.
7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me
and you and your descendants after you, to be your God and the God of
your descendants after you.
8 And to you and your descendants I will give the land where you are
residing—all the land of Canaan—as an eternal possession; and I will be
their God.”
9 God also said to Abraham, “You must keep my covenant—you and your
descendants in the generations after you.
10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, which
you are to keep: Every male among you must be circumcised.
11 You are to circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and this will be a sign
of the covenant between me and you.
12 Generation after generation, every male must be circumcised when
he is eight days old, including those born in your household and those
purchased from a foreigner—even those who are not your offspring.
13 Whether they are born in your household or purchased, they must be
circumcised. My covenant in your flesh will be an everlasting covenant.
14 But any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his
foreskin will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”
15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, do not call her
Sarai, for her name is to be Sarah.§
16 And I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless
her, and she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will descend
from her.”
17 Abraham fell facedown. Then he laughed and said to himself, “Can a
child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah give birth
at the age of ninety?”
18 And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live under your
blessing!”
19 But God replied, “Your wife Sarah will indeed bear you a son, and you
are to name him Isaac.* I will establish my covenant with him as an
everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.
20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you, and I will surely bless him; I will
make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He will become the father of
twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

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* **17:1 17:1** Hebrew *El-Shaddai* † **17:5 17:5** *Abram* means *exalted father*. ‡ **17:5 17:5** *Abraham* means *father of many*. § **17:15 17:15** Both *Sarai* and *Sarah* mean *princess*; the change in spelling may reflect the difference in dialect between Ur and Canaan. * **17:19 17:19** *Isaac* means *he laughs*.

21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to
you at this time next year."
22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from
him.
23 On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in
his household or purchased with his money—every male among the
members of Abraham's household—and he circumcised them, just as God
had told him.
24 So Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised,
25 and his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised
in the flesh of his foreskin;
26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised on the same day.
27 And all the men of Abraham's household—both servants born in his
household and those purchased from foreigners—were circumcised with
him.

18

1 Then the LORD appeared to Abraham by the Terebinths* of Mamre in
the heat of the day, while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent.
2 And Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he
saw them, he ran from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed
low to the ground.
3 "My lord," said Abraham, "if I have found favor in your sight, please do
not pass your servant by.
4 Let a little water be brought, that you may wash your feet and rest
yourselves under the tree.
5 And I will bring a bit of bread so that you may refresh yourselves. This
is why you have passed your servant's way. After that, you may continue
on your way."
"Yes," they replied, "you may do as you have said."
6 So Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick! Prepare
three seahs of fine flour,† knead it, and bake some bread."
7 Meanwhile, Abraham ran to the herd, selected a tender and choice
calf, and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.
8 Then Abraham brought curds and milk and the calf that had been
prepared, and he set them before the men and stood by them under the
tree as they ate.
9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked.
"There, in the tent," he replied.
10 Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year,
and your wife Sarah will have a son!"
Now Sarah was behind him, listening at the entrance to the tent.
11 And Abraham and Sarah were already old and well along in years;
Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.
12 So she laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out and my master
is old, will I now have this pleasure?"
13 And the LORD asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Can I
really bear a child when I am old?'
14 Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will
return to you—in about a year—and Sarah will have a son."

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* **18:1 18:1** Or *Oaks* or *Great Trees* † **18:6 18:6** *3 seahs* is approximately 19.8 dry quarts or 21.9 liters (probably about 24.5 pounds or 11.1 kilograms of flour).

15 But Sarah was afraid, so she denied it and said, “I did not laugh.”
“No,” replied the LORD, “but you did laugh.”
16 When the men got up to leave, they looked out over Sodom, and
Abraham walked along with them to see them off.
17 And the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?
18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all the
nations of the earth will bless themselves by him.‡
19 For I have chosen him, so that he will command his children and his
household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right
and just, in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what he has
promised.”
20 Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is
great. Because their sin is so grievous,
21 I will go down to see if their actions fully justify the outcry that has
reached me. If not, I will find out.”
22 And the men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham
remained standing before the LORD.
23 Abraham stepped forward and said, “Will you really sweep away the
righteous with the wicked?
24 What if there are fifty righteous ones in the city? Will you really
sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous
ones who are there?
25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the
wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it
from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”
26 So the LORD replied, “If I find fifty righteous ones within the city of
Sodom, on their account I will spare the whole place.”
27 Then Abraham answered, “Now that I have ventured to speak to the
Lord—though I am but dust and ashes—
28 suppose the fifty righteous ones lack five. Will you destroy the whole
city for the lack of five?”
He replied, “If I find forty-five there, I will not destroy it.”
29 Once again Abraham spoke to the LORD, “Suppose forty are found
there?”
He answered, “On account of the forty, I will not do it.”
30 Then Abraham said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak
further. Suppose thirty are found there?”
He replied, “If I find thirty there, I will not do it.”
31 And Abraham said, “Now that I have ventured to speak to the Lord,
suppose twenty are found there?”
He answered, “On account of the twenty, I will not destroy it.”
32 Finally, Abraham said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak
once more. Suppose ten are found there?”
And he answered, “On account of the ten, I will not destroy it.”
33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he departed,
and Abraham returned home.

19

1 Now the two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was
sitting in the gateway of the city. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet
them, bowed facedown,

‡ **18:18 18:18** Or *and through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed*

2 and said, “My lords, please turn aside into the house of your servant;
wash your feet and spend the night. Then you can rise early and go on
your way.”
“No,” they answered, “we will spend the night in the square.”
3 But Lot insisted so strongly that they followed him into his house. He
prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.
4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men of the city of Sodom, both
young and old, surrounded the house.
5 They called out to Lot, saying, “Where are the men who came to you
tonight? Send them out to us so we can have relations with them!”
6 Lot went outside to meet them, shutting the door behind him.
7 “Please, my brothers,” he pleaded, “don’t do such a wicked thing!
8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me
bring them to you, and you can do to them as you please. But do not do
anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my
roof.”
9 “Get out of the way!” they replied. And they declared, “This one came
here as a foreigner, and he is already acting like a judge! Now we will
treat you worse than them.” And they pressed in on Lot and moved in to
break down the door.
10 But the men inside reached out, pulled Lot into the house with them,
and shut the door.
11 And they struck the men at the entrance, young and old, with
blindness, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the door.
12 Then the men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here—a
son-in-law, your sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs
to you? Get them out of here,
13 because we are about to destroy this place. For the outcry to the LORD
against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.”
14 So Lot went out and spoke to the sons-in-law who were pledged in
marriage to his daughters. “Get up,” he said. “Get out of this place, for the
LORD is about to destroy the city!” But his sons-in-law thought he was
joking.
15 At daybreak the angels hurried Lot along, saying, “Get up! Take your
wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in
the punishment of the city.”
16 But when Lot hesitated, the men grabbed his hand and the hands of
his wife and his two daughters. And they led them safely out of the city,
because of the LORD’s compassion for them.
17 As soon as the men had brought them out, one of them said, “Run for
your lives! Do not look back, and do not stop anywhere on the plain! Flee
to the mountains, or you will be swept away!”
18 But Lot replied, “No, my lords, please!
19 Your servant has indeed found favor in your sight, and you have
shown me great kindness by sparing my life. But I cannot run to the
mountains; the disaster will overtake me, and I will die.
20 Look, there is a town nearby where I can flee, and it is a small place.
Please let me flee there—is it not a small place? Then my life will be
saved.”
21 “Very well,” he answered, “I will grant this request as well, and will not
demolish the town you indicate.

22 Hurry! Run there quickly, for I cannot do anything until you reach it."
That is why the town was called Zoar.*
23 And by the time the sun had risen over the land, Lot had reached Zoar.
24 Then the LORD rained down sulfur and fire on Sodom and
Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens.
25 Thus he destroyed these cities and the entire plain, including all the
inhabitants of the cities and everything that grew on the ground.
26 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.
27 Early the next morning, Abraham got up and returned to the place
where he had stood before the LORD.
28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the
plain, and he saw the smoke rising from the land like smoke from a
furnace.
29 So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered
Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that destroyed the
cities where he had lived.
30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains—for
he was afraid to stay in Zoar—where they lived in a cave.
31 One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and
there is no man in the land to sleep with us, as is the custom over all the
earth.
32 Come, let us get our father drunk with wine so we can sleep with him
and preserve his line."
33 So that night they got their father drunk with wine, and the firstborn
went in and slept with her father; he was not aware when she lay down or
when she got up.
34 The next day the older daughter said to the younger, "Look, I slept
with my father last night. Let us get him drunk with wine again tonight so
you can go in and sleep with him and we can preserve our father's line."
35 So again that night they got their father drunk with wine, and the
younger daughter went in and slept with him; he was not aware when she
lay down or when she got up.
36 Thus both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.
37 The older daughter gave birth to a son and named him Moab.† He is
the father of the Moabites of today.
38 The younger daughter also gave birth to a son, and she named him
Ben-ammi.‡ He is the father of the Ammonites of today.

20

1 Now Abraham journeyed from there to the region of the Negev and
settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was staying in Gerar,
2 Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king
of Gerar had Sarah brought to him.
3 One night, however, God came to Abimelech in a dream and told him,
"You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken, for she is
a married woman."
4 Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he replied, "Lord, would you
destroy a nation even though it is innocent?

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* **19:22 19:22** *Zoar* means *small.* † **19:37 19:37** *Moab* sounds like the Hebrew for *from my father*.
‡ **19:38 19:38** *Ben-ammi* means *son of my people.*

5 Didn't Abraham tell me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is
my brother.' I have done this in the integrity of my heart and the
innocence of my hands."
6 Then God said to Abimelech in the dream, "Yes, I know that you did
this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against
me. That is why I did not let you touch her.
7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet; he will pray for you
and you will live. But if you do not restore her, be aware that you will
surely die—you and all who belong to you."
8 Early the next morning Abimelech got up and summoned all his
servants; and when he described to them all that had happened, the men
were terrified.
9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and asked, "What have you done to
us? How have I sinned against you, that you have brought such
tremendous guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me
that should not be done."
10 Abimelech also asked Abraham, "What prompted you to do such a
thing?"
11 Abraham replied, "I thought to myself, 'Surely there is no fear of God
in this place. They will kill me on account of my wife.'
12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father—though not
the daughter of my mother—and she became my wife.
13 So when God had me journey from my father's house, I said to Sarah,
'This is how you can show your loyalty to me: Wherever we go, say of me,
"He is my brother." ' "
14 So Abimelech brought sheep and cattle, male and female slaves, and
he gave them to Abraham and restored his wife Sarah to him.
15 And Abimelech said, "Look, my land is before you. Settle wherever
you please."
16 And he said to Sarah, "See, I am giving your brother a thousand pieces
of silver.* It is your vindication before all who are with you; you are
completely cleared."
17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife
and his female slaves, so that they could again bear children—
18 for on account of Abraham's wife Sarah, the LORD had completely
closed all the wombs in Abimelech's household.

21

1 Now the LORD attended to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for
Sarah what he had promised.
2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the
very time God had promised.
3 And Abraham gave the name Isaac* to the son Sarah bore to him.
4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as
God had commanded him.
5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
6 Then Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears of
this will laugh with me."
7 She added, "Who would have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse
children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

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* **20:16 20:16** Or *a thousand shekels of silver*; that is, approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver * **21:3 21:3** *Isaac* means *he laughs*.

8 So the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on
the day Isaac was weaned.
9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to
Abraham was mocking,†
10 and she said to Abraham, “Expel the slave woman and her son, for the
slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac!”
11 Now this matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his
son Ishmael.
12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed about the boy and
your slave woman. Listen to everything that Sarah tells you, for through
Isaac your offspring will be reckoned.
13 But I will also make a nation of the slave woman’s son, because he is
your offspring.”
14 Early in the morning, Abraham got up, took bread and a skin of water,
put them on Hagar’s shoulders, and sent her away with the boy. She left
and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.
15 When the water in the skin was gone, she left the boy under one of
the bushes.
16 Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for
she said, “I cannot bear to watch the boy die!” And as she sat nearby, she
lifted up her voice and wept.‡
17 Then God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to
Hagar from heaven, “What is wrong, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has
heard the voice of the boy where he lies.
18 Get up, lift up the boy, and take him by the hand, for I will make him
into a great nation.”
19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. So she went
and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.
20 And God was with the boy, and he grew up and settled in the
wilderness and became a great archer.
21 And while he was dwelling in the Wilderness of Paran, his mother got
a wife for him from the land of Egypt.
22 At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to
Abraham, “God is with you in all that you do.
23 Now, therefore, swear to me here before God that you will not deal
falsely with me or my children or descendants. Show to me and to the
country in which you reside the same kindness that I have shown to you.”
24 And Abraham replied, “I swear it.”
25 But when Abraham complained to Abimelech about a well that
Abimelech’s servants had seized,
26 Abimelech replied, “I do not know who has done this. You did not tell
me, so I have not heard about it until today.”
27 So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech,
and the two men made a covenant.
28 Abraham separated seven ewe lambs from the flock,
29 and Abimelech asked him, “Why have you set apart these seven ewe
lambs?”
30 He replied, “You are to accept the seven ewe lambs from my hand as
my witness that I dug this well.”

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† **21:9 21:9** LXX and Vulgate add *her son* ‡ **21:16 21:16** LXX *the child lifted up his voice and wept*

31 So that place was called Beersheba,§ because it was there that the two
of them swore an oath.
32 After they had made the covenant at Beersheba, Abimelech and Phicol
the commander of his army got up and returned to the land of the
Philistines.
33 And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he
called upon the name of the LORD, the Eternal God.*
34 And Abraham resided in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

22

1 Some time later God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he answered.
2 “Take your son,” God said, “your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go
to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the
mountains, which I will show you.”
3 So Abraham got up early the next morning, saddled his donkey, and
took along two of his servants and his son Isaac. He split the wood for a
burnt offering and set out for the place God had designated.
4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.
5 “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told his servants. “The boy and I
will go over there to worship, and then we will return to you.”
6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son
Isaac. He himself carried the fire and the sacrificial knife, and the two of
them walked on together.
7 Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!”
“Here I am, my son,” he replied.
“The fire and the wood are here,” said Isaac, “but where is the lamb for
the burnt offering?”
8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt
offering, my son.” And the two walked on together.
9 When they arrived at the place God had designated, Abraham built the
altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed
him on the altar, atop the wood.
10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter
his son.
11 Just then the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven,
“Abraham, Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he replied.
12 “Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him,” said the angel,
“for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only
son from me.*”
13 Then Abraham looked up and saw behind him a ram† in a thicket,
caught by its horns. So he went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt
offering in place of his son.
14 And Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.‡ So to this day
it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”
15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second
time,

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§ **21:31 21:31** *Beersheba* means *well of seven* or *well of the oath.* * **21:33 21:33** Hebrew *El-Olam*
* **22:12 22:12** Or *from me* † **22:13 22:13** Most MT manuscripts; other Hebrew manuscripts, SP, LXX, and Syriac *saw one ram* ‡ **22:14 22:14** Hebrew *YHWH Yireh*

16 saying, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, that because you
have done this and have not withheld your only son,
17 I will surely bless you, and I will multiply your descendants like the
stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will
possess the gates of their enemies.
18 And all nations of the earth will bless themselves by your offspring,§
because you have obeyed my voice.”
19 Abraham went back to his servants, and they got up and set out
together for Beersheba. And Abraham settled in Beersheba.
20 Some time later, Abraham was told, “Milcah has also borne sons to
your brother Nahor:
21 Uz the firstborn, his brother Buz, Kemuel (the father of Aram),
22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.”
23 And Bethuel became the father of Rebekah. Milcah bore these eight
sons to Abraham’s brother Nahor.
24 Moreover, Nahor’s concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah,
Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

23

1 Now Sarah lived to be 127 years old.
2 She died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and
Abraham went out to mourn and to weep for her.
3 Then Abraham got up from beside his dead wife and said to the
Hittites,*
4 “I am a foreigner and an outsider among you. Give me a burial site
among you so that I can bury my dead.”
5 The Hittites replied to Abraham,
6 “Listen to us, sir. You are God’s chosen one among us. Bury your dead
in the finest of our tombs. None of us will withhold his tomb for burying
your dead.”
7 Then Abraham rose and bowed down before the people of the land,
the Hittites.
8 “If you are willing for me to bury my dead,” he said to them, “listen to
me, and approach Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf
9 to sell me the cave of Machpelah that belongs to him; it is at the end of
his field. Let him sell it to me in your presence for full price, so that I may
have a burial site.”
10 Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth. So in the presence of
all the Hittites who had come to the gate of his city, Ephron the Hittite
answered Abraham,
11 “No, my lord. Listen to me. I give you the field, and I give you the cave
that is in it. I give it to you in the presence of my people. Bury your dead.”
12 Again Abraham bowed down before the people of the land
13 and said to Ephron in their presence, “If you will please listen to me, I
will pay you the price of the field. Accept it from me, so that I may bury
my dead there.”
14 Ephron answered Abraham,
15 “Listen to me, my lord. The land is worth four hundred shekels of
silver,† but what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.”

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§ **22:18 22:18** Or *And through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed* * **23:3 23:3** Or *sons of Heth*; also in verses 5, 7, 10, 16, 18, and 20 † **23:15 23:15** *400 shekels* is approximately 10.1 pounds or 4.6 kilograms of silver; also in verse 16.

16 Abraham agreed to Ephron's terms and weighed out for him the price
he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of
silver, according to the standard of the merchants.
17 So Ephron's field at Machpelah near Mamre, the cave that was in it,
and all the trees within the boundaries of the field were deeded over
18 to Abraham's possession in the presence of all the Hittites who had
come to the gate of his city.
19 After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field at
Machpelah near Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.
20 So the field and its cave were deeded by the Hittites to Abraham as a
burial site.

24

1 By now Abraham was old and well along in years, and the LORD had
blessed him in every way.
2 So Abraham instructed the chief servant of his household, who
managed all he owned, "Place your hand under my thigh,
3 and I will have you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God
of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the
Canaanites among whom I am dwelling,
4 but will go to my country and my kindred to take a wife for my son
Isaac."
5 The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to follow me
to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the land from which you
came?"
6 Abraham replied, "Make sure that you do not take my son back there.
7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me from my father's house
and my native land, who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying,
'To your offspring I will give this land'—he will send his angel before you
so that you can take a wife for my son from there.
8 And if the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are released
from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there."
9 So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham
and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.
10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed with all
manner of good things from his master in hand. And he set out for
Nahor's hometown in Aram-naharaim.*
11 As evening approached, he made the camels kneel down near the well
outside the town at the time when the women went out to draw water.
12 "O LORD, God of my master Abraham," he prayed, "please grant me
success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.
13 Here I am, standing beside the spring, and the daughters of the
townspeople are coming out to draw water.
14 Now may it happen that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your
jar that I may drink,' and who responds, 'Drink, and I will water your
camels as well'—let her be the one you have appointed for your servant
Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."
15 Before the servant had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her
jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, the
wife of Abraham's brother Nahor.

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* **24:10 24:10** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia.

16 Now the girl was very beautiful, a virgin who had not had relations
with any man. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up
again.
17 So the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please let me have a little
water from your jar.”
18 “Drink, my lord,” she replied, and she quickly lowered her jar to her
hands and gave him a drink.
19 After she had given him a drink, she said, “I will also draw water for
your camels, until they have had enough to drink.”
20 And she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran back to the
well to draw water, until she had drawn water for all his camels.
21 Meanwhile, the man watched her silently to see whether or not the
LORD had made his journey a success.
22 And after the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring
weighing a beka,† and two gold bracelets for her wrists weighing ten
shekels.‡
23 “Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “Please tell me, is there room in
your father’s house for us to spend the night?”
24 She replied, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to
Nahor.”
25 Then she added, “We have plenty of straw and feed, as well as a place
for you to spend the night.”
26 Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD,
27 saying, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who
has not withheld his kindness and faithfulness from my master. As for me,
the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.”
28 The girl ran and told her mother’s household about these things.
29 Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he rushed out to the
man at the spring.
30 As soon as he saw the ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and
heard Rebekah’s words, “The man said this to me,” he went and found the
man standing by the camels near the spring.
31 “Come, you who are blessed by the LORD,” said Laban. “Why are you
standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.”
32 So the man came to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw
and feed were brought to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the
feet of his companions.
33 Then a meal was set before the man, but he said, “I will not eat until I
have told you what I came to say.”
So Laban said, “Please speak.”
34 “I am Abraham’s servant,” he replied.
35 “The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become rich. He
has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female slaves,
camels and donkeys.
36 My master’s wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and my
master has given him everything he owns.
37 My master made me swear an oath and said, ‘You shall not take a wife
for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I dwell,
38 but you shall go to my father’s house and to my kindred to take a wife
for my son.’

† **24:22 24:22** *A beka* is half a shekel, or approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams. ‡ **24:22 24:22** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams.

39 Then I asked my master, ‘What if the woman will not come back with
me?’
40 And he told me, ‘The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his
angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you may take a
wife for my son from my kindred and from my father’s house.
41 And when you go to my kindred, if they refuse to give her to you, then
you will be released from my oath.’
42 So when I came to the spring today, I prayed: O LORD, God of my
master Abraham, if only you would make my journey a success!
43 Here I am, standing beside this spring. Now if a maiden comes out to
draw water and I say to her, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your
jar,’
44 and she replies, ‘Drink, and I will draw water for your camels as well,’
may she be the woman the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.
45 And before I had finished praying in my heart, there was Rebekah
coming out with her jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring
and drew water. So I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’
46 She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I
will water your camels as well.’ So I drank, and she also watered the
camels.
47 Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’
She replied, ‘The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore
to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.
48 Then I bowed down and worshiped the LORD; and I blessed the LORD,
the God of my master Abraham, who led me on the right road to take the
granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son.
49 Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me;
but if not, let me know, so that I may go elsewhere.”
50 Laban and Bethuel answered, “This is from the LORD; we have no
choice in the matter.
51 Rebekah is here before you. Take her and go, and let her become the
wife of your master’s son, just as the LORD has decreed.”
52 When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed down to the
ground before the LORD.
53 Then he brought out jewels of silver and gold, and articles of clothing,
and he gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious gifts to her brother
and her mother.
54 Then he and the men with him ate and drank and spent the night
there.
When they got up the next morning, he said, “Send me on my way to my
master.”
55 But her brother and mother said, “Let the girl remain with us ten days
or so. After that, she may go.”
56 But he replied, “Do not delay me, since the LORD has made my
journey a success. Send me on my way so that I may go to my master.”
57 So they said, “We will call the girl and ask her opinion.”
58 They called Rebekah and asked her, “Will you go with this man?”
“I will go,” she replied.
59 So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse
and Abraham’s servant and his men.
60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“Our sister, may you become the mother

of thousands upon thousands.
May your offspring possess
the gates of their enemies."
61 Then Rebekah and her servant girls got ready, mounted the camels,
and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.
62 Now Isaac had just returned from Beer-lahai-roi, for he was living in
the Negev.
63 Early in the evening, Isaac went out to the field to meditate, and
looking up, he saw the camels approaching.
64 And when Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she got down from her
camel
65 and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet
us?"
"It is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered
herself.
66 Then the servant told Isaac all that he had done.
67 And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah and took
Rebekah as his wife. And Isaac loved her and was comforted after his
mother's death.

25

1 Now Abraham had taken another wife, named Keturah,
2 and she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
3 Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan
were the Asshurites, the Letushites, and the Leummites.
4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.
All these were descendants of Keturah.
5 Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac.
6 But while he was still alive, Abraham gave gifts to the sons of his
concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.
7 Abraham lived a total of 175 years.
8 And at a ripe old age he breathed his last and died, old and contented,
and was gathered to his people.
9 His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near
Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite.
10 This was the field that Abraham had bought from the Hittites.
Abraham was buried there with his wife Sarah.
11 After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who lived near
Beer-lahai-roi.
12 This is the account of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Hagar the
Egyptian, Sarah's slave woman, bore to Abraham.
13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael in the order of their birth:
Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,
14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,
15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.
16 These were the sons of Ishmael, and these were their names by their
villages and encampments—twelve princes of their tribes.
17 Ishmael lived a total of 137 years. Then he breathed his last and died,
and was gathered to his people.
18 Ishmael's descendants settled from Havilah to Shur, which is near the
border of Egypt as you go toward Asshur.* And they lived in hostility
toward all their brothers.

* **25:18 25:18** Or *Assyria*

19 This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the
father of Isaac,
20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, the daughter
of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram† and the sister of Laban the
Aramean.
21 Later, Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was
barren. And the LORD heard his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
22 But the children inside her struggled with each other, and she said,
"Why is this happening to me?" So Rebekah went to inquire of the LORD,
23 and he declared to her:

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."
24 When her time came to give birth, there were indeed twins in her
womb.
25 The first one came out red, covered with hair like a fur coat; so they
named him Esau.‡
26 After this, his brother came out with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so
he was named Jacob.§ And Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were
born.
27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the
field, while Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home.
28 Because Isaac had a taste for wild game, he loved Esau; but Rebekah
loved Jacob.
29 One day, while Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the
field and was famished.
30 He said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am famished."
(That is why he was also called Edom.*)
31 "First sell me your birthright," Jacob replied.
32 "Look," said Esau, "I am about to die, so what good is a birthright to
me?"
33 "Swear to me first," Jacob said.
So Esau swore to Jacob and sold him the birthright.
34 Then Jacob gave some bread and lentil stew to Esau, who ate and
drank and then got up and went away. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

26

1 Now there was another famine in the land, subsequent to the one that
had occurred in Abraham's time. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the
Philistines at Gerar.
2 The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt. Settle
in the land where I tell you.
3 Stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be with you and bless you.
For I will give all these lands to you and your offspring, and I will confirm
the oath that I swore to your father Abraham.

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† **25:20 25:20** That is, northwest Mesopotamia ‡ **25:25 25:25** *Esau* sounds like a Hebrew term that means *hairy*. § **25:26 25:26** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives*. * **25:30 25:30** *Edom* means *red*.

4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, and I
will give them all these lands, and all nations of the earth will bless
themselves by your offspring,*
5 because Abraham listened to my voice and kept my charge, my
commandments, my statutes, and my laws."
6 So Isaac settled in Gerar.
7 But when the men of that place asked about his wife, he said, "She is
my sister." For he was afraid to say, "She is my wife," since he thought to
himself, "The men of this place will kill me on account of Rebekah,
because she is so beautiful."
8 When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the
Philistines looked down from the window and was surprised to see Isaac
caressing his wife Rebekah.
9 Abimelech sent for Isaac and said, "So she is really your wife! How
could you say, 'She is my sister'?"
Isaac replied, "Because I thought I might die on account of her."
10 "What is this you have done to us?" asked Abimelech. "One of the
people could easily have slept with your wife, and you would have
brought guilt upon us."
11 So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, "Whoever harms this
man or his wife will surely be put to death."
12 Now Isaac sowed seed in the land, and that very year he reaped a
hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him,
13 and he became richer and richer, until he was exceedingly wealthy.
14 He owned so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines
envied him.
15 So the Philistines took dirt and stopped up all the wells that his
father's servants had dug in the days of his father Abraham.
16 Then Abimelech said to Isaac, "Depart from us, for you are much too
powerful for us."
17 So Isaac left that place and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and
settled there.
18 Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the days of his father
Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died. And
he gave these wells the same names his father had given them.
19 Then Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found a well of flowing
water† there.
20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen and said,
"The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek,‡ because they contended
with him.
21 Then they dug another well and quarreled over that one also; so he
named it Sitnah.§
22 He moved on from there and dug another well, and they did not
quarrel over it. He named it Rehoboth* and said, "At last the LORD has
made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."
23 From there Isaac went up to Beersheba,
24 and that night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of
your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you
and multiply your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."

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* **26:4 26:4** Or *and through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed* † **26:19 26:19** Or *fresh water* or *living water* ‡ **26:20 26:20** *Esek* means *contention.* § **26:21 26:21** *Sitnah* means *enmity* or *hostility.* * **26:22 26:22** *Rehoboth* means *broad places* or *open spaces.*

25 So Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and
he pitched his tent there. His servants also dug a well there.
26 Later, Abimelech came to Isaac from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his adviser
and Phicol the commander of his army.
27 "Why have you come to me?" Isaac asked them. "You hated me and
sent me away."
28 "We can plainly see that the LORD has been with you," they replied.
"We recommend that there should now be an oath between us and you.
Let us make a covenant with you
29 that you will not harm us, just as we have not harmed you but have
done only good to you, sending you on your way in peace. And now you
are blessed by the LORD."
30 So Isaac prepared a feast for them, and they ate and drank.
31 And they got up early the next morning and swore an oath to each
other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they left him in peace.
32 On that same day, Isaac's servants came and told him about the well
they had dug. "We have found water!" they told him.
33 So he called it Shibah,† and to this day the name of the city is
Beersheba.‡
34 When Esau was forty years old, he took as his wives Judith daughter
of Beeri the Hittite and Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite.
35 And they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

27

1 When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer
see, he called his older son Esau and said to him, "My son."
"Here I am," Esau replied.
2 "Look," said Isaac, "I am now old, and I do not know the day of my
death.
3 Take your weapons—your quiver and bow—and go out into the field to
hunt some game for me.
4 Then prepare a tasty dish that I love and bring it to me to eat, so that I
may bless you before I die."
5 Now Rebekah was listening to what Isaac told his son Esau. So when
Esau went into the field to hunt game and bring it back,
6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Behold, I overheard your father saying
to your brother Esau,
7 'Bring me some game and prepare me a tasty dish to eat, so that I may
bless you in the presence of the LORD before I die.'
8 Now, my son, listen to my voice and do exactly as I tell you.
9 Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so that I can
make them into a tasty dish for your father—the kind he loves.
10 Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he
dies."
11 Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, "Look, my brother Esau is a
hairy man, but I am smooth-skinned.
12 What if my father touches me? Then I would be revealed to him as a
deceiver, and I would bring upon myself a curse rather than a blessing."
13 His mother replied, "Your curse be on me, my son. Just obey my voice
and go get them for me."

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† **26:33 26:33** *Shibah* can mean *oath* or *seven.* ‡ **26:33 26:33** *Beersheba* means *well of seven* or *well of the oath.*

14 So Jacob went and got two goats and brought them to his mother, who
made the tasty food his father loved.
15 And Rebekah took the finest clothes in the house that belonged to her
older son Esau, and she put them on her younger son Jacob.
16 She also put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the
smooth part of his neck.
17 Then she handed her son Jacob the tasty food and bread she had
made.
18 So Jacob went to his father and said, “My father.”
“Here I am!” he answered. “Which one are you, my son?”
19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you
told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me.”
20 But Isaac asked his son, “How did you ever find it so quickly, my son?”
“Because the LORD your God brought it to me,” he replied.
21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come closer so I can touch you, my
son. Are you really my son Esau, or not?”
22 So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said,
“The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”
23 Isaac did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like those
of his brother Esau; so he blessed him.
24 Again he asked, “Are you really my son Esau?”
And he replied, “I am.”
25 “Serve me,” said Isaac, “and let me eat some of my son’s game, so that I
may bless you.”
Jacob brought it to him, and he ate; then he brought him wine, and he
drank.
26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Please come near and kiss me, my
son.”
27 So he came near and kissed him. When Isaac smelled his clothing, he
blessed him and said:

“Ah, the smell of my son
is like the smell of a field
that the LORD has blessed.
28 May God give to you the dew of heaven
and the richness of the earth—
an abundance of grain and new wine.
29 May peoples serve you
and nations bow down to you.
May you be the master of your brothers,
and may the sons of your mother bow down to you.
May those who curse you be cursed,
and those who bless you be blessed.”
30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing him and Jacob had left his
father’s presence, his brother Esau returned from the hunt.
31 He too made some tasty food, brought it to his father, and said to him,
“My father, sit up and eat of your son’s game, so that you may bless me.”
32 But his father Isaac replied, “Who are you?”
“I am Esau, your firstborn son,” he answered.
33 Isaac began to tremble violently and said, “Who was it, then, who
hunted the game and brought it to me? Before you came in, I ate it all and
blessed him—and indeed, he will be blessed!”

34 When Esau heard his father's words, he let out a loud and bitter cry
and said to his father, "Bless me too, O my father!"
35 But Isaac replied, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your
blessing."
36 So Esau declared, "Is he not rightly named Jacob?* For he has cheated
me twice. He took my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing." Then
he asked, "Haven't you saved a blessing for me?"
37 But Isaac answered Esau: "Look, I have made him your master and
given him all his relatives as servants; I have sustained him with grain
and new wine. What is left that I can do for you, my son?"
38 Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father?
Bless me too, O my father!" Then Esau wept aloud.
39 His father Isaac answered him:

"Behold, your dwelling place shall be
away from the richness of the land,
away from the dew of heaven above.
40 You shall live by the sword
and serve your brother.
But when you rebel,
you will tear his yoke from your neck."
41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father
had given him. And Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my
father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."
42 When the words of her older son Esau were relayed to Rebekah, she
sent for her younger son Jacob and told him, "Look, your brother Esau is
consoling himself by plotting to kill you.
43 So now, my son, obey my voice and flee at once to my brother Laban
in Haran.
44 Stay with him for a while, until your brother's fury subsides—
45 until your brother's rage against you wanes and he forgets what you
have done to him. Then I will send for you and bring you back from there.
Why should I lose both of you in one day?"
46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of these
Hittite women.† If Jacob takes a Hittite wife from among them, what good
is my life?"

28

1 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. "Do not take a wife from the
Canaanite women," he commanded.
2 "Go at once to Paddan-aram,* to the house of your mother's father
Bethuel, and take a wife from among the daughters of Laban, your
mother's brother.
3 May God Almighty† bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you,
so that you may become a company of peoples.
4 And may he give the blessing of Abraham to you and your
descendants, so that you may possess the land where you dwell as a
foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham."

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* **27:36 27:36** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.* † **27:46 27:46** Or *daughters of Heth*

* **28:2 28:2** That is, northwest Mesopotamia; also in verses 5, 6, and 7 † **28:3 28:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

5 So Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the
Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.
6 Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him to
Paddan-aram to take a wife there, commanding him, “Do not marry a
Canaanite woman,”
7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and gone to
Paddan-aram.
8 And seeing that his father Isaac disapproved of the Canaanite women,
9 Esau went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth
and daughter of Abraham’s son Ishmael, in addition to the wives he
already had.
10 Meanwhile Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran.
11 On reaching a certain place, he spent the night there because the sun
had set. And taking one of the stones from that place, he put it under his
head and lay down to sleep.
12 And Jacob had a dream about a ladder that rested on the earth with
its top reaching up to heaven, and God’s angels were going up and down
the ladder.
13 And there beside him‡ the LORD was standing and saying, “I am the
LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give
you and your descendants the land on which you now lie.
14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will
spread out to the west and east and north and south. All the families of
the earth will bless themselves by you and your offspring.§
15 Look, I am with you, and I will watch over you wherever you go, and I
will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done
what I have promised you.”
16 When Jacob woke up, he said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I
was unaware of it.”
17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none
other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!”
18 Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone that he had placed under
his head, and he set it up as a pillar. He poured oil on top of it,
19 and he called that place Bethel,* though previously the city had been
named Luz.
20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and watch
over me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food to eat and
clothes to wear,
21 so that I may return safely to my father’s house, then the LORD will be
my God.
22 And this stone I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all
that you give me I will surely give you a tenth.”

29

1 Jacob resumed his journey and came to the land of the people of the
east.
2 He looked and saw a well in the field, and near it lay three flocks of
sheep, because the sheep were watered from this well. And a large stone
covered the mouth of the well.

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‡ **28:13 28:13** Or *there at the top* § **28:14 28:14** Or *will be blessed through you and your offspring*
* **28:19 28:19** *Bethel* means *house of God.*

3 When all the flocks had been gathered there, the shepherds would roll
away the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep. Then they
would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well.
4 "My brothers," Jacob asked the shepherds, "where are you from?"
"We are from Haran," they answered.
5 "Do you know Laban the grandson of Nahor?" Jacob asked.
"We know him," they replied.
6 "Is he well?" Jacob inquired.
"Yes," they answered, "and here comes his daughter Rachel with his
sheep."
7 "Look," said Jacob, "it is still broad daylight; it is not yet time to gather
the livestock. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture."
8 But they replied, "We cannot, until all the flocks have been gathered
and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we
will water the sheep."
9 While he was still speaking with them, Rachel arrived with her father's
sheep, for she was a shepherdess.
10 As soon as Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his mother's brother
Laban, with Laban's sheep, he went up and rolled the stone away from the
mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep.
11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud.
12 He told Rachel that he was Rebekah's son, a relative of her father, and
she ran and told her father.
13 When Laban heard the news about his sister's son Jacob, he ran out to
meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home,
where Jacob told him all that had happened.
14 Then Laban declared, "You are indeed my own flesh and blood."
After Jacob had stayed with him a month,
15 Laban said to him, "Just because you are my relative, should you work
for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."
16 Now Laban had two daughters; the older was named Leah, and the
younger was named Rachel.
17 Leah had weak eyes,* but Rachel was shapely and beautiful.
18 Since Jacob loved Rachel, he answered, "I will serve you seven years
for your younger daughter Rachel."
19 Laban replied, "Better that I give her to you than to another. Stay here
with me."
20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, yet it seemed but a few days
because of his love for her.
21 Finally Jacob said to Laban, "Grant me my wife, for my time is
complete, and I want to sleep with her."
22 So Laban invited all the men of that place and prepared a feast.
23 But when evening came, Laban took his daughter Leah and gave her
to Jacob, and he slept with her.
24 And Laban gave his slave woman Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her
slave.
25 When morning came, there was Leah! "What have you done to me?"
Jacob said to Laban. "Wasn't it for Rachel that I served you? Why have you
deceived me?"
26 Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter
in marriage before the older.

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* **29:17 29:17** Or *had delicate eyes*

27 Finish this week's celebration, and we will give you the younger one
in return for another seven years of work."
28 And Jacob did just that. He finished the week's celebration, and Laban
gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.
29 Laban also gave his slave woman Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her
slave.
30 Jacob slept with Rachel as well, and indeed, he loved Rachel more
than Leah. So he worked for Laban another seven years.
31 When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he opened her womb;
but Rachel was barren.
32 And Leah conceived and gave birth to a son, and she named him
Reuben,† for she said, "The LORD has seen my affliction. Surely my
husband will love me now."
33 Again she conceived and gave birth to a son, and she said, "Because
the LORD has heard that I am unloved, he has given me this son as well."
So she named him Simeon.‡
34 Once again Leah conceived and gave birth to a son, and she said,
"Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have
borne him three sons." So he was named Levi.§
35 And once more she conceived and gave birth to a son and said, "This
time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah.* Then Leah
stopped having children.

30

1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing any children for Jacob, she
envied her sister. "Give me children, or I will die!" she said to Jacob.
2 Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, "Am I in the place of God,
who has withheld children from you?"
3 Then she said, "Here is my maidslave woman Bilhah. Sleep with her,
that she may bear children for me,* so that through her I too can build a
family."
4 So Rachel gave Jacob her slave woman Bilhah as a wife, and he slept
with her,
5 and Bilhah conceived and bore him a son.
6 Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me; he has heard my plea and
given me a son." So she named him Dan.†
7 And Rachel's slave woman Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a
second son.
8 Then Rachel said, "In my great struggles, I have wrestled with my sister
and won." So she named him Naphtali.‡
9 When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she gave her
slave woman Zilpah to Jacob as a wife.
10 And Leah's slave woman Zilpah bore Jacob a son.
11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!"§ So she named him Gad.*
12 When Leah's slave woman Zilpah bore Jacob a second son,

† **29:32 29:32** *Reuben* means *Look, a son* and also sounds like the Hebrew for *he has seen my misery*.
‡ **29:33 29:33** *Simeon* probably means *one who hears*. § **29:34 29:34** *Levi* sounds like the Hebrew for *being attached to* or *feeling affection for*. * **29:35 29:35** *Judah* sounds like the Hebrew for *praise*.
* **30:3 30:3** Literally *bear children on my knees* † **30:6 30:6** *Dan* means *he has judged* or *he has vindicated*. ‡ **30:8 30:8** *Naphtali* sounds like the Hebrew for *wrestling*. § **30:11 30:11** Ketiv (see also LXX); Qere *"A troop is coming!"* * **30:11 30:11** *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *good fortune*, or alternately for *band of raiders*.

13 Leah said, “How happy I am! For the women call me happy.” So she
named him Asher.†
14 Now during the wheat harvest, Reuben went out and found some
mandrakes in the field. When he brought them to his mother, Rachel
begged Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.”
15 But Leah replied, “Is it not enough that you have taken away my
husband? Now you want to take my son’s mandrakes as well?”
“Very well,” said Rachel, “he may sleep with you tonight in exchange for
your son’s mandrakes.”
16 When Jacob came in from the field that evening, Leah went out to
meet him and said, “You must come with me, for I have hired you with my
son’s mandrakes.” So he slept with her that night.
17 And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore a fifth son to
Jacob.
18 Then Leah said, “God has rewarded me for giving my slave woman to
my husband.” So she named him Issachar.‡
19 Again Leah conceived and bore a sixth son to Jacob.
20 “God has given me a good gift,” she said. “This time my husband will
honor me, because I have borne him six sons.” And she named him
Zebulun.§
21 After that, Leah gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.
22 Then God remembered Rachel. He listened to her and opened her
womb,
23 and she conceived and gave birth to a son. “God has taken away my
shame,” she said.
24 She named him Joseph,* and said, “May the LORD add to me another
son.”
25 Now after Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send
me on my way so I can return to my homeland.
26 Give me my wives and children for whom I have served you, that I
may go on my way. You know how hard I have worked for you.”
27 But Laban replied, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I
have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.”
28 And he added, “Name your wages, and I will pay them.”
29 Then Jacob answered, “You know how I have served you and how
your livestock have thrived under my care.
30 Indeed, you had very little before my arrival, but now your wealth
has increased many times over. The LORD has blessed you wherever I set
foot. But now, when may I also provide for my own household?”
31 “What can I give you?” Laban asked.
“You do not need to give me anything,” Jacob replied. “If you do this one
thing for me, I will keep on shepherding and keeping your flocks.
32 Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every
speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb, and every spotted or
speckled goat. These will be my wages.
33 So my honesty will testify for me when you come to check on my
wages in the future. If I have any goats that are not speckled or spotted, or
any lambs that are not dark-colored, they will be considered stolen.”
34 “Agreed,” said Laban. “Let it be as you have said.”

† **30:13 30:13** *Asher* means *happy.* ‡ **30:18 30:18** *Issachar* sounds like the Hebrew for *wages* or *reward.* § **30:20 30:20** *Zebulun* sounds like the Hebrew for *honor.* * **30:24 30:24** *Joseph* means *may he add.*

35 That very day Laban removed all the streaked or spotted male goats
and every speckled or spotted female goat—every one that had any white
on it—and every dark-colored lamb, and he placed them under the care of
his sons.
36 Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob, while
Jacob was shepherding the rest of Laban's flocks.
37 Jacob, however, took fresh branches of poplar, almond, and plane
trees, and peeled the bark, exposing the white inner wood of the branches.
38 Then he set the peeled branches in the watering troughs in front of
the flocks coming in to drink. So when the flocks were in heat and came to
drink,
39 they mated in front of the branches. And they bore young that were
streaked or speckled or spotted.
40 Jacob set apart the young, but made the rest face the streaked
dark-colored sheep in Laban's flocks. Then he set his own stock apart and
did not put them with Laban's animals.
41 Whenever the stronger females of the flock were in heat, Jacob would
place the branches in the troughs, in full view of the animals, so that they
would breed in front of the branches.
42 But if the animals were weak, he did not set out the branches. So the
weaker animals went to Laban and the stronger ones to Jacob.
43 Thus Jacob became exceedingly prosperous. He owned large flocks,
female and male slaves, and camels and donkeys.

31

1 Now Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken away
all that belonged to our father and built all this wealth at our father's
expense."
2 And Jacob saw from the countenance of Laban that his attitude toward
him had changed.
3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and
to your kindred, and I will be with you."
4 So Jacob sent word and called Rachel and Leah to the field where his
flocks were,
5 and he told them, "I can see from your father's countenance that his
attitude toward me has changed; but the God of my father has been with
me.
6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength.
7 And although he has cheated me and changed my wages ten times,
God has not allowed him to harm me.
8 If he said, 'The speckled will be your wages,' then the whole flock bore
speckled offspring. If he said, 'The streaked will be your wages,' then the
whole flock bore streaked offspring.
9 Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given them to me.
10 When the flocks were breeding, I saw in a dream that the streaked,
spotted, and speckled males were mating with the females.
11 In that dream the angel of God said to me, 'Jacob!'
And I replied, 'Here I am.'
12 'Look up,' he said, 'and see that all the males that are mating with the
flock are streaked, spotted, or speckled; for I have seen all that Laban has
done to you.

13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and made a
solemn vow to me. Now get up, leave this land at once, and return to your
native land.' "
14 And Rachel and Leah replied, "Do we have any portion or inheritance
left in our father's house?
15 Are we not regarded by him as outsiders? Not only has he sold us, but
he has certainly squandered what was paid for us.
16 Surely all the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs
to us and to our children. So do whatever God has told you."
17 Then Jacob got up and put his children and his wives on camels,
18 and he drove all his livestock before him, along with all the
possessions he had acquired, including the livestock he had obtained in
Paddan-aram,* to go to his father Isaac in the land in Canaan.
19 Now while Laban was out shearing his sheep, Rachel stole her father's
household idols.
20 Moreover, Jacob deceived† Laban the Aramean by not telling him that
he was running away.
21 So he fled with all his possessions, crossed the Euphrates,‡ and headed
for the hill country of Gilead.
22 On the third day Laban was informed that Jacob had fled.
23 So he took his relatives with him, pursued Jacob for seven days, and
overtook him in the hill country of Gilead.
24 But that night God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream and
warned him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."
25 Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead when
Laban overtook him, and Laban and his relatives camped there as well.
26 Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have deceived
me and carried off my daughters like captives of war!
27 Why did you run away secretly and deceive me, without even telling
me? I would have sent you away with joy and singing, with tambourines
and harps.
28 But you did not even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters
goodbye. Now you have done a foolish thing.
29 I have power to do you great harm, but last night the God of your
father said to me, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or
bad.'
30 Now you have gone off because you long for your father's house. But
why have you stolen my gods?"
31 "I was afraid," Jacob answered, "for I thought you would take your
daughters from me by force.
32 If you find your gods with anyone here, he shall not live! In the
presence of our relatives, see for yourself if anything is yours, and take it
back." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the idols.
33 So Laban went into Jacob's tent, then Leah's tent, and then the tents of
the two slave women, but he found nothing. Then he left Leah's tent and
entered Rachel's tent.
34 Now Rachel had taken Laban's household idols, put them in the
saddlebag of her camel, and was sitting on them. And Laban searched
everything in the tent but found nothing.

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* **31:18 31:18** That is, northwest Mesopotamia † **31:20 31:20** Or *stole the heart of*; also in verses 26 and 27 ‡ **31:21 31:21** Hebrew *the River*

35 Rachel said to her father, “Sir, do not be angry that I cannot stand up
before you; for I am having my period.” So Laban searched but could not
find the household idols.
36 Then Jacob became incensed and challenged Laban. “What is my
crime?” he said. “For what sin of mine have you so hotly pursued me?
37 You have searched all my goods! Have you found anything that
belongs to you? Put it here before my brothers and yours, that they may
judge between the two of us.
38 I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats
have not miscarried, nor have I eaten the rams of your flock.
39 I did not bring you anything torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself.
And you demanded payment from me for what was stolen by day or night.
40 As it was, the heat consumed me by day and the frost by night, and
sleep fled from my eyes.
41 Thus for twenty years I have served in your household—fourteen
years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks—and you have
changed my wages ten times!
42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had
not been with me, surely by now you would have sent me away
empty-handed. But God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands,
and last night he rendered judgment.”
43 But Laban answered Jacob, “These daughters are my daughters, these
sons are my sons, and these flocks are my flocks! Everything you see is
mine! Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine or the
children they have borne?
44 Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as a
witness between you and me.”
45 So Jacob picked out a stone and set it up as a pillar,
46 and he said to his relatives, “Gather some stones.” So they took stones
and made a mound, and there by the mound they ate.
47 Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, and Jacob called it Galeed.§
48 Then Laban declared, “This mound is a witness between you and me
this day.”
Therefore the place was called Galeed.
49 It was also called Mizpah,* because Laban said, “May the LORD keep
watch between you and me when we are absent from each other.
50 If you mistreat my daughters or take other wives, although no one is
with us, remember that God is a witness between you and me.”
51 Laban also said to Jacob, “Here is the mound, and here is the pillar I
have set up between you and me.
52 This mound is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go
past this mound to harm you, and you will not go past this mound and
pillar to harm me.
53 May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their
father, judge between us.”
So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.
54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain and invited his
relatives to eat a meal. And after they had eaten, they spent the night on
the mountain.

§ **31:47 31:47** The Aramaic *Jegar-sahadutha* and the Hebrew *Galeed* both mean *heap of witnesses*.
* **31:49 31:49** *Mizpah* means *watchtower*.

32

1 Early the next morning, Laban got up and kissed his grandchildren
and daughters and blessed them. Then he left to return home.
2 Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him.
3 When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is the camp of God.” So he named
that place Mahanaim.*
4 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of
Seir, the country of Edom.
5 He instructed them, “You are to say to my master Esau, ‘Your servant
Jacob says: I have been staying with Laban and have remained there until
now.
6 I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male slaves, and female slaves. I have sent
this message to inform my master, so that I may find favor in your sight.’ ”
7 When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, “We went to your
brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you—he and four hundred
men with him.”
8 In great fear and distress, Jacob divided his people into two camps, as
well as the flocks and herds and camels.
9 He thought, “If Esau comes and attacks one camp, then the other camp
can escape.”
10 Then Jacob declared, “O God of my father Abraham, God of my father
Isaac, the LORD who told me, ‘Go back to your country and to your
kindred, and I will make you prosper,’
11 I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown
your servant. Indeed, with only my staff I came across the Jordan, but
now I have become two camps.
12 Please deliver me from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid
that he may come and attack me and the mothers and children with me.
13 But you have said, ‘I will surely make you prosper, and I will make
your offspring like the sand of the sea, too numerous to count.’ ”
14 Jacob spent the night there, and from what he had brought with him,
he selected a gift for his brother Esau:
15 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams,
16 30 milk camels with their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys,
and 10 male donkeys.
17 He entrusted them to his servants in separate herds and told them,
“Go on ahead of me, and keep some distance between the herds.”
18 He instructed the one in the lead, “When my brother Esau meets you
and asks, ‘To whom do you belong, where are you going, and whose
animals are these before you?’
19 then you are to say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a
gift, sent to my lord Esau. And behold, Jacob is behind us.’ ”
20 He also instructed the second, the third, and all those following behind
the herds: “When you meet Esau, you are to say the same thing to him.
21 You are also to say, ‘Look, your servant Jacob is right behind us.’ ” For
he thought, “I will appease Esau† with the gift that is going before me.
After that I can face him, and perhaps he will accept me.‡”
22 So Jacob’s gifts went on before him, while he spent the night in the
camp.

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* **32:3 32:3** *Mahanaim* means *two camps.* † **32:21 32:21** Or *I will appease his face* ‡ **32:21 32:21** Literally *perhaps he will lift up my face*

23 During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two slave
women, and his eleven sons, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.
24 He took them and sent them across the stream, along with all his
possessions.
25 So Jacob was left all alone, and there a man§ wrestled with him until
daybreak.
26 When the man saw that he could not overpower Jacob, he struck the
socket of Jacob's hip and dislocated it as they wrestled.
27 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."
But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."
28 "What is your name?" the man asked.
"Jacob," he replied.
29 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob,* but Israel,†
because you have struggled with God and with men, and you have
prevailed."
30 And Jacob requested, "Please tell me your name."
But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed Jacob there.
31 So Jacob named the place Peniel,‡ saying, "Indeed, I have seen God
face to face, and yet my life was spared."
32 The sun rose above him as he passed by Penuel,§ and he was limping
because of his hip.
33 Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to
the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was struck near that
tendon.

33

1 Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming toward him with four
hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the
two slave women.
2 He put the slave women and their children in front, Leah and her
children next, and Rachel and Joseph at the rear.
3 But Jacob himself went on ahead and bowed to the ground seven times
as he approached his brother.
4 Esau, however, ran to him and embraced him, threw his arms around
his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept.
5 When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he asked,
"Who are these with you?"
Jacob answered, "These are the children God has graciously given your
servant."
6 Then the slave women and their children approached and bowed
down.
7 Leah and her children also approached and bowed down, and then
Joseph and Rachel approached and bowed down.
8 "What do you mean by sending this whole company to meet me?"
asked Esau.
"To find favor in your sight, my lord," Jacob answered.
9 "I already have plenty, my brother," Esau replied. "Keep what belongs
to you."

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§ **32:25 32:25** Or *Man*; here and in verses 26–29; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized
* **32:29 32:29** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.* † **32:29 32:29** *Israel* means *he struggles with God.* ‡ **32:31 32:31** *Peniel* means *the face of God.* § **32:32 32:32** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; see verse 31.

10 But Jacob insisted, “No, please! If I have found favor in your sight,
then receive this gift from my hand. For indeed, I have seen your face, and
it is like seeing the face of God, since you have received me favorably.
11 Please accept my gift* that was brought to you, because God has been
gracious to me and I have all I need.” So Jacob pressed him until he
accepted.
12 Then Esau said, “Let us be on our way, and I will go ahead of you.”
13 But Jacob replied, “My lord knows that the children are frail, and I
must care for sheep and cattle that are nursing their young. If they are
driven hard for even a day, all the animals will die.
14 Please let my lord go ahead of his servant. I will continue on slowly, at
a comfortable pace for the livestock and children, until I come to my lord
at Seir.”
15 “Let me leave some of my people with you,” Esau said.
But Jacob replied, “Why do that? Let me find favor in the sight of my
lord.”
16 So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir,
17 but Jacob went on to Succoth,† where he built a house for himself and
shelters for his livestock; that is why the place was called Succoth.
18 After Jacob had come from Paddan-aram,‡ he arrived safely at the city
of Shechem in the land of Canaan, and he camped just outside the city.
19 And the plot of ground where he pitched his tent, he purchased from
the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for a hundred pieces of silver.§
20 There he set up an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.*

34

1 Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the
daughters of the land.
2 When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the region, saw
her, he took her and lay with her by force.
3 And his soul was drawn to Dinah, the daughter of Jacob. He loved the
young girl and spoke to her tenderly.
4 So Shechem told his father Hamor, “Get me this girl as a wife.”
5 Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter Dinah, but since
his sons were with his livestock in the field, he remained silent about it
until they returned.
6 Meanwhile, Shechem’s father Hamor came to speak with Jacob.
7 When Jacob’s sons heard what had happened, they returned from the
field. They were filled with grief and fury, because Shechem had
committed an outrage in Israel* by lying with Jacob’s daughter—a thing
that should not be done.
8 But Hamor said to them, “My son Shechem longs for your daughter.
Please give her to him as his wife.
9 Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for
yourselves.
10 You may settle among us, and the land will be open to you. Live here,
move about freely, and acquire your own property.”

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* **33:11 33:11** Or *blessing* or *treaty of peace* † **33:17 33:17** *Succoth* means *booths* or *shelters* or *tabernacles*; twice in this verse. ‡ **33:18 33:18** That is, northwest Mesopotamia § **33:19 33:19** Hebrew *a hundred kesitahs*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known * **33:20 33:20** *El-Elohe-Israel* means *God is the God of Israel* or *mighty is the God of Israel.* * **34:7 34:7** Or *against Israel*

11 Then Shechem said to Dinah's father and brothers, "Grant me this
favor, and I will give you whatever you ask.
12 Demand a high dowry and an expensive gift, and I will give you
whatever you ask. Only give me the girl as my wife!"
13 But because Shechem had defiled their sister Dinah, Jacob's sons
answered him and his father Hamor deceitfully.
14 "We cannot do such a thing," they said. "To give our sister to an
uncircumcised man would be a disgrace to us.
15 We will consent to this on one condition, that you become circumcised
like us—every one of your males.
16 Then we will give you our daughters and take your daughters for
ourselves. We will dwell among you and become one people.
17 But if you will not agree to be circumcised, then we will take our
daughter and go."
18 Their offer seemed good to Hamor and his son Shechem.
19 The young man, who was the most respected of all his father's
household, did not hesitate to fulfill this request, because he was delighted
with Jacob's daughter.
20 So Hamor and his son Shechem went to the gate of their city and
addressed the men of their city:
21 "These men are at peace with us. Let them live and trade in our land;
indeed, it is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters in
marriage and give our daughters to them.
22 But only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us and be
one people: if all our men are circumcised as they are.
23 Will not their livestock, their possessions, and all their animals
become ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell among us."
24 All the men who went out of the city gate listened to Hamor and his
son Shechem, and every male of the city was circumcised.
25 Three days later, while they were still in pain, two of Jacob's sons
(Dinah's brothers Simeon and Levi) took their swords, went into the
unsuspecting city, and slaughtered every male.
26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with their swords, took
Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went away.
27 Jacob's other sons came upon the slaughter and looted the city,
because their sister had been defiled.
28 They took their flocks and herds and donkeys, and everything else in
the city or in the field.
29 They carried off all their possessions and women and children, and
they plundered everything in their houses.
30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble upon
me by making me a stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people of
this land. We are few in number; if they unite against me and attack me, I
and my household will be destroyed."
31 But they replied, "Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?"

35

1 Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and settle there. Build
an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your
brother Esau."

2 So Jacob told his household and all who were with him, “Get rid of the
foreign gods that are among you. Purify yourselves and change your
garments.
3 Then let us arise and go to Bethel. I will build an altar there to God,
who answered me in my day of distress. He has been with me wherever I
have gone.”
4 So they gave Jacob all their foreign gods and all their earrings, and
Jacob buried them under the terebinth* near Shechem.
5 As they set out, a terror from God fell over the surrounding cities, so
that they did not pursue Jacob’s sons.
6 So Jacob and everyone with him arrived in Luz (that is, Bethel) in the
land of Canaan.
7 There Jacob built an altar, and he called that place El-bethel,† because it
was there that God had revealed himself to Jacob as he fled from his
brother.
8 Now Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died and was buried under the oak‡
below Bethel. So Jacob named it Allon-bacuth.§
9 After Jacob had returned from Paddan-aram,* God appeared to him
again and blessed him.
10 And God said to him, “Though your name is Jacob,† you will no longer
be called Jacob. Instead, your name will be Israel.‡” So God named him
Israel.
11 And God told him, “I am God Almighty.§ Be fruitful and multiply. A
nation—even a company of nations—shall come from you, and kings shall
descend from you.
12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will
give this land to your descendants after you.”
13 Then God went up from the place where he had spoken with him.
14 So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where God had spoken with
him—a stone marker—and he poured out a drink offering on it and
anointed it with oil.
15 Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.*
16 Later, they set out from Bethel, and while they were still some distance
from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth, and her labor was difficult.
17 During her severe labor, the midwife said to her, “Do not be afraid, for
you are having another son.”
18 And with her last breath—for she was dying—she named him
Ben-oni.† But his father called him Benjamin.‡
19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is,
Bethlehem).
20 Jacob set up a pillar on her grave; it marks Rachel’s tomb to this day.
21 Israel again set out and pitched his tent beyond the Tower of Eder.
22 While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with
his father’s concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard about it.
Jacob had twelve sons:

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* **35:4 35:4** Or *oak* or *great tree* † **35:7 35:7** *El-bethel* means *God of Bethel.* ‡ **35:8 35:8** Or *great tree* § **35:8 35:8** *Allon-bacuth* means *oak of weeping.* * **35:9 35:9** That is, northwest Mesopotamia; also in verse 26 † **35:10 35:10** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.* ‡ **35:10 35:10** *Israel* means *he struggles with God.* § **35:11 35:11** Hebrew *El-Shaddai* * **35:15 35:15** *Bethel* means *house of God.* † **35:18 35:18** *Ben-oni* could mean *son of my sorrow* or *son of my strength.* ‡ **35:18 35:18** *Benjamin* means *son of my right hand.*

23 The sons of Leah were Reuben the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi,
Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.
24 The sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin.
25 The sons of Rachel's maidslave woman Bilhah were Dan and Naphtali.
26 And the sons of Leah's maidslave woman Zilpah were Gad and Asher.
These are the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan-aram.
27 Jacob returned to his father Isaac at Mamre, near Kiriath-arba (that is,
Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had stayed.
28 And Isaac lived 180 years.
29 Then he breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, old
and full of years. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

36

1 This is the account of Esau (that is, Edom).
2 Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah daughter of
Elon the Hittite, Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of
Zibeon the Hivite,
3 and Basemath daughter of Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth.
4 And Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, Basemath gave birth to Reuel,
5 and Oholibamah gave birth to Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These were the
sons of Esau, who were born to him in the land of Canaan.
6 Later, Esau took his wives and sons and daughters and all the people of
his household, along with his livestock, all his other animals, and all the
property he had acquired in Canaan, and he moved to a land far away
from his brother Jacob.
7 For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together; the
land where they stayed could not support them because of their livestock.
8 So Esau (that is, Edom) settled in the area of Mount Seir.
9 This is the account of Esau, the father of the Edomites, in the area of
Mount Seir.
10 These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz son of Esau's wife Adah,
and Reuel son of Esau's wife Basemath.
11 The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.
12 Additionally, Timna, a concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz, gave birth to
Amalek. These are the grandsons of Esau's wife Adah.
13 These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.
They are the grandsons of Esau's wife Basemath.
14 These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah (daughter of Anah and
granddaughter of Zibeon) whom she bore to Esau: Jeush, Jalam, and
Korah.
15 These are the chiefs among the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz the
firstborn of Esau: Chiefs Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz,
16 Korah,* Gatam, and Amalek. They are the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land
of Edom, and they are the grandsons of Adah.
17 These are the sons of Esau's son Reuel: Chiefs Nahath, Zerah,
Shammah, and Mizzah. They are the chiefs descended from Reuel in the
land of Edom, and they are the grandsons of Esau's wife Basemath.
18 These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah: Chiefs Jeush, Jalam,
and Korah. They are the chiefs descended from Esau's wife Oholibamah,
the daughter of Anah.

* **36:16 36:16** SP (also in verse 11 and 1 Chronicles 1:36) does not include *Korah*.

19 All these are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and they were their
chiefs.
20 These are the sons of Seir the Horite, who were living in the land:
Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,
21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. They are the chiefs of the Horites, the
descendants of Seir in the land of Edom.
22 The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam.† Timna was Lotan's sister.
23 These are the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and
Onam.
24 These are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah. (This is the Anah who
found the hot springs in the wilderness as he was pasturing the donkeys
of his father Zibeon.)
25 These are the children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah daughter of
Anah.
26 These are the sons of Dishan:‡ Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.
27 These are the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.
28 These are the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.
29 These are the chiefs of the Horites: Chiefs Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,
30 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. They are the chiefs of the Horites, according
to their divisions in the land of Seir.
31 These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king
reigned over the Israelites:§

32 Bela son of Beor reigned in Edom; the name of his city was Dinhabah.

33 When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah reigned in his place.

34 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites reigned in
his place.

35 When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the
country of Moab, reigned in his place. And the name of his city was
Avith.

36 When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah reigned in his place.

37 When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the Euphrates* reigned
in his place.

38 When Shaul died, Baal-hanan son of Achbor reigned in his place.

39 When Baal-hanan son of Achbor died, Hadar† reigned in his place. His
city was named Pau, and his wife's name was Mehetabel daughter of
Matred, the daughter of Me-zahab.
40 These are the names of Esau's chiefs, according to their families and
regions, by their names: Chiefs Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,
41 Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,
42 Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,

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† **36:22 36:22** *Hemam* is a variant of *Homam*; see 1 Chronicles 1:39. ‡ **36:26 36:26** Compare verse 25 and 1 Chronicles 1:41, *Dishon* § **36:31 36:31** Or *before an Israelite king reigned over them:* * **36:37 36:37** Hebrew *the River* † **36:39 36:39** Leningrad Codex and other MT manuscripts; some MT manuscripts, SP, and Syriac (see also 1 Chronicles 1:50) *Hadad*

43 Magdiel, and Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom, according to their
settlements in the land they possessed. Esau was the father of the
Edomites.

37

1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had resided, the land of
Canaan.
2 This is the account of Jacob. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he
was tending the flock with his brothers. He was still a youth, working with
the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah, and he brought their
father a bad report about them.
3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons, because Joseph had
been born to him in his old age; so he made him a robe of many colors.*
4 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any
of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.
5 Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they
hated him even more.
6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:
7 We were binding sheaves of grain in the field, and suddenly my sheaf
rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around and bowed
down to mine."
8 "Do you intend to reign over us?" his brothers asked. "Will you actually
rule us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream and his
statements.
9 Then Joseph had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he
said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven
stars were bowing down to me."
10 He told his father and brothers, but his father rebuked him and said,
"What is this dream that you have had? Will your mother and brothers
and I actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"
11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept in mind
what he had said.
12 Some time later, Joseph's brothers had gone to pasture their father's
flocks near Shechem.
13 Israel said to him, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flocks at
Shechem? Get ready; I am sending you to them."
"I am ready," Joseph replied.
14 Then Israel told him, "Go now and see how your brothers and the
flocks are faring, and bring word back to me."
So he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. And when Joseph arrived
in Shechem,
15 a man found him wandering in the field and asked, "What are you
looking for?"
16 "I am looking for my brothers," Joseph replied. "Can you please tell me
where they are pasturing their flocks?"
17 "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them
say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph set out after his brothers and found
them at Dothan.
18 Now Joseph's brothers saw him in the distance, and before he arrived,
they plotted to kill him.
19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to one another.

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* **37:3 37:3** Possibly *a robe with long sleeves*; also in verses 23 and 32

20 “Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We can
say that a vicious animal has devoured him. Then we shall see what
becomes of his dreams!”
21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue Joseph from their hands.
“Let us not take his life,” he said.
22 “Do not shed his blood. Throw him into this pit in the wilderness, but
do not lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this so that he could rescue Joseph
from their hands and return him to his father.
23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his
robe—the robe of many colors he was wearing—
24 and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty,
with no water in it.
25 And as they sat down to eat a meal, they looked up and saw a caravan
of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were carrying spices,
balm, and myrrh on their way down to Egypt.
26 Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit will we gain if we kill
our brother and cover up his blood?
27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay a hand on him; for
he is our brother, our own flesh.” And they agreed.
28 So when the Midianite traders passed by, his brothers pulled Joseph
out of the pit and sold him for twenty shekels of silver† to the Ishmaelites,
who took him to Egypt.
29 When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not there,
he tore his clothes,
30 returned to his brothers, and said, “The boy is gone! What am I going
to do?”
31 Then they took Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a young goat, and dipped
the robe in its blood.
32 They sent the robe of many colors to their father and said, “We found
this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe or not.”
33 His father recognized it and said, “It is my son’s robe! A vicious
animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!”
34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around his waist, and
mourned for his son many days.
35 All his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he refused to be
comforted. “No,” he said. “I will go down to Sheol mourning for my son.”
So his father wept for him.
36 Meanwhile, the Medanites‡ sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer
of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

38

1 About that time, Judah left his brothers and settled near a man named
Hirah, an Adullamite.
2 There Judah saw the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua, and he
took her as a wife and slept with her.
3 So she conceived and gave birth to a son, and Judah named him Er.
4 Again she conceived and gave birth to a son, and she named him Onan.
5 Then she gave birth to another son and named him Shelah; it was at
Chezib that she gave birth to him.

† **37:28 37:28** *20 shekels* is approximately 8 ounces or 228 grams of silver. ‡ **37:36 37:36** Samaritan Pentateuch, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *the Midianites*; compare verse 28

6 Now Judah acquired a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was
Tamar.
7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; so the
LORD put him to death.
8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Sleep with your brother's wife. Perform
your duty as her brother-in-law and raise up offspring for your brother."
9 But Onan knew that the offspring would not belong to him; so
whenever he would sleep with his brother's wife, he would spill his seed
on the ground so that he would not produce offspring for his brother.
10 What he did was wicked in the sight of the LORD, so he put Onan to
death as well.
11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Live as a widow in
your father's house until my son Shelah grows up." For he thought, "He
may die too, like his brothers." So Tamar went to live in her father's house.
12 After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When
Judah had finished mourning, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite
went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah.
13 When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to
shear his sheep,"
14 she removed her widow's garments, covered her face with a veil to
disguise herself, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the way to
Timnah. For she saw that although Shelah had grown up, she had not
been given to him as a wife.
15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute because she had
covered her face.
16 Not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by
the roadside and said, "Come now, let me sleep with you."
"What will you give me for sleeping with you?" she inquired.
17 "I will send you a young goat from my flock," Judah answered.
But she replied, "Only if you leave me something as a pledge until you
send it."
18 "What pledge should I give you?" he asked.
She answered, "Your seal and your cord, and the staff in your hand." So
he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him.
19 Then Tamar got up and departed. And she removed her veil and put
on her widow's garments again.
20 Now when Judah sent his friend Hirah the Adullamite with the young
goat to collect the items he had left with the woman, he could not find her.
21 He asked the men of that place, "Where is the shrine prostitute who
was beside the road at Enaim?"
"No shrine prostitute has been here," they answered.
22 So Hirah returned to Judah and said, "I could not find her, and
furthermore, the men of that place said, 'No shrine prostitute has been
here.' "
23 "Let her keep the items," Judah replied. "Otherwise we will become a
laughingstock.* After all, I did send her this young goat, but you could not
find her."
24 About three months later, Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law
Tamar has prostituted herself, and now she is pregnant."
"Bring her out!" Judah replied. "Let her be burned to death!"

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* **38:23 38:23** Or *we will become despised*

25 As she was being brought out, Tamar sent a message to her
father-in-law: “I am pregnant by the man to whom these items belong.”
And she added, “Please examine them. Whose seal and cord and staff are
these?”
26 Judah recognized the items and said, “She is more righteous than I,
since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not have relations
with her again.
27 When the time came for Tamar to give birth, there were twins in her
womb.
28 And as she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand; so the
midwife took a scarlet thread and tied it around his wrist. “This one came
out first,” she announced.
29 But when he pulled his hand back and his brother came out, she said,
“You have broken out first!” So he was named Perez.†
30 Then his brother came out with the scarlet thread around his wrist,
and he was named Zerah.‡

39

1 Meanwhile, Joseph had been taken down to Egypt, where an Egyptian
named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard, bought
him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.
2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man,
serving in the household of his Egyptian master.
3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and made him
prosper in all he did,
4 Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal attendant.
Potiphar put him in charge of his household and entrusted him with
everything he owned.
5 From the time that he put Joseph in charge of his household and all he
owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s household on account of him. The
LORD’s blessing was on everything he owned, both in his house and in his
field.
6 So Potiphar left all that he owned in Joseph’s care; he did not concern
himself with anything except the food he ate.
Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,
7 and after some time his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and
said, “Sleep with me.”
8 But he refused. “Look,” he said to his master’s wife, “with me here, my
master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has
entrusted everything he owns to my care.
9 No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing
from me except you, because you are his wife. So how could I do such a
great evil and sin against God?”
10 Although Potiphar’s wife spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to
go to bed with her or even be near her.
11 One day, however, Joseph went into the house to attend to his work,
and not a single household servant was inside.
12 She grabbed Joseph by his cloak and said, “Sleep with me!” But leaving
his cloak in her hand, he escaped and ran outside.
13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out
of the house,

† **38:29 38:29** *Perez* means *breaking out*. ‡ **38:30 38:30** *Zerah* can mean *scarlet* or *brightness*.

14 she called her household servants. “Look,” she said, “this Hebrew has
been brought to us to make sport of us. He came to me so he could sleep
with me, but I screamed as loud as I could.
15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and
ran out of the house.”
16 So Potiphar’s wife kept Joseph’s cloak beside her until his master
came home.
17 Then she told him the same story: “The Hebrew slave you brought us
came to me to make sport of me,
18 but when I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out
of the house.”
19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is
what your slave did to me,” he burned with anger.
20 So Joseph’s master took him and had him thrown into the prison
where the king’s prisoners were confined.
While Joseph was there in the prison,
21 the LORD was with him and extended kindness to him, granting him
favor in the eyes of the prison warden.
22 And the warden put all the prisoners under Joseph’s care, so that he
was responsible for all that was done in the prison.
23 The warden did not concern himself with anything under Joseph’s
care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in
whatever he did.

40

1 Some time later, the king’s cupbearer and baker offended their master,
the king of Egypt.
2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the
chief baker,
3 and imprisoned them in the house of the captain of the guard, the
same prison where Joseph was confined.
4 The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he became their
personal attendant.
After they had been in custody for some time,
5 both of these men—the Egyptian king’s cupbearer and baker, who
were being held in the prison—had a dream on the same night, and each
dream had its own meaning.
6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were
distraught.
7 So he asked the officials of Pharaoh who were in custody with him in
his master’s house, “Why are your faces so downcast today?”
8 “We both had dreams,” they replied, “but there is no one to interpret
them.”
Then Joseph said to them, “Don’t interpretations belong to God? Tell me
your dreams.”
9 So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream: “In my dream there was
a vine before me,
10 and on the vine were three branches. As it budded, its blossoms
opened and its clusters ripened into grapes.
11 Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them
into his cup, and placed the cup in his hand.”
12 Joseph replied, “This is the interpretation: The three branches are
three days.

13 Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore your
position. You will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you did when you
were his cupbearer.
14 But when it goes well for you, please remember me and show me
kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh, that he might bring me out of this
prison.
15 For I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I
have done nothing for which they should have put me in this dungeon."
16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he
said to Joseph, "I too had a dream: There were three baskets of white
bread on my head.
17 In the top basket were all sorts of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the
birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."
18 Joseph replied, "This is the interpretation: The three baskets are three
days.
19 Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale you on a
pole.* Then the birds will eat the flesh of your body."
20 On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he held a feast for all
his officials, and in their presence he lifted up the heads of the chief
cupbearer and the chief baker.
21 Pharaoh restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once
again placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.
22 But Pharaoh impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had described to
them in his interpretation.†
23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot all
about him.

41

1 After two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was
standing beside the Nile,
2 when seven cows, sleek and well-fed, came up from the river and
began to graze among the reeds.
3 After them, seven other cows, sickly and thin, came up from the Nile
and stood beside the well-fed cows on the bank of the river.
4 And the cows that were sickly and thin devoured the seven sleek,
well-fed cows.
Then Pharaoh woke up,
5 but he fell back asleep and dreamed a second time: Seven heads of
grain, plump and ripe, came up on one stalk.
6 After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted, thin and scorched by
the east wind.
7 And the thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven plump, ripe ones.
Then Pharaoh awoke and realized it was a dream.
8 In the morning his spirit was troubled, so he summoned all the
magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no
one could interpret them for him.
9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I recall my failures.
10 Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he put me and the
chief baker in the custody of the captain of the guard.

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* **40:19 40:19** Or *and hang you on a tree*; similarly in verse 22 † **40:22 40:22** Literally *had interpreted to them*

11 One night both the chief baker and I had dreams, and each dream had
its own meaning.
12 Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of
the guard. We told him our dreams and he interpreted them for us
individually.
13 And it happened to us just as he had interpreted: I was restored to my
position, and the other man was hanged."
14 So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, who was quickly brought out of the
dungeon. After he had shaved and changed his clothes, he went in before
Pharaoh.
15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it.
But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can
interpret it."
16 "I myself cannot do it," Joseph replied, "but God will give Pharaoh a
sound answer."
17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: "In my dream I was standing on the
bank of the Nile,
18 when seven cows, well-fed and sleek, came up from the river and
began to graze among the reeds.
19 After them, seven other cows—sickly, ugly, and thin—came up. I have
never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt!
20 Then the thin, ugly cows devoured the seven well-fed cows that were
there first.
21 When they had devoured them, however, no one could tell that they
had done so; their appearance was as ugly as it had been before. Then I
awoke.
22 In my dream I also saw seven heads of grain, plump and ripe, growing
on a single stalk.
23 After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—withered, thin, and
scorched by the east wind.
24 And the thin heads of grain swallowed the seven plump ones.
I told this dream to the magicians, but no one could explain it to me."
25 At this, Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and
the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.
26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven ripe heads of
grain are seven years. The dreams have the same meaning.
27 Moreover, the seven thin, ugly cows that came up after them are
seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the
east wind—they are seven years of famine.
28 It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is
about to do.
29 Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the
land of Egypt,
30 but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in
the land of Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will devastate the land.
31 The abundance in the land will not be remembered, since the famine
that follows it will be so severe.
32 Moreover, because the dream was given to Pharaoh in two versions,
the matter has been decreed by God, and he will carry it out shortly.
33 Now, therefore, Pharaoh should look for a discerning and wise man
and set him over the land of Egypt.

34 Let Pharaoh take action and appoint commissioners over the land to
take a fifth from the land* of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.
35 Under the authority of Pharaoh, let them collect all the excess food
from these good years, that they may come and lay up the grain to be
preserved as food in the cities.
36 This food will be a reserve for the land during the seven years of
famine to come upon the land of Egypt. Then the country will not perish
in the famine."
37 This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his officials.
38 So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, in whom
the spirit of God† abides?"
39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to
you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.
40 You shall be in charge of my house, and all my people are to obey your
commands. Only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you."
41 Pharaoh also told Joseph, "I hereby place you over all the land of
Egypt."
42 Then Pharaoh removed the signet ring from his finger, put it on
Joseph's finger, clothed him in garments of fine linen, and placed a gold
chain around his neck.
43 He had Joseph ride in his second chariot, with men calling out before
him, "Bow the knee!"‡ So he placed him over all the land of Egypt.
44 And Pharaoh declared to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your
permission, no one in all the land of Egypt shall lift his hand or foot."
45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah,§ and he gave him
Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On,* to be his wife. And Joseph
took charge of all the land of Egypt.
46 Now Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of
Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph left Pharaoh's presence and traveled
throughout the land of Egypt.
47 During the seven years of abundance, the land brought forth
bountifully.
48 During those seven years, Joseph collected all the excess food in the
land of Egypt and stored it in the cities. In every city he laid up the food
from the fields around it.
49 So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance, like the sand of the sea,
that he stopped keeping track of it; for it was beyond measure.
50 Before the years of famine arrived, two sons were born to Joseph by
Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.
51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh,† saying, "God has made me
forget all my hardship and all my father's household."
52 And the second son he named Ephraim,‡ saying, "God has made me
fruitful in the land of my affliction."
53 When the seven years of abundance in the land of Egypt came to an
end,

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* **41:34 41:34** See LXX *a fifth of the harvest* † **41:38 41:38** Or *the spirit of the gods* ‡ **41:43 41:43** That is, *"Abrek,"* probably an Egyptian word that sounds similar to the Hebrew for *kneel* § **41:45 41:45** *Zaphenath-paneah* probably means *Revealer of Mysteries* or *God speaks and lives.* * **41:45 41:45** That is, Heliopolis, as in LXX; also in verse 50 † **41:51 41:51** *Manasseh* sounds like the Hebrew for *making to forget.* ‡ **41:52 41:52** *Ephraim* sounds like the Hebrew for *making fruitful* or *twice fruitful.*

54 the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. And
although there was famine in every country, there was food throughout
the land of Egypt.
55 When extreme hunger came to all the land of Egypt and the people
cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph and
do whatever he tells you.”
56 When the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened up all
the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians; for the famine was severe
in the land of Egypt.
57 And every nation came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the
famine was severe over all the earth.

42

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons,
“Why are you staring at one another?”
2 “Look,” he added, “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down
there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.”
3 So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.
4 But Jacob did not send Joseph’s brother Benjamin with his brothers, for
he said, “I am afraid that harm might befall him.”
5 So the sons of Israel were among those who came to buy grain, since
the famine had also spread to the land of Canaan.
6 Now Joseph was the ruler of the land; he was the one who sold grain to
all its people. So when his brothers arrived, they bowed down before him
with their faces to the ground.
7 And when Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated
them as strangers and spoke harshly to them. “Where have you come
from?” he asked.
“From the land of Canaan,” they replied. “We are here to buy food.”
8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.
9 Joseph remembered his dreams about them and said, “You are spies!
You have come to see if our land is vulnerable.”
10 “Not so, my lord,” they replied. “Your servants have come to buy food.
11 We are all sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies.”
12 “No,” he told them. “You have come to see if our land is vulnerable.”
13 But they answered, “Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of
one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and
one is no more.”
14 Then Joseph declared, “Just as I said, you are spies!
15 And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you
shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.
16 Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be
confined so that the truth of your words may be tested. If they are untrue,
then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!”
17 So Joseph imprisoned them for three days,
18 and on the third day he said to them, “I fear God. So do this and you
will live:
19 If you are honest, leave one of your brothers in custody while the rest
of you go and take back grain to relieve the hunger of your households.
20 Then bring your youngest brother to me so that your words can be
verified, that you may not die.”
And to this they consented.

21 Then they said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because
of our brother. We saw his anguish when he pleaded with us, but we
would not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”
22 And Reuben responded, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy?
But you would not listen. Now we must account for his blood!”
23 They did not realize that Joseph understood them, since there was an
interpreter between them.
24 And he turned away from them and wept. When he turned back and
spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and had him bound before their
eyes.
25 Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to return each
man’s silver* to his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey.
This order was carried out,
26 and they loaded the grain on their donkeys and departed.
27 At the place where they lodged for the night, one of them opened his
sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of the
sack.
28 “My silver has been returned!” he said to his brothers. “It is here in
my sack.”
Their hearts sank, and trembling, they turned to one another and said,
“What is this that God has done to us?”
29 When they reached their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they
described to him all that had happened to them:
30 “The man who is lord of the land spoke harshly to us and accused us
of spying on the country.
31 But we told him, ‘We are honest men, not spies.
32 We are twelve brothers, sons of one father. One is no more, and the
youngest is now with our father in the land of Canaan.’
33 Then the man who is lord of the land said to us, ‘This is how I will
know whether you are honest: Leave one brother with me, take food to
relieve the hunger of your households, and go.
34 But bring your youngest brother back to me so I will know that you
are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you,
and you can trade in the land.’ ”
35 As they began emptying their sacks, there in each man’s sack was his
bag of silver! And when they and their father saw the bags of silver, they
were dismayed.
36 Their father Jacob said to them, “You have deprived me of my sons.
Joseph is gone and Simeon is no more. Now you want to take Benjamin.
Everything is going against me!”
37 Then Reuben said to his father, “You may kill my two sons if I fail to
bring him back to you. Put him in my care, and I will return him.”
38 But Jacob replied, “My son will not go down there with you, for his
brother is dead, and he alone is left. If any harm comes to him on your
journey, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.”

43

1 Now the famine was still severe in the land.
2 So when Jacob’s sons had eaten all the grain they had brought from
Egypt, their father said to them, “Go back and buy us a little more food.”

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* **42:25 42:25** Or *money*; here and throughout chapters 42–44

3 But Judah replied, “The man solemnly warned us, ‘You will not see my
face again unless your brother is with you.’
4 If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for
you.
5 But if you will not send him, we will not go; for the man told us, ‘You
will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.’ ”
6 “Why did you bring this trouble upon me?” Israel asked. “Why did you
tell the man you had another brother?”
7 They replied, “The man questioned us in detail about ourselves and
our family: ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ And
we answered him accordingly. How could we possibly know that he
would say, ‘Bring your brother here’?”
8 And Judah said to his father Israel, “Send the boy with me, and we will
go at once, so that we may live and not die—neither we, nor you, nor our
children.
9 I will guarantee his safety. You may hold me personally responsible. If
I do not bring him back and set him before you, then may I bear the guilt
before you all my life.
10 If we had not delayed, we could have come and gone twice by now.”
11 Then their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: Put
some of the best products of the land in your packs and carry them down
as a gift for the man—a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh,
pistachios and almonds.
12 Take double the silver with you so that you may return the silver that
was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake.
13 Take your brother as well, and return to the man at once.
14 May God Almighty* grant you mercy before the man, that he may
release your other brother along with Benjamin. As for me, if I am
bereaved, I am bereaved.”
15 So the men took these gifts, along with double the amount of silver,
and Benjamin as well. Then they hurried down to Egypt and stood before
Joseph.
16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with his brothers, he said to the steward
of his house, “Take these men to my house. Slaughter an animal and
prepare it, for they shall dine with me at noon.”
17 The man did as Joseph had commanded and took the brothers to
Joseph’s house.
18 But the brothers were frightened that they had been taken to Joseph’s
house. “We have been brought here because of the silver that was
returned in our bags the first time,” they said. “They intend to overpower
us and take us as slaves, along with our donkeys.”
19 So they approached Joseph’s steward and spoke to him at the entrance
to the house.
20 “Please, sir,” they said, “we really did come down here the first time to
buy food.
21 But when we came to the place we lodged for the night, we opened
our sacks and, behold, each of us found his silver in the mouth of his sack!
It was the full amount of our silver, and we have brought it back with us.
22 We have brought additional silver with us to buy food. We do not
know who put our silver in our sacks.”

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* **43:14 43:14** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

23 “It is fine,” said the steward. “Do not be afraid. Your God, the God of
your father, gave you the treasure that was in your sacks. I received your
silver.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.
24 And the steward took the men into Joseph’s house, gave them water to
wash their feet, and provided food for their donkeys.
25 Since the brothers had been told that they were going to eat a meal
there, they prepared their gift for Joseph’s arrival at noon.
26 When Joseph came home, they presented him with the gifts they had
brought, and they bowed to the ground before him.
27 He asked if they were well, and then he asked, “How is your elderly
father you told me about? Is he still alive?”
28 “Your servant our father is well,” they answered. “He is still alive.”
And they bowed down to honor him.
29 When Joseph looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, his own
mother’s son, he asked, “Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me
about?” Then he declared, “May God be gracious to you, my son.”
30 Joseph hurried out because he was moved to tears for his brother, and
he went to a private room to weep.
31 Then he washed his face and came back out. Regaining his
composure, he said, “Serve the meal.”
32 They separately served Joseph, his brothers, and the Egyptians. They
ate separately because the Egyptians would not eat with the Hebrews,
since that was detestable to them.
33 They were seated before Joseph in order by age, from the firstborn to
the youngest, and the men looked at one another in astonishment.
34 When the portions were served to them from Joseph’s table,
Benjamin’s portion was five times larger than any of the others. So they
feasted and drank freely with Joseph.

44

1 Then Joseph instructed his steward: “Fill the men’s sacks with as much
food as they can carry, and put each one’s silver in the mouth of his sack.
2 Put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one’s sack,
along with the silver for his grain.”
So the steward did as Joseph had instructed.
3 At daybreak, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.
4 They had not gone far from the city when Joseph told his steward,
“Pursue the men at once, and when you overtake them, ask, ‘Why have
you repaid good with evil?*
5 Is this not the cup† my master drinks from and uses for divination?
What you have done is wicked!’ ”
6 When the steward overtook them, he relayed these words to them.
7 “Why does my lord say these things?” they asked. “Your servants could
not possibly do such a thing.
8 We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we
found in the mouths of our sacks. Why would we steal silver or gold from
your master’s house?
9 If any of your servants is found to have it, he must die, and the rest will
become slaves of my lord.”

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* **44:4 44:4** LXX includes *Why have you stolen my silver cup?* † **44:5 44:5** Hebrew *Is it not this which*

10 “As you say,” replied the steward. “But only the one who is found with
the cup will be my slave, and the rest of you shall be free of blame.”
11 So each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.
12 The steward searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the
youngest—and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.
13 Then they all tore their clothes, loaded their donkeys, and returned to
the city.
14 When Judah and his brothers arrived at Joseph’s house, he was still
there, and they fell to the ground before him.
15 “What is this deed you have done?” Joseph declared. “Do you not
know that a man like me can surely divine the truth?”
16 “What can we say to my lord?” Judah replied. “How can we plead?
How can we justify ourselves? God has exposed the iniquity of your
servants. We are now my lord’s slaves—both we and the one who was
found with the cup.”
17 But Joseph replied, “Far be it from me to do this. The man who was
found with the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may return to your
father in peace.”
18 Then Judah approached Joseph and said, “Sir, please let your servant
speak personally to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, for you
are equal to Pharaoh himself.
19 My lord asked his servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’
20 And we answered, ‘We have an elderly father and a younger brother,
the child of his old age. The boy’s brother is dead. He is the only one of his
mother’s sons left, and his father loves him.’
21 Then you told your servants, ‘Bring him down to me so that I can see
him for myself.’
22 So we said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father. If he were to
leave, his father would die.’
23 But you said to your servants, ‘Unless your younger brother comes
down with you, you will not see my face again.’
24 Now when we returned to your servant my father, we relayed your
words to him.
25 Then our father said, ‘Go back and buy us some food.’
26 But we answered, ‘We cannot go down there unless our younger
brother goes with us. So if our younger brother is not with us, we cannot
see the man.’
27 And your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore
me two sons.
28 When one of them was gone, I said: “Surely he has been torn to
pieces.” And I have not seen him since.
29 Now if you also take this one from me and harm comes to him, you
will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.’
30 So if the boy is not with us when I return to your servant, and if my
father, whose life is wrapped up in the boy’s life,
31 sees that the boy is not with us, he will die. Then your servants will
have brought the gray hair of your servant our father down to Sheol in
sorrow.
32 Indeed, your servant guaranteed the boy’s safety to my father, saying,
‘If I do not return him to you, I will bear the guilt before you, my father, all
my life.’

33 Now please let your servant stay here as my lord's slave in place of
the boy. Let him return with his brothers.
34 For how can I go back to my father without the boy? I could not bear
to see the misery that would overwhelm him."

45

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants,
and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me!"
So none of them were with Joseph when he made himself known to his
brothers.
2 But he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's
household soon heard of it.
3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?"
But they were unable to answer him, because they were terrified in his
presence.
4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near me." And they did
so.
"I am Joseph, your brother," he said, "the one you sold into Egypt!
5 And now, do not be distressed or angry with yourselves that you sold
me into this place, because it was to save lives that God sent me before
you.
6 For the famine has covered the land these two years, and there will be
five more years without plowing or harvesting.
7 God sent me before you to preserve you as a remnant on the earth and
to save your lives by a great deliverance.*
8 Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but God, who has made me
a father to Pharaoh—lord of all his household and ruler over all the land
of Egypt.
9 Now return quickly to my father and tell him, 'This is what your son
Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me
without delay.
10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen and be near me—you and your
children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you
own.
11 And there I will provide for you, because there will be five more years
of famine. Otherwise, you and your household and everything you own
will come to destitution.'
12 Behold! You and my brother Benjamin can see that I, Joseph, am the
one speaking with you.
13 Tell my father about all my splendor in Egypt and everything you
have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."
14 Then Joseph threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept,
and Benjamin wept as they embraced.
15 Joseph kissed each of his brothers as he wept over them. And
afterward his brothers talked with him.
16 When the news reached Pharaoh's house that Joseph's brothers had
come, Pharaoh and his servants were pleased.
17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do as follows: Load your
animals and return to the land of Canaan.
18 Then bring your father and your families and return to me. I will give
you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat from the fat of the land.'

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* **45:7 45:7** Or *and to keep you alive as a great band of survivors*

19 You are also directed to tell them: ‘Take wagons from the land of
Egypt for your young children and your wives, and bring your father and
come back.
20 But pay no regard to your belongings, for the best of all the land of
Egypt is yours.’ ”
21 So the sons of Israel did as they were told. Joseph gave them wagons
as Pharaoh had instructed, and he also gave them provisions for their
journey.
22 He gave new garments to each of them, but to Benjamin he gave three
hundred shekels of silver† and five sets of clothes.
23 And he sent to his father the following: ten donkeys loaded with the
best of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and
provisions for his father’s journey.
24 Then Joseph sent his brothers on their way, and as they were leaving,
he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the way!”
25 So the brothers went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in
the land of Canaan.
26 “Joseph is still alive,” they said, “and he is ruler over all the land of
Egypt!”
But Jacob was stunned, for he did not believe them.
27 However, when they relayed all that Joseph had told them, and when
he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of
their father Jacob was revived.
28 “Enough!” declared Israel. “My son Joseph is still alive! I will go to see
him before I die.”

46

1 So Israel set out with all that he had, and when he came to Beersheba,
he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.
2 And that night God spoke to Israel in a vision: “Jacob, Jacob!” He said.
“Here I am,” replied Jacob.
3 “I am God,” he said, “the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go
down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.
4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will surely bring you back. And
Joseph’s own hands will close your eyes.”
5 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba, and the sons of Israel took their
father Jacob in the wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry him, along with
their children and wives.
6 They also took the livestock and possessions they had acquired in the
land of Canaan, and Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt.
7 Jacob took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons, and his
daughters and granddaughters—all his offspring.
8 Now these are the names of the sons of Israel (Jacob and his
descendants) who went to Egypt: Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn.
9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.
10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel,* Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar,† and Shaul
the son of a Canaanite woman.
11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah; but Er and
Onan died in the land of Canaan.

† **45:22 45:22** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms of silver. * **46:10 46:10** *Jemuel* is another name for *Nemuel*; see Numbers 26:12. † **46:10 46:10** *Zohar* is a variant of *Zerah*; see Numbers 26:13 and 1 Chronicles 4:24.

The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.
13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah,‡ Job,§ and Shimron.
14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.
15 These are the sons of Leah born to Jacob in Paddan-aram,* in addition
to his daughter Dinah. The total number of sons and daughters was
thirty-three.
16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion,† Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi,‡ and Areli.
17 The children of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister
Serah.
The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.
18 These are the sons of Jacob born to Zilpah—whom Laban gave to his
daughter Leah—sixteen in all.
19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.
20 Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph in the land of Egypt by
Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.§
21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh,
Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.
22 These are the sons of Rachel born to Jacob—fourteen in all.
23 The son of Dan: Hushim.
24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.
25 These are the sons of Jacob born to Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his
daughter Rachel—seven in all.
26 All those belonging to Jacob who came to Egypt—his direct
descendants, besides the wives of Jacob's sons—numbered sixty-six
persons.
27 And with the two sons* who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the
members of Jacob's family who went to Egypt were seventy† in all.
28 Now Jacob had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to
Goshen. When Jacob's family arrived in the land of Goshen,
29 Joseph prepared his chariot and went to Goshen to meet his father
Israel. Joseph presented himself to him, embraced him, and wept
profusely.
30 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Finally I can die, now that I have seen
your face and know that you are still alive!"
31 Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up
and inform Pharaoh: 'My brothers and my father's household from the
land of Canaan have come to me.
32 The men are shepherds; they raise livestock, and they have brought
their flocks and herds and all that they own.'
33 When Pharaoh summons you and asks, 'What is your occupation?'
34 you are to say, 'Your servants have raised livestock ever since our
youth—both we and our fathers.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the
land of Goshen, since all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians."

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‡ **46:13 46:13** SP and Syriac *Puah*; see 1 Chronicles 7:1. § **46:13 46:13** SP and some LXX manuscripts *Jashub*; see Numbers 26:24 and 1 Chronicles 7:1. * **46:15 46:15** That is, northwest Mesopotamia † **46:16 46:16** SP and LXX *Zephon*; see also Numbers 26:15. ‡ **46:16 46:16** *Arodi* is a variant of *Arod*; see Numbers 26:17. § **46:20 46:20** That is, Heliopolis, as in LXX * **46:27 46:27** LXX *the nine sons*, probably including Joseph's grandsons through Ephraim and Manasseh; see 1 Chronicles 7:14–29. † **46:27 46:27** Hebrew (see also Exodus 1:5); LXX *seventy-five*

47

1 So Joseph went and told Pharaoh: “My father and my brothers, with
their flocks and herds and all they own, have come from the land of
Canaan and are now in Goshen.”
2 And he chose five of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh.
3 “What is your occupation?” Pharaoh asked Joseph’s brothers.
“Your servants are shepherds,” they replied, “both we and our fathers.”
4 Then they said to Pharaoh, “We have come to live in the land for a
time, because there is no pasture for the flocks of your servants, since the
famine in the land of Canaan has been severe. So now, please allow your
servants to settle in the land of Goshen.”
5 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Now that your father and brothers have come
to you,
6 the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and brothers in the
best part of the land. They may dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you
know of any talented men among them, put them in charge of my own
livestock.”
7 Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and presented him before
Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.
8 “How many years have you lived?” Pharaoh asked.
9 “My travels* have lasted 130 years,” Jacob replied. “My years have been
few and hard, and they have not matched the years of the travels of my
fathers.”
10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and departed from his presence.
11 So Joseph settled his father and brothers in the land of Egypt and gave
them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as
Pharaoh had commanded.
12 Joseph also provided his father and brothers and all his father’s
household with food for their families.
13 There was no food, however, in all that region, because the famine
was so severe; the lands of Egypt and Canaan had been exhausted by the
famine.
14 Joseph collected all the money to be found in the land of Egypt and
the land of Canaan in exchange for the grain they were buying, and he
brought it into Pharaoh’s palace.
15 When the money from the lands of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all
the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us food. Why should we die
before your eyes? For our funds have run out!”
16 “Then bring me your livestock,” said Joseph. “Since the money is gone,
I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock.”
17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in
exchange for their horses, their flocks and herds, and their donkeys.
Throughout that year he provided them with food in exchange for all their
livestock.
18 When that year was over, they came to him the second year and said,
“We cannot hide from our lord that our money is gone and all our
livestock belongs to you. There is nothing left for our lord except our
bodies and our land.
19 Why should we perish before your eyes—we and our land as well?
Purchase us and our land in exchange for food. Then we, along with our
land, will be slaves to Pharaoh. Give us seed that we may live and not die,
and that the land may not become desolate.”

* **47:9 47:9** Hebrew *sojourns*; twice in this verse

20 So Joseph acquired for Pharaoh all the land in Egypt; the Egyptians,
one and all, sold their fields because the famine was so severe upon them.
The land became Pharaoh's,
21 and Joseph removed the people to the cities† from one end of Egypt to
the other.
22 However, he did not acquire the priests' portion of the land, for it had
been given to them by Pharaoh. They ate the rations that Pharaoh
supplied; so they did not sell their land.
23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have acquired you and
your land for Pharaoh this day, here is seed for you to sow in the land.
24 At harvest time, you are to give a fifth of it to Pharaoh, and four-fifths
will be yours as seed for the field and food for yourselves and your
households and children."
25 "You have saved our lives," they said. "We have found favor in our
lord's eyes, and we will be Pharaoh's slaves."
26 So Joseph established a law that a fifth of the produce belongs to
Pharaoh, and it is in effect in the land of Egypt to this day. Only the priests'
land does not belong to Pharaoh.
27 Now the Israelites settled in the land of Egypt, in the region of Goshen.
They acquired property there and became fruitful and increased greatly
in number.
28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years, and the length
of his life was 147 years.
29 When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called his son Joseph
and said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under
my thigh and promise to show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury
me in Egypt,
30 but when I lie down with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury
me with them."
Joseph answered, "I will do as you have requested."
31 "Swear to me," Jacob said.
So Joseph swore to him, and Israel bowed in worship at the head of his
bed.‡

48

1 Some time later Joseph was told, "Your father is ill." So he set out with
his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
2 When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph has come to you," Israel rallied
his strength and sat up in bed.
3 Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty* appeared to me at Luz in the land
of Canaan, and there he blessed me
4 and told me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you; I will
make you a multitude of peoples, and will give this land to your
descendants after you as an everlasting possession.'
5 And now your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here
shall be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, just as
Reuben and Simeon are mine.
6 Any children born to you after them shall be yours, and they shall be
called by the names of their brothers in the territory they inherit.

† **47:21 47:21** SP, LXX, Vulgate *reduced the people to servitude* ‡ **47:31 47:31** LXX *Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff* * **48:3 48:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

7 Now as for me, when I was returning from Paddan,† to my sorrow
Rachel died along the way in the land of Canaan, some distance from
Ephrath. So I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath" (that is,
Bethlehem).
8 When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, "Who are these?"
9 Joseph said to his father, "They are the sons God has given me in this
place."
So Jacob said, "Please bring them to me, that I may bless them."
10 Now Israel's eyesight was poor because of old age; he could hardly
see. Joseph brought his sons to him, and his father kissed them and
embraced them.
11 "I never expected to see your face again," Israel said to Joseph, "but
now God has let me see your children as well."
12 Then Joseph removed his sons from his father's knees and bowed
facedown.
13 And Joseph took both of them—with Ephraim in his right hand
toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's
right hand—and brought them close to him.
14 But Israel stretched out his right hand and put it on the head of
Ephraim, the younger; and crossing his hands, he put his left on
Manasseh's head, although Manasseh was the firstborn.
15 Then he blessed Joseph and said:

"May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,
16 the angel who has redeemed me from all harm—
may he bless these boys.
And may they be called by my name
and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,
and may they grow into a multitude upon the earth."
17 When Joseph saw that his father had placed his right hand on
Ephraim's head, he was displeased and took his father's hand to move it
from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's.
18 "Not so, my father!" Joseph said. "This one is the firstborn; put your
right hand on his head."
19 But his father refused. "I know, my son, I know!" he said. "He too shall
become a people, and he too shall be great; nevertheless, his younger
brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a
multitude of nations."
20 So that day Jacob blessed them and said:

"By you shall Israel pronounce this blessing:
'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.' "
So he put Ephraim before Manasseh.
21 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Look, I am about to die, but God will be
with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.
22 And to you, as one who is above your brothers, I give one portion of
the land‡ that I took from the Amorites with my sword and bow."

† **48:7 48:7** That is, northwest Mesopotamia ‡ **48:22 48:22** Or *the ridge of land*; Hebrew *shekem*, which sounds like the town and district called *Shechem*

49

1 Then Jacob called for his sons and said, “Gather around so that I can
tell you what will happen to you in the days to come:

2 Come together and listen, O sons of Jacob;
listen to your father Israel.

3 Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might,
and the beginning of my strength,
excelling in honor,
excelling in power.
4 Uncontrolled as the waters,
you will no longer excel,
because you went up to your father’s bed,
onto my couch, and defiled it.

5 Simeon and Levi are brothers;
their swords* are weapons of violence.
6 May I never enter their council;
may I never join their assembly.
For they kill men in their anger,
and hamstring oxen on a whim.
7 Cursed be their anger, for it is strong,
and their wrath, for it is cruel!
I will disperse them in Jacob
and scatter them in Israel.

8 Judah,† your brothers shall praise you.
Your hand shall be on the necks of your enemies;
your father’s sons shall bow down to you.
9 Judah is a young lion—
my son, you return from the prey.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down;
like a lioness, who dares to rouse him?
10 The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the staff from between his feet,‡
until Shiloh comes§
and the allegiance of the nations is his.
11 He ties his donkey to the vine,
his colt to the choicest branch.
He washes his garments in wine,
his robes in the blood of grapes.
12 His eyes are darker than wine,
and his teeth are whiter than milk.

13 Zebulun shall dwell by the seashore
and become a harbor for ships;
his border shall extend to Sidon.

14 Issachar is a strong donkey,

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* **49:5 49:5** Or *dwelling places* † **49:8 49:8** *Judah* sounds like the Hebrew for *praise.* ‡ **49:10 49:10** Or *from his descendants* § **49:10 49:10** Or *until the one to whom tribute belongs comes*

lying down between the sheepfolds.*
15 He saw that his resting place was good
and that his land was pleasant,
so he bent his shoulder to the burden
and submitted to labor as a servant.

16 Dan shall judge his people†
as one of the tribes of Israel.
17 He will be a snake by the road,
a viper in the path
that bites the horse's heels
so that its rider tumbles backward.

18 I await your deliverance, O LORD.

19 Gad‡ will be attacked by raiders,
but he will attack their heels.

20 Asher's food will be rich;
he shall provide royal delicacies.

21 Naphtali is a doe set free
that bears beautiful fawns.§

22 Joseph is a wild donkey,
a wild donkey by a spring,
with his wild colts beside the wall.*
23 The archers attacked him with bitterness;
they aimed at him in hostility.
24 Yet he steadied his bow,
and his strong arms were tempered
by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob—
from there comes the Shepherd,†
the Rock of Israel,
25 by the God of your father who helps you,
and by the Almighty‡ who blesses you,
with blessings of the heavens above,
with blessings of the depths below,
with blessings of the breasts and womb.
26 The blessings of your father have surpassed
the blessings of my ancestors§
and the bounty of the everlasting hills.
May they rest on the head of Joseph,
on the brow of the prince of his brothers.

27 Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
in the morning he devours the prey,

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* **49:14 49:14** Or *saddlebags* or *hearths* † **49:16 49:16** Or *Dan shall provide justice for his people; Dan* means *he has judged* or *he has vindicated.* ‡ **49:19 49:19** *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *raid* and also for *band of raiders.* § **49:21 49:21** Or *gives beautiful words* or *bears fawns of the fold* * **49:22 49:22** Or *Joseph is a fruitful vine—a fruitful vine by a spring, whose branches scale the wall* † **49:24 49:24** Syriac and Targum *in the name of the Shepherd* ‡ **49:25 49:25** Hebrew *Shaddai* § **49:26 49:26** Or *of the ancient mountains*

in the evening he divides the plunder."
28 These are the tribes of Israel, twelve in all, and this was what their
father said to them. He blessed them, and he blessed each one with a
suitable blessing.
29 Then Jacob instructed them, "I am about to be gathered to my people.
Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite.
30 The cave is in the field of Machpelah near Mamre, in the land of
Canaan. This is the field Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hittite as a
burial site.
31 There Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried, there Isaac and his
wife Rebekah are buried, and there I buried Leah.
32 The field and the cave that is in it were purchased from the Hittites."
33 When Jacob had finished instructing his sons, he pulled his feet into
the bed and breathed his last, and he was gathered to his people.

50

1 Then Joseph fell upon his father's face, wept over him, and kissed him.
2 And Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father
Israel. So they embalmed him,
3 taking the forty days required to complete the embalming. And the
Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.
4 When the days of mourning had passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh's
court, "If I have found favor in your eyes, please tell Pharaoh that
5 my father made me swear an oath when he said, 'I am about to die.
You must bury me in the tomb that I dug for myself in the land of Canaan.'
Now let me go and bury my father, and then return."
6 Pharaoh replied, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to
do."
7 Then Joseph went to bury his father, and all the servants of Pharaoh
accompanied him—the elders of Pharaoh's household and all the elders of
the land of Egypt—
8 along with all of Joseph's household, and his brothers, and his father's
household. Only their children and flocks and herds were left in Goshen.
9 Chariots and horsemen alike went up with him, and it was an
exceedingly large procession.
10 When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, which is across the
Jordan, they lamented and wailed loudly, and Joseph mourned for his
father seven days.
11 When the Canaanites of the land saw the mourning at the threshing
floor of Atad, they said, "This is a solemn ceremony of mourning by the
Egyptians." Thus the place across the Jordan is called Abel-mizraim.*
12 So Jacob's sons did as he had charged them.
13 They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave at
Machpelah in the field near Mamre, which Abraham had purchased from
Ephron the Hittite as a burial site.
14 After Joseph had buried his father, he returned to Egypt with his
brothers and all who had gone with him to bury his father.
15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said,
"What if Joseph bears a grudge? Then he will surely repay us for all the
evil that we did to him."

* **50:11 50:11** *Abel-mizraim* means *mourning of the Egyptians.*

16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Before he died, your father
commanded,
17 ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I beg you, please forgive the
transgression and sin of your brothers, for they did you wrong.’ So now,
Joseph, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your
father.”
When their message came to him, Joseph wept.
18 His brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, “We
are your slaves!”
19 But Joseph replied, “Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God?
20 As for you, what you intended against me for evil, God intended for
good, in order to accomplish a day like this—to preserve the lives of many
people.
21 Therefore do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones.”
So Joseph reassured his brothers and spoke kindly to them.
22 Now Joseph and his father’s household remained in Egypt, and Joseph
lived to the age of 110.
23 He saw Ephraim’s sons to the third generation, and indeed the sons of
Machir son of Manasseh were born† on Joseph’s knees.
24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will
surely visit you and bring you up from this land to the land he promised
on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”
25 And Joseph made the sons of Israel take an oath and said, “God will
surely attend to you, and then you must carry my bones up from this
place.”
26 So Joseph died at the age of 110. And they embalmed his body and
placed it in a coffin in Egypt.

† **50:23 50:23** Or *brought up* or *placed at birth*

Exodus

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with
Jacob, each with his family:

2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;
3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;
4 Dan and Naphtali;
Gad and Asher.
5 The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy* in all, including Joseph,
who was already in Egypt.
6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died,
7 but the Israelites were fruitful and increased rapidly; they multiplied
and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them.
8 Then a new king, who did not know Joseph, came to power in Egypt.
9 "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become too numerous
and too powerful for us.
10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase even
more; and if a war breaks out, they may join our enemies, fight against us,
and leave the country.†"
11 So the Egyptians appointed taskmasters over the Israelites to oppress
them with forced labor. As a result, they built Pithom and Rameses as
store cities for Pharaoh.
12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and
flourished; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.
13 They worked the Israelites ruthlessly
14 and made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar, and
with all kinds of work in the fields. Every service they imposed was harsh.
15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names
were Shiphrah and Puah,
16 "When you help the Hebrew women give birth, observe them on the
birthstools. If the child is a son, kill him; but if it is a daughter, let her live."
17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do as the king of
Egypt had instructed; they let the boys live.
18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why
have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"
19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, "The Hebrew women are not like
the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before a
midwife arrives."
20 So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied and
became even more numerous.
21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their
own.
22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people: "Every son born‡ you must
throw into the Nile, but every daughter you may allow to live."

2

1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman,

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* **1:5 1:5** MT (see also Genesis 46:27); DSS and LXX *seventy-five*
† **1:10 1:10** Or *and take the country*
‡ **1:22 1:22** SP, LXX, and Targum Yonaton add *to the Hebrews*

2 and she conceived and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was
a beautiful child, she hid him for three months.
3 But when she could no longer hide him, she got him a papyrus basket*
and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in the basket
and set it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.
4 And his sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.
5 Soon the daughter of Pharaoh went down to bathe in the Nile, and her
attendants were walking along the riverbank. And when she saw the
basket among the reeds, she sent her maidservant to retrieve it.
6 When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the little boy was
crying. So she had compassion on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrew
children."
7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call one of
the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"
8 "Go ahead," Pharaoh's daughter told her. And the girl went and called
the boy's mother.
9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me,
and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the boy and nursed him.
10 When the child had grown older, she brought him to Pharaoh's
daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses† and explained,
"I drew him out of the water."
11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his own people‡
and observed their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one
of his own people.
12 After looking this way and that and seeing no one, he struck down the
Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.
13 The next day Moses went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked
the one in the wrong, "Why are you attacking your companion?"
14 But the man replied, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are
you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?§"
Then Moses was afraid and thought, "This thing I have done has surely
become known."
15 When Pharaoh heard about this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But
Moses fled from Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, where he sat
down beside a well.
16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw
water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock.
17 And when some shepherds came along and drove them away, Moses
rose up to help them and watered their flock.
18 When the daughters returned to their father Reuel,* he asked them,
"Why have you returned so early today?"
19 "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds," they replied. "He even
drew water for us and watered the flock."
20 "So where is he?" their father asked. "Why did you leave the man
behind? Invite him to have something to eat."
21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave his daughter
Zipporah to Moses in marriage.
22 And she gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom,† saying,

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* **2:3 2:3** The Hebrew can also mean *ark*; also in verse 5; see Genesis 6:14. † **2:10 2:10** *Moses* sounds like a Hebrew term that means *to lift out*. ‡ **2:11 2:11** Or *his brothers* § **2:14 2:14** LXX *Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?* * **2:18 2:18** *Reuel* was also called *Jethro*; see Exodus 3:1. † **2:22 2:22** *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *foreigner*.

"I have become a foreigner in a foreign land."
23 After a long time, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned and
cried out under their burden of slavery, and their cry for deliverance from
bondage ascended to God.
24 So God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant with
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
25 God saw the Israelites and took notice.

3

1 Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law
Jethro,* the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the
wilderness and came to Horeb,† the mountain of God.
2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from
within a bush. Moses saw the bush ablaze with fire, but it was not
consumed.
3 So Moses thought, "I must go over and see this marvelous sight. Why is
the bush not burning up?"
4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to
him from within the bush, "Moses, Moses!"
"Here I am," he answered.
5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place
where you are standing is holy ground."
6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the
God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."
At this, Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt.
I have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I am aware
of their sufferings.
8 I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and
to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, a land
flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites,
Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.
9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen how
severely the Egyptians are oppressing them.
10 Therefore, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the
Israelites out of Egypt."
11 But Moses asked God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and
bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"
12 "I will surely be with you," God said, "and this will be the sign to you
that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, all
of you will worship God on this mountain."
13 Then Moses asked God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them,
'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his
name?' What should I tell them?"
14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.‡ This is what you are to say to the
Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "
15 God also told Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your
fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has

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* **3:1 3:1** Moses' father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18. † **3:1 3:1** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai ‡ **3:14 3:14** Or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE*

sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be
remembered in every generation.
16 Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God
of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to
me and said: I have surely attended to you and have seen what has been
done to you in Egypt.
17 And I have promised to bring you up out of your affliction in Egypt,
into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and
Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'
18 The elders of Israel will listen to what you say, and you must go with
them to the king of Egypt and tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews,
has met with us. Now please let us take a three-day journey into the
wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'
19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go unless a
mighty hand compels him.§
20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the
wonders I will perform among them. And after that, he will release you.
21 And I will grant this people such favor in the sight of the Egyptians
that when you leave, you will not go away empty-handed.
22 Every woman shall ask her neighbor and any woman staying in her
house for silver and gold jewelry and clothing, and you will put them on
your sons and daughters. So you will plunder the Egyptians."

4

1 Then Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to my
voice? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' "
2 And the LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?"
"A staff," he replied.
3 "Throw it on the ground," said the LORD. So Moses threw it on the
ground, and it became a snake,* and he ran from it.
4 "Stretch out your hand and grab it by the tail," the LORD said to Moses,
who reached out his hand and caught the snake, and it turned back into a
staff in his hand.
5 "This is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their
fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has
appeared to you."
6 Furthermore, the LORD said to Moses, "Put your hand inside your
cloak.†" So he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, his
hand was leprous,‡ white as snow.
7 "Put your hand back inside your cloak," said the LORD.
So Moses put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, it
was restored, like the rest of his skin.
8 "If they refuse to believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they
may believe that of the second.
9 But if they do not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice,
take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. Then the
water you take from the Nile will become blood on the ground."

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§ **3:19 3:19** Literally *except by a mighty hand* * **4:3 4:3** Hebrew *nachash*, in contrast to Aaron's staff, which became a *tannin* in Exodus 7:10 † **4:6 4:6** Hebrew *into your bosom*; twice in this verse and twice in verse 7 ‡ **4:6 4:6** The Hebrew word traditionally translated as *leprous* was used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

10 “Please, Lord,” Moses replied, “I have never been eloquent, neither in
the past nor since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of
speech and tongue.”
11 And the LORD said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Or who makes
the mute or the deaf, the sighted or the blind? Is it not I, the LORD?
12 Now go! I will help you as you speak, and I will teach you what to say.”
13 But Moses replied, “Please, Lord, send someone else.”
14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and he said, “Is not
Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well, and he is
now on his way to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his
heart.
15 You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth. I will help
both of you to speak, and I will teach you what to do.
16 He will speak to the people for you. He will be your spokesman, and it
will be as if you were God to him.
17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform signs with it.”
18 Then Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro§ and said to him,
“Please let me return to my brothers in Egypt to see if they are still alive.”
“Go in peace,” Jethro replied.
19 Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all
the men who sought to kill you are dead.”
20 So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey, and headed
back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.
21 The LORD instructed Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you
perform before Pharaoh all the wonders that I have put within your
power. But I will stiffen* his heart so that he will not let the people go.
22 Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: ‘Israel is my
firstborn son,
23 and I told you to let my son go so that he may worship me. But since
you have refused to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son!’ ”
24 Now at a lodging place along the way, the LORD met Moses† and was
about to kill him.
25 But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin, and touched
it to Moses’ feet.‡ “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said.
26 So the LORD let him alone. (When she said, “bridegroom of blood,” she
was referring to the circumcision.)
27 Meanwhile, the LORD had said to Aaron, “Go and meet Moses in the
wilderness.” So he went and met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed
him.
28 And Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and
all the signs he had commanded him to perform.
29 Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the
Israelites,
30 and Aaron relayed everything the LORD had said to Moses.
And he performed the signs before the people,
31 and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD had attended
to the Israelites and had seen their affliction, they bowed down and
worshiped.

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§ **4:18 4:18** Moses’ father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18. * **4:21 4:21** Or *harden* or *strengthen* † **4:24 4:24** Hebrew *him* ‡ **4:25 4:25** Hebrew *his feet*

5

1 After that, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what
the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold
a feast to me in the wilderness.’ ”
2 But Pharaoh replied, “Who is the LORD that I should obey his voice and
let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.”
3 “The God of the Hebrews has met with us,” they answered. “Please let
us go on a three-day journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the LORD
our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.”
4 But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you
draw the people away from their work? Get back to your labor!”
5 Pharaoh also said, “Look, the people of the land are now numerous,
and you would be stopping them from their labor.”
6 That same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and
their foremen:
7 “You shall no longer supply the people with straw for making bricks.
They must go and gather their own straw.
8 But require of them the same quota of bricks as before; do not reduce
it. For they are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and
sacrifice to our God.’
9 Make the work harder on the men so they will be occupied and pay no
attention to these lies.”
10 So the taskmasters and foremen of the people went out and said to
them, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I am no longer giving you straw.
11 Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it; but your
workload will in no way be reduced.’ ”
12 So the people scattered all over the land of Egypt to gather stubble for
straw.
13 The taskmasters kept pressing them, saying, “Fulfill your quota each
day, just as you did when straw was provided.”
14 Then the Israelite foremen, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over
the people, were beaten and asked, “Why have you not fulfilled your quota
of bricks yesterday or today, as you did before?”
15 So the Israelite foremen went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why are you
treating your servants this way?
16 No straw has been given to your servants, yet we are told, ‘Make
bricks!’ Look, your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your
own people.”
17 “You are slackers!” Pharaoh replied. “Slackers! That is why you keep
saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’
18 Now get to work. You will be given no straw, yet you must deliver the
full quota of bricks.”
19 The Israelite foremen realized they were in trouble when they were
told, “You must not reduce your daily quota of bricks.”
20 When they left Pharaoh, they confronted Moses and Aaron, who stood
waiting to meet them.
21 “May the LORD look upon you and judge you,” the foremen said, “for
you have made us a stench before Pharaoh and his officials; you have
placed in their hand a sword to kill us!”
22 So Moses returned to the LORD and asked, “Lord, why have you
brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me?

23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought
trouble on this people, and you have not delivered your people in any
way."

6

1 But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to
Pharaoh, for with a mighty hand he will let the people go; with a strong
hand he will drive them out of his land."
2 God also told Moses, "I am the LORD.
3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty,* but by
my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.
4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of
Canaan, the land where they lived as foreigners.
5 Furthermore, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the
Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.
6 Therefore tell the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out
from under the yoke of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage.
I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of
judgment.
7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will
know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the
yoke of the Egyptians.
8 And I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD!' "
9 Moses relayed this message to the Israelites, but on account of their
broken spirit and cruel bondage, they did not listen to him.
10 So the LORD said to Moses,
11 "Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his
land."
12 But in the LORD's presence Moses replied, "If the Israelites will not
listen to me, then why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I am unskilled in
speech?†"
13 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge
concerning both the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the
Israelites out of the land of Egypt.
14 These were the heads of their fathers' houses:

The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, were Hanoch and Pallu,
Hezron and Carmi. These were the clans of Reuben.
15 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar,‡ and
Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. These were the clans of Simeon.
16 These were the names of the sons of Levi according to their records:
Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.
17 The sons of Gershon were Libni and Shimei, by their clans.
18 The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. Kohath
lived 133 years.
19 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi.
These were the clans of the Levites according to their records.
20 And Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, and she bore him
Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

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* **6:3 6:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai* † **6:12 6:12** Hebrew *I have uncircumcised lips*; also in verse 30 ‡ **6:15 6:15** *Zohar* is a variant of *Zerah*; see Numbers 26:13 and 1 Chronicles 4:24.

21 The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.
22 The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan,§ and Sithri.
23 And Aaron married Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab and sister
of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.
24 The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph.* These were
the clans of the Korahites.
25 Aaron's son Eleazar married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she
bore him Phinehas.
These were the heads of the Levite families by their clans.
26 It was this Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring the
Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their divisions."
27 Moses and Aaron were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt
in order to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.
28 Now on the day that the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt,
29 he said to him, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I
say to you."
30 But in the LORD's presence Moses replied, "Since I am unskilled in
speech, why would Pharaoh listen to me?"

7

1 The LORD answered Moses, "See, I have made you a god to Pharaoh,
and your brother Aaron will be your prophet.
2 You are to speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron is to
tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his land.
3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I will multiply my signs
and wonders in the land of Egypt,
4 Pharaoh will not listen to you.
Then I will lay my hand on Egypt, and by mighty acts of judgment I will
bring the divisions of my people the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.
5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out
my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out from among them."
6 So Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded them.
7 Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three when they
spoke to Pharaoh.
8 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
9 "When Pharaoh tells you, 'Perform a miracle,' you are to say to Aaron,
'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a
serpent.*'"
10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD had
commanded. Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his officials,
and it became a serpent.
11 But Pharaoh called the wise men and sorcerers and magicians of
Egypt, and they also did the same things by their magic arts.
12 Each one threw down his staff, and it became a serpent. But Aaron's
staff swallowed up the other staffs.
13 Still, Pharaoh's heart was stiffened,† and he would not listen to them,
just as the LORD had said.

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§ **6:22 6:22** *Elzaphan* is a variant of *Elizaphan*; see Numbers 3:30. * **6:24 6:24** *Abiasaph* is a variant of *Ebiasaph*; see 1 Chronicles 6:8 and 1 Chronicles 9:19. * **7:9 7:9** Hebrew *tannin*; here and in verse 10, in contrast to Moses' staff, which became a *nachash* in Exodus 4:3 and was noted again in Exodus 7:15 † **7:13 7:13** Or *hardened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 22

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is stubborn;‡ he
refuses to let the people go.
15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning as you see him walking out to the water.
Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff
that was changed into a snake.
16 Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to
tell you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness.
But until now you have not listened.
17 This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD.
Behold, with the staff in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it
will turn to blood.
18 The fish in the Nile will die, the river will stink, and the Egyptians will
be unable to drink its water.’ ”
19 And the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch
out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over their rivers and canals and
ponds and all the reservoirs—that they may become blood.’ There will be
blood throughout the land of Egypt, even in the vessels of wood and stone.”
20 Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded; in the
presence of Pharaoh and his officials, Aaron raised the staff§ and struck
the water of the Nile, and all the water was turned to blood.
21 The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the
Egyptians could not drink its water. And there was blood throughout the
land of Egypt.
22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same things by their magic arts. So
Pharaoh’s heart was stiffened, and he would not listen to Moses and
Aaron, just as the LORD had said.
23 Instead, Pharaoh turned around, went into his palace, and did not
take any of this to heart.
24 So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, because
they could not drink the water from the river.
25 And seven full days passed after the LORD had struck the Nile.
26 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and tell him that this is
what the LORD says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may worship me.
27 But if you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with
frogs.
28 The Nile will teem with frogs, and they will come into your palace and
up to your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials
and your people, and into your ovens and kneading bowls.
29 The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.’ ”

8

1 And the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with
your staff over the rivers and canals and ponds, and cause the frogs to
come up onto the land of Egypt.’ ”
2 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs
came up and covered the land of Egypt.
3 But the magicians did the same thing by their magic arts, and they also
brought frogs up onto the land of Egypt.

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‡ **7:14 7:14** Or *heavy* or *unyielding*

§ **7:20 7:20** Hebrew *he raised the staff*; see verse 19; some translators *Moses raised the staff.*

4 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to
take the frogs away from me and my people. Then I will let your people
go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD.”
5 Moses said to Pharaoh, “You may have the honor over me. When shall I
pray for you and your officials and your people that the frogs (except for
those in the Nile) may be taken away from you and your houses?”
6 “Tomorrow,” Pharaoh answered.
“May it be as you say,” Moses replied, “so that you may know that there is
no one like the LORD our God.
7 The frogs will depart from you and your houses and your officials and
your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”
8 After Moses and Aaron had left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD
for help with the frogs that he had brought against Pharaoh.
9 And the LORD did as Moses requested, and the frogs in the houses, the
courtyards, and the fields died.
10 They were piled into countless heaps, and there was a terrible stench
in the land.
11 When Pharaoh saw that there was relief, however, he hardened* his
heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.
12 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and
strike the dust of the earth, that it may turn into swarms of gnats
throughout the land of Egypt.’ ”
13 This they did, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff
and struck the dust of the earth, gnats came upon man and beast. All the
dust of the earth turned into gnats throughout the land of Egypt.
14 The magicians tried to produce gnats using their magic arts, but they
could not. And the gnats remained on man and beast.
15 “This is the finger of God,” the magicians said to Pharaoh. But
Pharaoh’s heart was stiffened,† and he would not listen to them, just as the
LORD had said.
16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning, and when
Pharaoh goes out to the water, stand before him and tell him that this is
what the LORD says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may worship me.
17 But if you will not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies‡ upon
you and your officials and your people and your houses. The houses of the
Egyptians and even the ground where they stand will be full of flies.
18 But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen,
where my people live; no swarms of flies will be found there. In this way
you will know that I, the LORD, am in the land.
19 I will set redemption§ between my people and your people. This sign
will take place tomorrow.’ ”
20 And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh’s
palace and into the houses of his officials. Throughout Egypt the land was
ruined by swarms of flies.
21 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to
your God within this land.”
22 But Moses replied, “It would not be right to do that, because the
sacrifices we offer to the LORD our God would be detestable to the

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* **8:11 8:11** Or *made heavy*; also in verse 28 † **8:15 8:15** Or *hardened* or *strengthened* ‡ **8:17 8:17** Literally *a noxious mixture*; also in verses 18, 20, 25, and 27 § **8:19 8:19** LXX and Vulgate *I will make a distinction*

Egyptians. If we offer sacrifices that are detestable before the Egyptians,
will they not stone us?
23 We must make a three-day journey into the wilderness and sacrifice
to the LORD our God as he commands us."
24 Pharaoh answered, "I will let you go and sacrifice to the LORD your
God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me."
25 "As soon as I leave you," Moses said, "I will pray to the LORD, so that
tomorrow the swarms of flies will depart from Pharaoh and his officials
and his people. But Pharaoh must not act deceitfully again by refusing to
let the people go and sacrifice to the LORD."
26 Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,
27 and the LORD did as Moses requested. He removed the swarms of
flies from Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not one fly remained.
28 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time as well, and he would not
let the people go.

9

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him that this is
what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: 'Let my people go, so that
they may worship me.
2 But if you continue to restrain them and refuse to let them go,
3 then the hand of the LORD will bring a severe plague on your livestock
in the field—on your horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks.
4 But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel
and the livestock of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites
will die.' "
5 The LORD set a time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the
land."
6 And the next day the LORD did just that. All the livestock of the
Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died.
7 Pharaoh sent officials and found that none of the livestock of the
Israelites had died. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened,* and he would not
let the people go.
8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from
the furnace; in the sight of Pharaoh, Moses is to toss it into the air.
9 It will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and festering boils
will break out on man and beast throughout the land."
10 So they took soot from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses
tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on man and beast.
11 The magicians could not stand before Moses, because the boils had
broken out on them and on all the Egyptians.
12 But the LORD stiffened† Pharaoh's heart, and he would not listen to
them, just as the LORD had said to Moses.
13 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, stand
before Pharaoh, and tell him that this is what the LORD, the God of the
Hebrews, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may worship me.
14 Otherwise, I will send all my plagues against you‡ and your officials
and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the
earth.

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* **9:7 9:7** Or *made heavy*; also in verse 34 † **9:12 9:12** Or *hardened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 35
‡ **9:14 9:14** Hebrew *against your heart* or *against your inner man*

15 For by this time I could have stretched out my hand and struck you
and your people with a plague to wipe you off the earth.
16 But I have spared you§ for this very purpose, that I might display my
power to you,* and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.
17 Still, you lord it over my people and do not allow them to go.
18 Behold, at this time tomorrow I will rain down the worst hail that has
ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded until now.
19 So give orders now to shelter your livestock and everything you have
in the field. Every man or beast that remains in the field and is not
brought inside will die when the hail comes down upon them.' "
20 Those among Pharaoh's officials who feared the word of the LORD
hurried to bring their servants and livestock to shelter,
21 but those who disregarded the word of the LORD left their servants
and livestock in the field.
22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven,
so that hail may fall on all the land of Egypt—on man and beast and every
plant of the field throughout the land of Egypt."
23 So Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent
thunder and hail, and lightning struck the earth. So the LORD rained
down hail upon the land of Egypt.
24 The hail fell and the lightning continued flashing through it. The hail
was so severe that nothing like it had ever been seen in all the land of
Egypt from the time it became a nation.
25 Throughout the land of Egypt, the hail struck down everything in the
field, both man and beast; it beat down every plant of the field and
stripped every tree.
26 The only place where it did not hail was in the land of Goshen, where
the Israelites lived.
27 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned,"
he said. "The LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.
28 Pray to the LORD, for there has been enough of God's thunder and
hail. I will let you go; you do not need to stay any longer."
29 Moses said to him, "When I have left the city, I will spread out my
hands to the LORD. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail,
so that you may know that the earth is the LORD's.
30 But as for you and your officials, I know that you still do not fear the
LORD God."
31 (Now the flax and barley were destroyed, since the barley was ripe
and the flax was in bloom;
32 but the wheat and spelt were not destroyed, because they are late
crops.)
33 Then Moses departed from Pharaoh, went out of the city, and spread
out his hands to the LORD. The thunder and hail ceased, and the rain no
longer poured down on the land.
34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had ceased, he
sinned again and hardened his heart—he and his officials.
35 So Pharaoh's heart was stiffened, and he would not let the Israelites
go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.

§ **9:16 9:16** Or *have raised you up* * **9:16 9:16** LXX *in you*

10

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened* his
heart and the hearts of his officials, that I may perform these miraculous
signs of mine among them,
2 and that you may tell your children and grandchildren how severely I
dealt with the Egyptians when I performed miraculous signs among them,
so that all of you may know that I am the LORD.”
3 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, “This is what the
LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘How long will you refuse to humble
yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me.
4 But if you refuse to let my people go, I will bring locusts into your
territory tomorrow.
5 They will cover the face of the land so that no one can see it. They will
devour whatever is left after the hail and eat every tree that grows in your
fields.
6 They will fill your houses and the houses of all your officials and every
Egyptian—something neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have
seen since the day they came into this land.’ ”
Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh’s presence.
7 Pharaoh’s officials asked him, “How long will this man be a snare to us?
Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Do you
not yet realize that Egypt lies in ruins?”
8 So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “Go, worship the
LORD your God,” he said. “But who exactly will be going?”
9 “We will go with our young and old,” Moses replied. “We will go with
our sons and daughters, and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a
feast to the LORD.”
10 Then Pharaoh told them, “May the LORD be with you if I ever let you
go with your little ones. Clearly you are bent on evil.
11 No, only the men may go and worship the LORD, since that is what
you have been requesting.” And Moses and Aaron were driven from
Pharaoh’s presence.
12 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of
Egypt, so that the locusts may swarm over it and devour every plant in the
land—everything that the hail has left behind.”
13 So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and
throughout that day and night the LORD sent an east wind across the land.
By morning the east wind had brought the locusts.
14 The locusts swarmed across the land and settled over the entire
territory of Egypt. Never before had there been so many locusts, and
never again will there be.
15 They covered the face of all the land until it was black, and they
consumed all the plants on the ground and all the fruit on the trees that
the hail had left behind. Nothing green was left on any tree or plant in all
the land of Egypt.
16 Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “I have sinned
against the LORD your God and against you.
17 Now please forgive my sin once more and appeal to the LORD your
God, that he may remove this death from me.”
18 So Moses left Pharaoh’s presence and appealed to the LORD.

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* **10:1 10:1** Or *made heavy*

19 And the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind that
carried off the locusts and blew them into the Sea of Reeds.† Not a single
locust remained anywhere in Egypt.
20 But the LORD stiffened‡ Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the
Israelites go.
21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven,
so that darkness may spread over the land of Egypt—a palpable darkness."
22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and total darkness
covered all the land of Egypt for three days.
23 No one could see anyone else, and for three days no one left his place.
Yet all the Israelites had light in their dwellings.
24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD.
Even your little ones may go with you; only your flocks and herds must
stay behind."
25 But Moses replied, "You must also provide us with sacrifices and burnt
offerings to present to the LORD our God.
26 Even our livestock must go with us; not a hoof will be left behind, for
we will need some of them to worship the LORD our God, and we will not
know how we are to worship the LORD until we arrive."
27 But the LORD stiffened Pharaoh's heart, and he was unwilling to let
them go.
28 "Depart from me!" Pharaoh said to Moses. "Make sure you never see
my face again, for on the day you see my face, you will die."
29 "As you say," Moses replied, "I will never see your face again."

11

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring upon Pharaoh and Egypt
one more plague. After that, he will allow you to leave this place. And
when he lets you go, he will drive you out completely.
2 Now announce to the people that men and women alike should ask
their neighbors for articles of silver and gold."
3 And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.
Moreover, Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's
officials and by the people.
4 So Moses declared, "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will
go throughout Egypt,
5 and every firstborn son in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn
of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, to the firstborn of the slave woman
behind the hand mill, as well as the firstborn of all the cattle.
6 Then a great cry will go out over all the land of Egypt. Such an outcry
has never been heard before and will never be heard again.
7 But among all the Israelites, not even a dog will snarl at man or beast.'*
Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt
and Israel.
8 And all these officials of yours will come and bow before me, saying,
'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that, I will depart."
And hot with anger, Moses left Pharaoh's presence.
9 The LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my
wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

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† **10:19 10:19** Or *the Red Sea* ‡ **10:20 10:20** Or *hardened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 27 * **11:7 11:7** Some translators close this quotation at the end of the verse.

10 Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD
stiffened† Pharaoh's heart so that he would not let the Israelites go out of
his land.

12

1 Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
2 "This month is the beginning of months for you; it shall be the first
month of your year.
3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this
month each man must select a lamb* for his family, one per household.
4 If the household is too small for a whole lamb, they are to share with
the nearest neighbor based on the number of people, and apportion the
lamb according to what each person will eat.
5 Your lamb must be an unblemished year-old male, and you may take it
from the sheep or the goats.
6 You must keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, when the
whole assembly of the congregation of Israel will slaughter the animals at
twilight.†
7 They are to take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and
on the lintel‡ of the houses where they eat the lambs.
8 They are to eat the meat that night, roasted over the fire, along with
unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
9 Do not eat any of the meat raw or cooked in boiling water, but only
roasted over the fire—its head and legs and inner parts.
10 Do not leave any of it until morning; before the morning you must
burn up any part that is left over.
11 This is how you are to eat it: You must be fully dressed for travel,§
with your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. You are to eat
in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.
12 On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down
every firstborn male, both man and beast, and I will execute judgment
against all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.
13 The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a sign; when I
see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will fall on you to destroy
you when I strike the land of Egypt.
14 And this day will be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as
a feast to the LORD, as a permanent statute for the generations to come.
15 For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you
are to remove the leaven from your houses. Whoever eats anything
leavened from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from
Israel.
16 On the first day you are to hold a sacred assembly, and another on the
seventh day. You must not do any work on those days, except to prepare
the meals—that is all you may do.
17 So you are to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread,* for on this very
day I brought your divisions out of the land of Egypt. You must keep this
day as a permanent statute for the generations to come.

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† **11:10 11:10** Or *hardened* or *strengthened* * **12:3 12:3** The Hebrew word can mean *lamb* or *kid*; also in verses 4 and 5. † **12:6 12:6** Hebrew *between the two evenings* ‡ **12:7 12:7** Or *on the sides and tops of the doorframes*; verses 22 and 23 also refer to *the lintel and the two doorposts* § **12:11 12:11** Literally *Gird up your loins* * **12:17 12:17** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten

18 In the first month you are to eat unleavened bread, from the evening
of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day.
19 For seven days there must be no leaven found in your houses. If
anyone eats something leavened, that person, whether a foreigner or
native of the land, must be cut off from the congregation of Israel.
20 You are not to eat anything leavened; eat unleavened bread in all your
homes."
21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and told them, "Go at
once and select for yourselves a lamb for each family, and slaughter the
Passover lamb.
22 Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin, and brush
the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts. None of you shall go out the
door of his house until morning.
23 When the LORD passes through to strike down the Egyptians, he will
see the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts and will pass over that
doorway; so he will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses and
strike you down.
24 And you are to keep this command as a permanent statute for you
and your descendants.
25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised,
you are to keep this service.
26 When your children ask you, 'What does this service mean to you?'
27 you are to reply, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed
over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he struck down the
Egyptians and spared our homes.' "
Then the people bowed down and worshiped.
28 And the Israelites went and did just what the LORD had commanded
Moses and Aaron.
29 Now at midnight the LORD struck down every firstborn male in the
land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the
firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon, as well as all the firstborn among
the livestock.
30 During the night Pharaoh got up—he and all his officials and all the
Egyptians—and there was loud wailing in Egypt; for there was no house
without someone dead.
31 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Get up,
leave my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you
have requested.
32 Take your flocks and herds as well, just as you have said, and depart!
And bless me also."
33 And in order to send them out of the land quickly, the Egyptians urged
the people on. "For otherwise," they said, "we are all going to die!"
34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, carrying it on
their shoulders in kneading bowls wrapped in clothing.
35 Furthermore, the Israelites acted on Moses' word and asked the
Egyptians for articles of silver and gold, and for clothing.
36 And the LORD gave the people such favor in the sight of the Egyptians
that they granted their request. In this way they plundered the Egyptians.
37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth† with about 600,000
men on foot, besides women and children.

† **12:37 12:37** *Succoth* means *booths* or *shelters* or *tabernacles*.

38 And a mixed multitude also went up with them, along with great
droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.
39 Since their dough had no leaven, the people baked what they had
brought out of Egypt into unleavened loaves. For when they had been
driven out of Egypt, they could not delay and had not prepared any
provisions for themselves.
40 Now the duration of the Israelites' stay in Egypt‡ was 430 years.
41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions
went out of the land of Egypt.
42 Because the LORD kept a vigil that night to bring them out of the land
of Egypt, this same night is to be a vigil to the LORD, to be observed by all
the Israelites for the generations to come.
43 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the
Passover: No foreigner is to eat of it.
44 But any slave who has been purchased may eat of it, after you have
circumcised him.
45 A temporary resident or hired hand shall not eat the Passover.
46 It must be eaten inside one house. You are not to take any of the meat
outside the house, and you may not break any of the bones.
47 The whole congregation of Israel must celebrate it.
48 If a foreigner resides with you and wants to celebrate the LORD's
Passover, all the males in the household must be circumcised; then he may
come near to celebrate it, and he shall be like a native of the land. But no
uncircumcised man may eat of it.
49 The same law shall apply to both the native and the foreigner who
resides among you."
50 Then all the Israelites did this—they did just as the LORD had
commanded Moses and Aaron.
51 And on that very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of the land
of Egypt by their divisions.

13

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The firstborn from every
womb among the Israelites belongs to me, both of man and beast."
3 So Moses told the people, "Remember this day, the day you came out of
Egypt, out of the house of slavery; for the LORD brought you out of it by
the strength of his hand. And nothing leavened shall be eaten.
4 Today, in the month of Abib,* you are leaving.
5 And when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites,
Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites—the land he swore to your
fathers that he would give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you
shall keep this service in this month.
6 For seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh
day there shall be a feast to the LORD.
7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten during those seven days. Nothing
leavened may be found among you, nor shall leaven be found anywhere
within your borders.

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‡ **12:40 12:40** SP *in Canaan and Egypt*; LXX *in Egypt and Canaan* * **13:4 13:4** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April.

8 And on that day you are to explain to your son, ‘This is because of what
the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’
9 It shall be a sign for you on your hand and a reminder on your
forehead that the Teaching of the LORD is to be on your lips. For with a
mighty hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.
10 Therefore you shall keep this statute at the appointed time year after
year.
11 And after the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and
gives it to you, as he swore to you and your fathers,
12 you are to present to the LORD the firstborn male of every womb. All
the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD.
13 You must redeem every firstborn donkey with a lamb, and if you do
not redeem it, you are to break its neck. And every firstborn of your sons
you must redeem.
14 In the future, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you are
to tell him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of
the house of slavery.
15 And when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed
every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both of man and beast. This is why I
sacrifice to the LORD the firstborn male of every womb, but I redeem all
the firstborn of my sons.’
16 So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and a symbol on your
forehead, for with a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.”
17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them along the road
through the land of the Philistines, though it was shorter. For God said, “If
the people face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.”
18 So God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the
Sea of Reeds.† And the Israelites left the land of Egypt arrayed for battle.‡
19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the
sons of Israel swear a solemn oath when he said, “God will surely attend to
you, and then you must carry my bones with you from this place.”§
20 They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham on the edge of the
wilderness.
21 And the LORD went before them in a pillar of cloud to guide their way
by day, and in a pillar of fire to give them light by night, so that they could
travel by day or night.
22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its
place before the people.

14

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp before Pi-hahiroth,
between Migdol and the sea. You are to encamp by the sea, directly
opposite Baal-zephon.
3 For Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, ‘They are wandering the land in
confusion; the wilderness has boxed them in.’
4 And I will stiffen* Pharaoh’s heart so that he will pursue them. But I
will gain honor by means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians
will know that I am the LORD.”

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† **13:18** **13:18** Or *the Red Sea* ‡ **13:18** **13:18** LXX *left the land of Egypt in the fifth generation* § **13:19** **13:19** Genesis 50:25 * **14:4** **14:4** Or *harden* or *strengthen*; similarly in verses 8 and 17

So this is what the Israelites did.
5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and
his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we
done? We have released Israel from serving us.”
6 So Pharaoh prepared his chariot and took his army with him.
7 He took 600 of the best chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt,
with officers over all of them.
8 And the LORD stiffened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt so that he
pursued the Israelites, who were marching out defiantly.†
9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and
troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the
sea near Pi-hahiroth, opposite Baal-zephon.
10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw the
Egyptians marching after them, and they were terrified and cried out to
the LORD.
11 They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that
you brought us into the wilderness to die? What have you done to us by
bringing us out of Egypt?
12 Did we not say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone so that we may serve
the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians
than to die in the wilderness.”
13 But Moses told the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will
see the LORD’s deliverance, which he will accomplish for you today; for
the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again.
14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”
15 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the
Israelites to go forward.
16 And as for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the
sea and divide it, so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry
ground.
17 And I will stiffen the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in
after them. Then I will gain honor by means of Pharaoh and all his army
and chariots and horsemen.
18 The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I am honored
through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”
19 And the angel of God, who had gone before the camp of Israel,
withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from
before them and stood behind them,
20 so that it came between the camps of Egypt and Israel. The cloud was
there in the darkness, but it lit up the night.‡ So all night long neither
camp went near the other.
21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the
LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind that turned it into dry
land. So the waters were divided,
22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with walls of
water on their right and on their left.
23 And the Egyptians chased after them—all Pharaoh’s horses, chariots,
and horsemen—and followed them into the sea.

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† **14:8 14:8** Or *marching out boldly*; literally *marching out with an upraised hand* ‡ **14:20 14:20** LXX *and the night passed*

24 At morning watch, however, the LORD looked down on the army of
the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw their camp
into confusion.
25 He caused their chariot wheels to come off,§ so that they had difficulty
driving. “Let us flee from the Israelites,” said the Egyptians, “for the LORD
is fighting for them against Egypt!”
26 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so
that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and
horsemen.”
27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea
returned to its normal state. As the Egyptians were fleeing toward it, the
LORD swept them into the sea.
28 The waters flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the
entire army of Pharaoh that had chased the Israelites into the sea. Not one
of them survived.
29 But the Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground, with
walls of water on their right and on their left.
30 That day the LORD saved Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and
Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore.
31 When Israel saw the great power that the LORD had exercised over
the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and believed in him and in his
servant Moses.

15

1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.
The horse and rider
he has thrown into the sea.
2 The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my deliverance.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a warrior,
the LORD is his name.
4 Pharaoh’s chariots and army
he has cast into the sea;
the finest of his officers
are drowned in the Sea of Reeds.*
5 The depths have covered them;
they sank into the deep like a stone.

6 Your right hand, O LORD,
is majestic in power;
your right hand, O LORD,
has shattered the enemy.
7 You overthrew your adversaries
by your great majesty.
You unleashed your burning wrath;

§ **14:25 14:25** Or *to swerve* or *to wobble*; SP, LXX, and Syriac *to bind* * **15:4 15:4** Or *the Red Sea*; also in verse 22

it consumed them like stubble.
8 At the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up;
like a wall the currents stood firm;
the depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy declared,
'I will pursue, I will overtake.
I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword;
my hand will destroy them.'
10 But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.

11 Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?
Who is like you—majestic in holiness,
revered with praises,
performing wonders?
12 You stretched out your right hand,
and the earth swallowed them up.
13 With loving devotion† you will lead
the people you have redeemed;
with your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.

14 The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the dwellers of Philistia.
15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed;
trembling will seize the leaders of Moab;
those who dwell in Canaan will melt away,
16 and terror and dread will fall on them.
By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone
until your people pass by, O LORD,
until the people you have bought pass by.

17 You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, O LORD, you have prepared for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands have established.

18 The LORD will reign forever and ever!"
19 For when Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them. But the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

† **15:13 15:13** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

20 Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her
hand, and all the women followed her with tambourines and dancing.
21 And Miriam sang back to them:

"Sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted;
the horse and rider
he has thrown into the sea."
22 Then Moses led Israel from the Sea of Reeds, and they went out into
the Desert of Shur. For three days they walked in the desert without
finding water.
23 And when they came to Marah,‡ they could not drink the water there
because it was bitter. (That is why it was named Marah.)
24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"
25 And Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log.
And when he cast it into the waters, they were sweetened.
There the LORD made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he
tested them,
26 saying, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God,
and do what is right in his eyes, and pay attention to his commands, and
keep all his statutes, then I will not bring on you any of the diseases I
inflicted on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."
27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water
and seventy palm trees, and they camped there by the waters.

16

1 On the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left the land of
Egypt, the whole congregation of Israel set out from Elim and came to the
Desert of Sin,* which is between Elim and Sinai.
2 And there in the desert the whole congregation of Israel grumbled
against Moses and Aaron.
3 "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt!" they
said. "There we sat by pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, but you have
brought us into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death!"
4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain down bread from
heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather enough for
that day. In this way I will test whether or not they will follow my
instructions.
5 Then on the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be
twice as much as they gather on the other days."
6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "This evening you will
know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
7 and in the morning you will see the LORD's glory, because he has
heard your grumbling against him. For who are we, that you should
grumble against us?"
8 And Moses added, "The LORD will give you meat to eat this evening
and bread to fill you in the morning, for he has heard your grumbling
against him. Who are we? Your grumblings are not against us but against
the LORD."

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‡ **15:23 15:23** *Marah* means *bitter*. * **16:1 16:1** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*.

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole congregation of Israel, ‘Come
before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’ ”
10 And as Aaron was speaking to the whole congregation of Israel, they
looked toward the desert, and there in a cloud the glory of the LORD
appeared.
11 Then the LORD said to Moses,
12 “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight†
you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then
you will know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”
13 That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning
there was a layer of dew around the camp.
14 When the layer of dew had evaporated, there were thin flakes on the
desert floor, as fine as frost on the ground.
15 When the Israelites saw it, they asked one another, “What is it?” For
they did not know what it was.
So Moses told them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.
16 This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Each one is to gather as
much as he needs. You may take an omer‡ for each person in your tent.’ ”
17 So the Israelites did this. Some gathered more, and some less.
18 When they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much had no
excess, and he who gathered little had no shortfall. Each one gathered as
much as he needed to eat.
19 Then Moses said to them, “No one may keep any of it until morning.”
20 But they did not listen to Moses; some people left part of it until
morning, and it became infested with maggots and began to smell. So
Moses was angry with them.
21 Every morning each one gathered as much as was needed, and when
the sun grew hot, it melted away.
22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much food—two omers per
person§—and all the leaders of the congregation came and reported this
to Moses.
23 He told them, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Tomorrow is to be a
day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want
to bake, and boil what you want to boil. Then set aside whatever remains
and keep it until morning.’ ”
24 So they set it aside until morning as Moses had commanded, and it did
not smell or contain any maggots.
25 “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a Sabbath to the LORD.
Today you will not find anything in the field.
26 For six days you may gather, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, it
will not be there.”
27 Yet on the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they
did not find anything.
28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my
commandments and instructions?
29 Understand that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on
the sixth day he will give you bread for two days. On the seventh day,
everyone must stay where he is; no one may leave his place.”
30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

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† **16:12 16:12** Hebrew *Between the two evenings* ‡ **16:16 16:16** *An omer* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters; also in verses 18, 32, 33, and 36. § **16:22 16:22** *2 omers* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters per person.

31 Now the house of Israel called the bread manna.* It was white like
coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.
32 Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Keep an omer of
manna for the generations to come, so that they may see the bread I fed
you in the wilderness when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ ”
33 So Moses told Aaron, “Take a jar and fill it with an omer of manna.
Then place it before the LORD to be preserved for the generations to
come.”
34 And Aaron placed it in front of the Testimony,† to be preserved just as
the LORD had commanded Moses.
35 The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land where
they could settle; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.
36 (Now an omer is a tenth of an ephah.)‡

17

1 Then the whole congregation of Israel left the Desert of Sin,* moving
from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim,
but there was no water for the people to drink.
2 So the people contended with Moses, “Give us water to drink.”
“Why do you contend with me?” Moses replied. “Why do you test the
LORD?”
3 But the people thirsted for water there, and they grumbled against
Moses: “Why have you brought us out of Egypt—to make us and our
children and livestock die of thirst?”
4 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What should I do with these
people? A little more and they will stone me!”
5 And the LORD said to Moses, “Walk on ahead of the people and take
some of the elders of Israel with you. Take along in your hand the staff
with which you struck the Nile, and go.
6 Behold, I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb.† And when
you strike the rock, water will come out of it for the people to drink.”
So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.
7 He named the place Massah‡ and Meribah§ because the Israelites
quarreled, and because they tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among
us or not?”
8 After this, the Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.
9 So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight
the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on the hilltop with the staff of God
in my hand.”
10 Joshua did as Moses had instructed him and fought against the
Amalekites, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.
11 As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed; but when he
lowered them, Amalek prevailed.
12 When Moses’ hands grew heavy, they took a stone and put it under
him, and he sat on it. Then Aaron and Hur held his hands up, one on each
side, so that his hands remained steady until the sun went down.
13 So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his army with the sword.

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* **16:31 16:31** *Manna* sounds like the Hebrew for *What is it?* (see verse 15). † **16:34 16:34** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments. ‡ **16:36 16:36** An *ephah* was a dry measure having the capacity of about 20 dry quarts or 22 liters. * **17:1 17:1** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*. † **17:6 17:6** *Horeb* is another name for Sinai. ‡ **17:7 17:7** *Massah* means *testing*. § **17:7 17:7** *Meribah* means *quarreling*.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as a reminder
and recite it to Joshua, because I will utterly blot out the memory of
Amalek from under heaven.”
15 And Moses built an altar and named it The LORD Is my Banner.*
16 “Indeed,” he said, “a hand was lifted up toward the throne of the
LORD. The LORD will war against Amalek from generation to generation.”

18

1 Now Moses’ father-in-law Jethro,* the priest of Midian, heard about all
that God had done for Moses and his people Israel, and how the LORD had
brought Israel out of Egypt.
2 After Moses had sent back his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro
had received her,
3 along with her two sons. One son was named Gershom,† for Moses had
said, “I have been a foreigner in a foreign land.”
4 The other son was named Eliezer,‡ for Moses had said, “The God of my
father was my helper and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.”
5 Moses’ father-in-law Jethro, along with Moses’ wife and sons, came to
him in the desert, where he was encamped at the mountain of God.
6 He sent word to Moses, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you
with your wife and her two sons.”
7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and
kissed him. They greeted each other and went into the tent.
8 Then Moses recounted to his father-in-law all that the LORD had done
to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel’s sake, all the hardships they had
encountered along the way, and how the LORD had delivered them.
9 And Jethro rejoiced over all the good things the LORD had done for
Israel, whom he had rescued from the hand of the Egyptians.
10 Jethro declared, “Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you from
the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the
people from the hand of the Egyptians.
11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did
this when they treated Israel with arrogance.”
12 Then Moses’ father-in-law Jethro brought a burnt offering and
sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread
with Moses’ father-in-law in the presence of God.
13 The next day Moses took his seat to judge the people, and they stood
around him from morning until evening.
14 When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people,
he asked, “What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit
alone as judge, with all the people standing around you from morning till
evening?”
15 “Because the people come to me to inquire of God,” Moses replied.
16 “Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me to judge between
one man and another, and I make known to them the statutes and laws of
God.”
17 But Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good.
18 Surely you and these people with you will wear yourselves out,
because the task is too heavy for you. You cannot handle it alone.

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* **17:15 17:15** Hebrew *YHWH Nissi* * **18:1 18:1** Moses’ father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18. † **18:3 18:3** *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *sojourner*. ‡ **18:4 18:4** *Eliezer* means *God is my helper*.

19 Now listen to me; I will give you some advice, and may God be with
you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their
causes to him.
20 Teach them the statutes and laws, and show them the way to live and
the work they must do.
21 Furthermore, select capable men from among the
people—God-fearing, trustworthy men who are averse to dishonest gain.
Appoint them over the people as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of
fifties, and of tens.
22 Have these men judge the people at all times. Then they can bring you
any major issue, but all minor cases they can judge on their own, so that
your load may be lightened as they share it with you.
23 If you follow this advice and God so directs you, then you will be able
to endure, and all these people can go home in peace."
24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.
25 So Moses chose capable men from all Israel and made them heads
over the people as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.
26 And they judged the people at all times; they would bring the difficult
cases to Moses, but any minor issue they would judge themselves.
27 Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to
his own land.

19

1 In the third month, on the same day of the month* that the Israelites
had left the land of Egypt, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.
2 After they had set out from Rephidim, they entered the Wilderness of
Sinai, and Israel camped there in front of the mountain.
3 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the
mountain, "This is what you are to tell the house of Jacob and explain to
the sons of Israel:
4 'You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt, and how I carried
you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
5 Now if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you will
be my treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is
mine.
6 And unto me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'
These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites."
7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set
before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
8 And all the people answered together, "We will do everything that the
LORD has spoken."
So Moses brought their words back to the LORD.
9 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a dense cloud,
so that the people will hear when I speak with you, and they will always
put their trust in you."
And Moses relayed to the LORD what the people had said.
10 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them
today and tomorrow. They must wash their clothes
11 and be prepared by the third day, for on the third day the LORD will
come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

* **19:1 19:1** Hebrew *In the third month, on the same day*; that is, two months after leaving Egypt; see Numbers 33:3.

12 And you are to set up a boundary for the people around the mountain
and tell them, 'Be careful not to go up on the mountain or touch its base.
Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.
13 No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with
arrows—whether man or beast, he must not live.'
Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up on the
mountain.†"
14 When Moses came down from the mountain to the people, he
consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.
15 "Be prepared for the third day," he said to the people. "Do not draw
near to a woman."
16 On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and
lightning. A thick cloud was upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of
the ram's horn went out, so that all the people in the camp trembled.
17 Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and
they stood at the foot of the mountain.
18 Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke, because the LORD
had descended on it in fire. And the smoke rose like the smoke of a
furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.
19 And as the sound of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses
spoke and God answered him in the thunder.
20 The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the
summit. So Moses went up,
21 and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people not to break
through to see the LORD, lest many of them perish.
22 Even the priests who approach the LORD must consecrate themselves,
or the LORD will break out against them."
23 But Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai,
for you solemnly warned us, 'Put a boundary around the mountain and
set it apart as holy.' "
24 And the LORD replied, "Go down, and then come back up, you and
Aaron with you. But the priests and the people must not break through to
come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."
25 So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

20

1 And God spoke all these words:
2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.

3 You shall have no other gods besides me.*
4 You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in the
heavens above, on the earth below, or in the waters beneath.
5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your
God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on their children
to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me,
6 but showing loving devotion to a thousand generations† of those who
love me and keep my commandments.
7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the
LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who takes his name in vain.

† **19:13 19:13** Or *may they approach the mountain* * **20:3 20:3** Or *before me* † **20:6 20:6** Or *to thousands*

8 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God, on which you must not do any work—neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female slave or livestock, nor the foreigner within your gates.
11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, but on the seventh day he rested. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.
12 Honor your father and mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
13 You shall not murder.
14 You shall not commit adultery.
15 You shall not steal.
16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female slave, or his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."
18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sounding of the ram's horn, and the mountain enveloped in smoke, they trembled and stood at a distance.
19 "Speak to us yourself and we will listen," they said to Moses. "But do not let God speak to us, or we will die."
20 "Do not be afraid," Moses replied. "For God has come to test you, so that the fear of him may be before you, to keep you from sinning."
21 And the people stood at a distance as Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.
22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "This is what you are to tell the Israelites: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven.
23 You are not to make any gods alongside me; you are not to make for yourselves gods of silver or gold.
24 You are to make for me an altar of earth, and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and peace offerings, your sheep and goats and cattle. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you.
25 Now if you make an altar of stones for me, you must not build it with stones shaped by tools; for if you use a chisel on it, you will defile it.
26 And you must not go up to my altar on steps, lest your nakedness be exposed on it.'

21

1 "These are the ordinances that you are to set before them:
2 If you buy a Hebrew slave, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free without paying anything.
3 If he arrived alone, he is to leave alone; if he arrived with a wife, she is to leave with him.
4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free.
5 But if the slave declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children; I do not want to go free,'

6 then his master is to bring him before God.* And he shall take him to
the door or doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he shall serve
his master for life.
7 And if a man sells his daughter as a slave, she is not to go free as the
male slaves do.
8 If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master who had designated her
for himself,† he must allow her to be redeemed. He has no right to sell her
to foreigners, since he has broken faith with her.
9 And if he chooses her for his son, he must deal with her as with a
daughter.
10 If he takes another wife, he must not reduce the food, clothing, or
marital rights of his first wife.
11 If, however, he does not provide her with these three things, she is
free to go without monetary payment.
12 Whoever strikes and kills a man must surely be put to death.
13 If, however, he did not lie in wait, but God allowed it to happen, then I
will appoint for you a place where he may flee.
14 But if a man schemes and acts willfully against his neighbor to kill
him, you must take him away from my altar to be put to death.
15 Whoever strikes his father or mother must surely be put to death.
16 Whoever kidnaps another man must be put to death, whether he sells
him or the man is found in his possession.
17 Anyone who reviles‡ his father or mother must surely be put to death.
18 If men are quarreling and one strikes the other with a stone or a fist,
and he does not die but is confined to bed,
19 then the one who struck him shall go unpunished, as long as the other
can get up and walk around outside with his staff. Nevertheless, he must
compensate the man for his lost work and see that he is completely healed.
20 If a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod, and the slave dies
by his hand, he shall surely be punished.
21 However, if the servant gets up after a day or two, the owner shall not
be punished, since the servant is his property.
22 If men who are fighting strike a pregnant woman and she has a
miscarriage,§ but there is no further injury, he shall surely be fined as the
woman's husband demands and as the court allows.
23 But if a serious injury results, then you must require a life for a life—
24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,
25 burn for burn, wound for wound, and stripe for stripe.
26 If a man strikes and blinds the eye of his male or female slave, he
must let the slave go free as compensation for the eye.
27 And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female slave, he must let
the slave go free as compensation for the tooth.
28 If an ox* gores a man or woman to death, the ox must surely be
stoned, and its meat must not be eaten. But the owner of the ox shall not
be held responsible.
29 But if the ox has a habit of goring, and its owner has been warned yet
does not restrain it, and it kills a man or woman, then the ox must be
stoned and its owner must also be put to death.

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* **21:6 21:6** Or *before the judges* † **21:8 21:8** Qere; Ketiv *so that he does not designate her* ‡ **21:17 21:17** Or *dishonors* or *curses* § **21:22 21:22** Literally *and her children come out*; or *and her child is born prematurely* * **21:28 21:28** Or *a bull*; also in verses 29–36

30 If payment is demanded of him instead, he may redeem his life by
paying the full amount demanded of him.
31 If the ox gores a son or a daughter, it shall be done to him according to
the same rule.
32 If the ox gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty
shekels of silver† to the master of that slave, and the ox must be stoned.
33 If a man opens or digs a pit and fails to cover it, and an ox or a donkey
falls into it,
34 the owner of the pit shall make restitution; he must pay its owner, and
the dead animal will be his.
35 If a man's ox injures his neighbor's ox and it dies, they must sell the
live one and divide the proceeds; they also must divide the dead animal.
36 But if it was known that the ox had a habit of goring, yet its owner
failed to restrain it, he shall pay full compensation, ox for ox, and the dead
animal will be his.
37 "If a man steals an ox‡ or a sheep and slaughters or sells it, he must
repay five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.

22

1 If a thief is caught breaking in and is beaten to death, no one shall be
guilty of bloodshed.
2 But if it happens after sunrise, there is guilt for his bloodshed.
A thief must make full restitution; if he has nothing, he himself shall be
sold for his theft.
3 If what was stolen is actually found alive in his possession—whether
ox or donkey or sheep—he must pay back double.
4 If a man grazes his livestock in a field or vineyard and allows them to
stray so that they graze in someone else's field, he must make restitution
from the best of his own field or vineyard.
5 If a fire breaks out and spreads to thornbushes so that it consumes
stacked or standing grain, or the whole field, the one who started the fire
must make full restitution.
6 If a man gives his neighbor money or goods for safekeeping and they
are stolen from the neighbor's house, the thief, if caught, must pay back
double.
7 If the thief is not found, the owner of the house must appear before
God* to determine whether he has taken his neighbor's property.
8 In all cases of illegal possession of an ox, a donkey, a sheep, a garment,
or any lost item that someone claims, 'This is mine,' both parties shall
bring their cases before God. The one whom God condemns† must pay
back double to his neighbor.
9 If a man gives a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any other animal to be
cared for by his neighbor, but it dies or is injured or stolen while no one is
watching,
10 an oath before the LORD shall be made between the parties to
determine whether or not the man has taken his neighbor's property. The
owner must accept the oath and require no restitution.
11 But if the animal was actually stolen from the neighbor, he must make
restitution to the owner.

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† **21:32 21:32** *30 shekels* is approximately 12 ounces or 342 grams of silver. ‡ **21:37 21:37** Or *a bull* or *a cow*; also in 22:3, 22:8, and 22:9 * **22:7 22:7** Or *before the judges*; also in verse 8 † **22:8 22:8** Or *whom the judges find guilty*

12 If the animal was torn to pieces, he shall bring it as evidence; he need
not make restitution for the torn carcass.
13 If a man borrows an animal from his neighbor and it is injured or
dies while its owner is not present, he must make full restitution.
14 If the owner was present, no restitution is required. If the animal was
rented, the fee covers the loss.
15 If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged in marriage and sleeps
with her, he must pay the full dowry for her to be his wife.
16 If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, the man still must
pay an amount comparable to the bridal price of a virgin.
17 You must not allow a sorceress to live.
18 Whoever lies with an animal must surely be put to death.
19 If anyone sacrifices to any god other than the LORD alone, he must be
set apart for destruction.‡
20 You must not exploit or oppress a foreign resident, for you yourselves
were foreigners in the land of Egypt.
21 You must not mistreat any widow or orphan.
22 If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me in distress, I will
surely hear their cry.
23 My anger will be kindled, and I will kill you with the sword; then your
wives will become widows and your children will be fatherless.
24 If you lend money to one of my people among you who is poor, you
must not act as a creditor to him; you are not to charge him interest.
25 If you take your neighbor's cloak as collateral, return it to him by
sunset,
26 because his cloak is the only covering he has for his body. What else
will he sleep in? And if he cries out to me, I will hear, for I am
compassionate.
27 You must not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people.§
28 You must not hold back offerings from your granaries or vats. You are
to give me the firstborn of your sons.
29 You shall do likewise with your cattle and your sheep. Let them stay
with their mothers for seven days, but on the eighth day you are to give
them to me.
30 You are to be my holy people. You must not eat the meat of a mauled
animal found in the field; you are to throw it to the dogs.

23

1 "You shall not spread a false report. Do not join the wicked by being a
malicious witness.
2 You shall not follow the crowd in wrongdoing. When you testify in a
lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd.
3 And do not show favoritism to a poor man in his lawsuit.
4 If you encounter your enemy's stray ox or donkey, you must return it
to him.
5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you fallen under its load, do not
leave it there; you must help him with it.
6 You shall not deny justice to the poor in their lawsuits.

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‡ **22:19 22:19** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. § **22:27 22:27** LXX *or speak evil about the ruler of your people*

7 Stay far away from a false accusation. Do not kill the innocent or the
just, for I will not acquit the guilty.
8 Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the
words of the righteous.
9 Do not oppress a foreign resident, since you yourselves know how it
feels to be foreigners;* for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.
10 For six years you are to sow your land and gather its produce,
11 but in the seventh year you must let it rest and lie fallow, so that the
poor among your people may eat from the field and the wild animals may
consume what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and olive
grove.
12 For six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you must
cease, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the son of your
female slave may be refreshed, as well as the foreign resident.
13 Pay close attention to everything I have said to you. You must not
invoke the names of other gods; they must not be heard on your lips.
14 Three times a year you are to celebrate a feast to me.
15 You are to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread† as I commanded you:
At the appointed time in the month of Abib‡ you are to eat unleavened
bread for seven days, because that was the month you came out of Egypt.
No one may appear before me empty-handed.
16 You are also to keep the Feast of Harvest§ with the firstfruits of the
produce from what you sow in the field.
And keep the Feast of Ingathering* at the end of the year, when you
gather your produce from the field.
17 Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD.
18 You must not offer the blood of my sacrifices with anything leavened,
nor may the fat of my feast remain until morning.
19 Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD
your God.
You must not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.
20 Behold, I am sending an angel before you to protect you along the way
and to bring you to the place I have prepared.
21 Pay attention to him and listen to his voice; do not defy him, for he
will not forgive rebellion, since my Name is in him.
22 But if you will listen carefully to his voice and do everything I say, I
will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes.
23 For my angel will go before you and bring you into the land of the
Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, and Jebusites, and I will
annihilate them.
24 You must not bow down to their gods or serve them or follow their
practices. Instead, you are to demolish them and smash their sacred
stones to pieces.

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* **23:9 23:9** Hebrew *you know the soul of the foreigner* † **23:15 23:15** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20. ‡ **23:15 23:15** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April. § **23:16 23:16** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Weeks* (see Exodus 34:22) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. * **23:16 23:16** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is later called *the Feast of Tabernacles* (or *Booths* or *Shelters*).

25 So you shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless† your bread
and your water. And I will take away sickness from among you.
26 No woman in your land will miscarry or be barren; I will fulfill the
number of your days.
27 I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every
nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn and run.
28 I will send the hornet before you to drive the Hivites and Canaanites
and Hittites out of your way.
29 I will not drive them out before you in a single year; otherwise the
land would become desolate and wild animals would multiply against you.
30 Little by little I will drive them out ahead of you, until you become
fruitful and possess the land.
31 And I will establish your borders from the Sea of Reeds‡ to the Sea of
the Philistines, and from the desert to the Euphrates.§ For I will deliver
the inhabitants into your hand, and you will drive them out before you.
32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.
33 They must not remain in your land, lest they cause you to sin against
me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

24

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD—you and Aaron,
Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of Israel's elders—and you are to worship
at a distance.
2 Moses alone shall approach the LORD, but the others must not come
near. And the people may not go up with him."
3 When Moses came and told the people all the words and ordinances of
the LORD, they all responded with one voice: "All the words that the LORD
has spoken, we will do."
4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.
Early the next morning he got up and built an altar at the base of the
mountain, along with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.
5 Then he sent out some young men of Israel, and they offered burnt
offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.
6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he
splattered on the altar.
7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people, who
replied, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."
8 So Moses took the blood, splattered it on the people, and said, "This is
the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance
with all these words."
9 Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the
elders of Israel,
10 and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was a work like a
pavement made of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself.
11 But God did not lay his hand on the nobles of Israel; they saw him,
and they ate and drank.
12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and
stay here, so that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and
commandments I have written for their instruction."

† **23:25 23:25** LXX and Vulgate *I will bless* ‡ **23:31 23:31** Or *the Red Sea* § **23:31 23:31** Hebrew *the River*

13 So Moses set out with Joshua his attendant and went up on the
mountain of God.
14 And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you.
Aaron and Hur are here with you. Whoever has a dispute can go to them.”
15 When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it,
16 and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the
cloud covered it, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from
within the cloud.
17 And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on
the mountaintop in the eyes of the Israelites.
18 Moses entered the cloud as he went up on the mountain, and he
remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

25

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive my
offering from every man whose heart compels him.
3 This is the offering you are to accept from them:

gold, silver, and bronze;
4 blue, purple, and scarlet yarn;
fine linen and goat hair;
5 ram skins dyed red and fine leather;*
acacia wood;
6 olive oil for the light;
spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;
7 and onyx stones and gemstones to be mounted on the ephod and
breastpiece.
8 And they are to make a sanctuary for me, so that I may dwell among
them.
9 You must make the tabernacle and design all its furnishings according
to the pattern I show you.
10 And they are to construct an ark of acacia wood, two and a half cubits
long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high.†
11 Overlay it with pure gold both inside and out, and make a gold
molding around it.
12 Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, two rings on
one side and two on the other.
13 And make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.
14 Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, in order to carry
it.
15 The poles are to remain in the rings of the ark; they must not be
removed.
16 And place inside the ark the Testimony,‡ which I will give you.
17 And you are to construct a cover§ of pure gold, two and a half cubits
long and a cubit and a half wide.*

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* **25:5 25:5** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals † **25:10 25:10** The ark was approximately 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (114.3 centimeters long, 68.6 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high). ‡ **25:16 25:16** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments; also in verses 21 and 22. § **25:17 25:17** Or *an atonement cover* or *a mercy seat*; Hebrew *kapporet*; here and throughout Exodus * **25:17 25:17** The cover was approximately 3.75 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (114.3 centimeters long and 68.6 centimeters wide).

18 Make two cherubim of hammered gold at the ends of the cover,
19 one cherub on one end and one on the other, all made of one piece
with the cover at its two ends.
20 And the cherubim are to have wings that spread upward,
overshadowing the cover. The cherubim are to face each other, looking
toward the cover.
21 Set the cover atop the ark and put the Testimony that I will give you
into the ark.
22 And I will meet with you there above the cover, between the two
cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony;† I will speak with you
about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.
23 You are also to make a table of acacia wood two cubits long, a cubit
wide, and a cubit and a half high.‡
24 Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding around it.
25 And make a rim around it a handbreadth wide§ and put a gold
molding on the rim.
26 Make four gold rings for the table and fasten them to the four corners
at its four legs.
27 The rings are to be close to the rim, to serve as holders for the poles
used to carry the table.
28 Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold, so that the
table may be carried with them.
29 You are also to make the plates and dishes, as well as the pitchers and
bowls for pouring drink offerings. Make them out of pure gold.
30 And place the Bread of the Presence on the table before me at all
times.
31 Then you are to make a lampstand of pure, hammered gold. It shall
be made of one piece, including its base and shaft, its cups, and its buds
and petals.
32 Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand—three on
one side and three on the other.
33 There are to be three cups shaped like almond blossoms on the first
branch, each with buds and petals, three on the next branch, and the same
for all six branches that extend from the lampstand.
34 And on the lampstand there shall be four cups shaped like almond
blossoms with buds and petals.
35 For the six branches that extend from the lampstand, a bud must be
under the first pair of branches, a bud under the second pair, and a bud
under the third pair.
36 The buds and branches are to be all of one piece with the lampstand,
hammered out of pure gold.
37 Make seven lamps and set them up on the lampstand so that they
illuminate the area in front of it.
38 The wick trimmers and their trays must be of pure gold.
39 The lampstand and all these utensils shall be made from a talent of
pure gold.*
40 See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you
on the mountain.

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† **25:22 25:22** That is, *the ark of the covenant* ‡ **25:23 25:23** The table was approximately 3 feet long, 1.5 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (91.4 centimeters long, 45.7 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high). § **25:25 25:25** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters. * **25:39 25:39** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

26

1 “You are to construct the tabernacle itself with ten curtains of finely
spun linen, each with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and cherubim
skillfully worked into them.
2 Each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits
wide*—all curtains the same size.
3 Five of the curtains are to be joined together, and the other five joined
as well.
4 Make loops of blue material on the edge of the end curtain in the first
set, and do the same for the end curtain in the second set.
5 Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of
the second set, so that the loops line up opposite one another.
6 Make fifty gold clasps as well, and join the curtains together with the
clasps, so that the tabernacle will be a unit.
7 You are to make curtains of goat hair for the tent over the
tabernacle—eleven curtains in all.
8 Each of the eleven curtains is to be the same size—thirty cubits long
and four cubits wide.†
9 Join five of the curtains into one set and the other six into another.
Then fold the sixth curtain over double at the front of the tent.
10 Make fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in the first set, and
fifty loops along the edge of the corresponding curtain in the second set.
11 Make fifty bronze clasps and put them through the loops to join the
tent together as a unit.
12 As for the overlap that remains of the tent curtains, the half curtain
that is left over shall hang down over the back of the tabernacle.
13 And the tent curtains will be a cubit‡ longer on either side, and the
excess will hang over the sides of the tabernacle to cover it.
14 Also make a covering for the tent out of ram skins dyed red, and over
that a covering of fine leather.§
15 You are to construct upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle.
16 Each frame is to be ten cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.*
17 Two tenons† must be connected to each other for each frame. Make
all the frames of the tabernacle in this way.
18 Construct twenty frames for the south side of the tabernacle,
19 with forty silver bases under the twenty frames—two bases for each
frame, one under each tenon.
20 For the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, make twenty
frames
21 and forty silver bases—two bases under each frame.
22 Make six frames for the rear of the tabernacle, the west side,
23 and two frames for the two back corners of the tabernacle,
24 coupled together from bottom to top and fitted into a single ring.
These will serve as the two corners.
25 So there are to be eight frames and sixteen silver bases—two under
each frame.

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* **26:2 26:2** Each of the ten curtains was approximately 42 feet long and 6 feet wide (12.8 meters long and 1.8 meters wide). † **26:8 26:8** Each of the eleven curtains was approximately 45 feet long and 6 feet wide (13.7 meters long and 1.8 meters wide). ‡ **26:13 26:13** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters. § **26:14 26:14** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals * **26:16 26:16** Each frame was approximately 15 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (4.6 meters long and 68.6 centimeters wide). † **26:17 26:17** That is, projecting pieces of wood made for insertion into another piece; similarly in verse 19.

26 You are also to make five crossbars of acacia wood for the frames on
one side of the tabernacle,
27 five for those on the other side, and five for those on the rear side of
the tabernacle, to the west.
28 The central crossbar in the middle of the frames shall extend from
one end to the other.
29 Overlay the frames with gold and make gold rings to hold the
crossbars. Also overlay the crossbars with gold.
30 So you are to set up the tabernacle according to the pattern shown
you on the mountain.
31 Make a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen,
with cherubim skillfully worked into it.
32 Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood, overlaid with
gold and standing on four silver bases.
33 And hang the veil from the clasps and place the ark of the Testimony‡
behind the veil. So the veil will separate the Holy Place from the Holy of
Holies.§
34 Put the cover on the ark of the Testimony in the Holy of Holies.
35 And place the table outside the veil on the north side of the
tabernacle, and put the lampstand opposite the table, on the south side.
36 For the entrance to the tent, you are to make a curtain embroidered
with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen.
37 Make five posts of acacia wood for the curtain, overlay them with
gold, use hooks of gold, and cast five bronze bases for them.

27

1 “You are to build an altar of acacia wood. The altar must be square,
five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high.*
2 Make a horn on each of its four corners, so that the horns are of one
piece, and overlay it with bronze.
3 Make all its utensils of bronze—its pots for removing ashes, its shovels,
its sprinkling bowls, its meat forks, and its firepans.
4 Construct for it a grate of bronze mesh, and make a bronze ring at each
of the four corners of the mesh.
5 Set the grate beneath the ledge of the altar, so that the mesh comes
halfway up the altar.
6 Additionally, make poles of acacia wood for the altar and overlay them
with bronze.
7 The poles are to be inserted into the rings so that the poles are on two
sides of the altar when it is carried.
8 Construct the altar with boards so that it is hollow. It is to be made just
as you were shown on the mountain.
9 You are also to make a courtyard for the tabernacle. On the south side
of the courtyard make curtains of finely spun linen, a hundred cubits
long† on one side,
10 with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, and silver hooks and
bands on the posts.

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‡ **26:33 26:33** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verse 34 § **26:33 26:33** Or *the Most Holy Place*; also in verse 34 * **27:1 27:1** The altar was approximately 7.5 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (2.3 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high). † **27:9 27:9** *100 cubits* is approximately 150 feet or 45.7 meters; also in verse 11.

11 Likewise there are to be curtains on the north side, a hundred cubits
long, with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, and with silver hooks
and bands on the posts.
12 The curtains on the west side of the courtyard shall be fifty cubits
wide,‡ with ten posts and ten bases.
13 The east side of the courtyard, toward the sunrise, is to be fifty cubits
wide.
14 Make the curtains on one side fifteen cubits long,§ with three posts
and three bases,
15 and the curtains on the other side fifteen cubits long, with three posts
and three bases.
16 The gate of the courtyard shall be twenty cubits long,* with a curtain
embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen. It
shall have four posts and four bases.
17 All the posts around the courtyard shall have silver bands, silver
hooks, and bronze bases.
18 The entire courtyard shall be a hundred cubits long and fifty cubits
wide,† with curtains of finely spun linen five cubits high,‡ and with bronze
bases.
19 All the utensils of the tabernacle for every use, including all its tent
pegs and the tent pegs of the courtyard, shall be made of bronze.
20 And you are to command the Israelites to bring you pure oil of
pressed olives for the light, to keep the lamps burning continually.
21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil that is in front of the
Testimony,§ Aaron and his sons are to tend the lamps before the LORD
from evening until morning. This is to be a permanent statute for the
Israelites for the generations to come.

28

1 "Next, have your brother Aaron brought to you from among the
Israelites, along with his sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, to serve
me as priests.
2 Make holy garments for your brother Aaron, to give him glory and
splendor.
3 You are to instruct all the skilled craftsmen, whom I have filled with a
spirit of wisdom, to make garments for Aaron's consecration, so that he
may serve me as priest.
4 These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod,
a robe, a woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. They are to make these holy
garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so that they may serve me
as priests.
5 They shall use gold, along with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine
linen.
6 They are to make the ephod of finely spun linen embroidered with
gold, and with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn.

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‡ **27:12 27:12** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters; also in verse 13. § **27:14 27:14** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters; also in verse 15. * **27:16 27:16** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters. † **27:18 27:18** The courtyard was approximately 150 feet long and 75 feet wide (45.7 meters long and 22.9 meters wide). ‡ **27:18 27:18** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters. § **27:21 27:21** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

7 It shall have two shoulder pieces attached at two of its corners, so it
can be fastened.
8 And the skillfully woven waistband of the ephod must be of one piece,
of the same workmanship—with gold, with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn,
and with finely spun linen.
9 Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of
Israel:
10 six of their names on one stone and the remaining six on the other, in
the order of their birth.
11 Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a
gem cutter engraves a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings.
12 Fasten both stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial
stones for the sons of Israel. Aaron is to bear their names on his two
shoulders as a memorial before the LORD.
13 Fashion gold filigree settings
14 and two chains of pure gold, made of braided cord work; and attach
these chains to the settings.
15 You are also to make a breastpiece of judgment with the same
workmanship as the ephod. Construct it with gold, with blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn, and with finely spun linen.
16 It must be square when folded over double, a span long and a span
wide.*
17 And mount on it a setting of gemstones, four rows of stones:†

In the first row there shall be a ruby, a topaz, and an emerald;
18 in the second row a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;
19 in the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;
20 and in the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper.
Mount these stones in gold filigree settings.
21 The twelve stones are to correspond to the names of the sons of Israel,
each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.
22 For the breastpiece, make braided chains like cords of pure gold.
23 You are also to make two gold rings and fasten them to the two
corners of the breastpiece.
24 Then fasten the two gold chains to the two gold rings at the corners of
the breastpiece,
25 and fasten the other ends of the two chains to the two filigree settings,
attaching them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front.
26 Make two more gold rings and attach them to the other two corners of
the breastpiece, on the inside edge next to the ephod.
27 Make two additional gold rings and attach them to the bottom of the
two shoulder pieces of the ephod, on its front, near its seam just above its
woven waistband.
28 The rings‡ of the breastpiece shall be tied to the rings of the ephod
with a cord of blue yarn, so that the breastpiece is above the waistband of
the ephod and does not swing out from the ephod.
29 Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he shall bear the names of the
sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of judgment, as a continual
reminder before the LORD.

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* **28:16 28:16** The breastpiece, when folded over, was approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters in both length and width. † **28:17 28:17** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain. ‡ **28:28 28:28** Qere; Ketiv *ring*

30 And place the Urim and Thummim§ in the breastpiece of judgment, so
that they will also be over Aaron's heart whenever he comes before the
LORD. Aaron will continually carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over
his heart before the LORD.
31 You are to make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth,
32 with an opening at its top in the center. Around the opening shall be a
woven collar with an opening like that of a garment,* so that it will not
tear.
33 Make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn all the way
around the lower hem, with gold bells between them,
34 alternating the gold bells and pomegranates around the lower hem of
the robe.
35 Aaron must wear the robe whenever he ministers, and its sound will
be heard when he enters or exits the sanctuary before the LORD, so that
he will not die.
36 You are to make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal:
HOLY TO THE LORD.†
37 Fasten to it a blue cord to mount it on the turban; it shall be on the
front of the turban.
38 And it will be worn on Aaron's forehead, so that he may bear the
iniquity of the holy things that the sons of Israel consecrate with regard to
all their holy gifts. It shall always be on his forehead, so that they may be
acceptable before the LORD.
39 You are to weave the tunic with fine linen, make the turban of fine
linen, and fashion an embroidered sash.
40 Make tunics, sashes, and headbands for Aaron's sons, to give them
glory and splendor.
41 After you put these garments on your brother Aaron and his sons,
anoint them, ordain them, and consecrate them so that they may serve me
as priests.
42 Make linen undergarments to cover their bare flesh, extending from
waist to thigh.
43 Aaron and his sons must wear them whenever they enter the Tent of
Meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they
will not incur guilt and die. This is to be a permanent statute for Aaron
and his descendants.

29

1 "Now this is what you are to do to consecrate Aaron and his sons to
serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without blemish,
2 along with unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and
unleavened wafers anointed with oil. Make them out of fine wheat flour,
3 put them in a basket, and present them in the basket, along with the
bull and the two rams.
4 Then present Aaron and his sons at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting
and wash them with water.
5 Take the garments and clothe Aaron with the tunic, the robe of the
ephod, the ephod itself, and the breastplate. Fasten the ephod on him with
its woven waistband.
6 Put the turban on his head and attach the holy diadem to the turban.
7 Then take the anointing oil and anoint him by pouring it on his head.

§ **28:30 28:30** Literally *Lights and Perfections* * **28:32 28:32** The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain; possibly *a coat of mail.* † **28:36 28:36** That is, *the LORD*

8 Present his sons as well and clothe them with tunics.
9 Wrap the sashes around Aaron and his sons and tie headbands on
them. The priesthood shall be theirs by a permanent statute. In this way
you are to ordain Aaron and his sons.
10 You are to present the bull at the front of the Tent of Meeting, and
Aaron and his sons are to lay their hands on its head.
11 And you shall slaughter the bull before the LORD at the entrance to
the Tent of Meeting.
12 Take some of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar
with your finger; then pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar.
13 Take all the fat that covers the entrails and the lobe of the liver, and
both kidneys with the fat on them, and burn them on the altar.
14 But burn the flesh of the bull and its hide and dung outside the camp;
it is a purification offering.*
15 Take one of the rams, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on
its head.
16 You are to slaughter the ram, take its blood, and splatter it on all sides
of the altar.
17 Cut the ram into pieces, wash the entrails and legs, and place them
with its head and other pieces.
18 Then burn the entire ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to the
LORD, a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.
19 Take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons are to lay their hands on
its head.
20 Slaughter the ram, take some of its blood, and put it on the right
earlobes of Aaron and his sons, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on
the big toes of their right feet. Splatter the remaining blood on all sides of
the altar.
21 And take some of the blood on the altar and some of the anointing oil
and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments, as well as on his sons and their
garments. Then he and his garments will be consecrated, as well as his
sons and their garments.
22 Take the fat from the ram, the fat tail, the fat covering the entrails, the
lobe of the liver, both kidneys with the fat on them, and the right thigh
(since this is a ram for ordination),
23 along with one loaf of bread, one cake of bread made with oil, and
one wafer from the basket of unleavened bread that is before the LORD.
24 Put all these in the hands of Aaron and his sons and wave them
before the LORD as a wave offering.
25 Then take them from their hands and burn them on the altar atop the
burnt offering as a pleasing aroma before the LORD; it is a food offering to
the LORD.
26 Take the breast of the ram of Aaron's ordination and wave it before
the LORD as a wave offering, and it will be your portion.
27 Consecrate for Aaron and his sons the breast of the wave offering that
is waved and the thigh of the heave offering that is lifted up from the ram
of ordination.
28 This will belong to Aaron and his sons as a regular portion from the
Israelites, for it is the heave offering the Israelites will make to the LORD
from their peace offerings.
29 The holy garments that belong to Aaron will belong to his sons after
him, so they can be anointed and ordained in them.

* **29:14 29:14** Or *sin offering*; also in verse 36

30 The son who succeeds him as priest and enters the Tent of Meeting to
minister in the Holy Place must wear them for seven days.
31 You are to take the ram of ordination and boil its flesh in a holy place.
32 At the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, Aaron and his sons are to eat
the meat of the ram and the bread that is in the basket.
33 They must eat those things by which atonement was made for their
ordination and consecration. But no outsider may eat them, because these
things are sacred.
34 And if any of the meat of ordination or any bread is left until the
morning, you are to burn up the remainder. It must not be eaten, because
it is sacred.
35 This is what you are to do for Aaron and his sons based on all that I
have commanded you, taking seven days to ordain them.
36 Sacrifice a bull as a purification offering each day for atonement.
Purify the altar by making atonement for it, and anoint it to consecrate it.
37 For seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate
it. Then the altar will become most holy; whatever touches the altar will
be holy.
38 This is what you are to offer regularly on the altar, each day: two
lambs that are a year old.
39 Offer one lamb in the morning and the other at twilight.†
40 With the first lamb offer a tenth of an ephah of fine flour,‡ mixed with
a quarter hin of oil from pressed olives,§ and a drink offering of a quarter
hin of wine.
41 And offer the second lamb at twilight with the same grain offering
and drink offering as in the morning, as a pleasing aroma, a food offering
to the LORD.
42 For the generations to come, this burnt offering shall be made
regularly at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before the LORD, where I
will meet you to speak with you.
43 I will also meet with the Israelites there, and that place will be
consecrated by my glory.
44 So I will consecrate the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and I will
consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests.
45 Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God.
46 And they will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them
out of the land of Egypt so that I might dwell among them.
I am the LORD their God.

30

1 "You are also to make an altar of acacia wood for the burning of
incense.
2 It is to be square, a cubit long, a cubit wide, and two cubits high.* Its
horns must be of one piece.
3 Overlay with pure gold the top and all the sides and horns, and make a
molding of gold around it.

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† **29:39 29:39** Hebrew *between the two evenings*; also in verse 41 ‡ **29:40 29:40** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour). § **29:40 29:40** Hebrew *a quarter hin of pressed oil*; that is, approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters * **30:2 30:2** The altar was approximately 1.5 feet in length and width, and 3 feet high (45.7 centimeters in length and width, and 91.4 centimeters high).

4 And make two gold rings below the molding on opposite sides to hold
the poles used to carry it.
5 Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.
6 Place the altar in front of the veil that is before the ark of the
Testimony†—before the cover that is over the Testimony—where I will
meet with you.
7 And Aaron is to burn fragrant incense on it every morning when he
tends the lamps.
8 When Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight,‡ he must burn the incense
perpetually before the LORD for the generations to come.
9 On this altar you must not offer strange§ incense or a burnt offering or
grain offering; nor are you to pour a drink offering on it.
10 Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on the horns of the altar.
Throughout your generations he shall make atonement on it annually
with the blood of the purification offering* of atonement. The altar is most
holy to the LORD."
11 Then the LORD said to Moses,
12 "When you take a census of the Israelites to number them, each man
must pay the LORD a ransom for his life when he is counted. Then no
plague will come upon them when they are numbered.
13 Everyone who crosses over to those counted must pay a half shekel,†
according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.‡ This half
shekel is an offering to the LORD.
14 Everyone twenty years of age or older who crosses over to those
counted must give this offering to the LORD.
15 In making the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives, the rich
shall not give more than a half shekel, nor shall the poor give less.
16 Take the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the
service of the Tent of Meeting. It will serve as a memorial for the Israelites
before the LORD to make atonement for your lives."
17 And the LORD said to Moses,
18 "You are to make a bronze basin with a bronze stand for washing. Set
it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it,
19 with which Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet.
20 Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting or approach the altar to
minister by presenting a food offering to the LORD, they must wash with
water so that they will not die.
21 Thus they are to wash their hands and feet so that they will not die;
this shall be a permanent statute for Aaron and his descendants for the
generations to come."
22 Then the LORD said to Moses,
23 "Take the finest spices: 500 shekels of liquid myrrh,§ half that amount
(250 shekels) of fragrant cinnamon,* 250 shekels of fragrant cane,†

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† **30:6 30:6** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verse 26 ‡ **30:8 30:8** Hebrew *between the two evenings* § **30:9 30:9** Or *unauthorized* * **30:10 30:10** Or *sin offering* † **30:13 30:13** *A half shekel* is approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams; also in verse 15. ‡ **30:13 30:13** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams). § **30:23 30:23** *500 shekels* is approximately 12.6 pounds or 5.7 kilograms of myrrh. * **30:23 30:23** *250 shekels* is approximately 6.3 pounds or 2.9 kilograms of cinnamon. † **30:23 30:23** *250 shekels* is approximately 6.3 pounds or 2.9 kilograms of cane.

24 500 shekels of cassia‡—all according to the sanctuary shekel—and a
hin of olive oil.§
25 Prepare from these a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work
of a perfumer; it will be a sacred anointing oil.
26 Use this oil to anoint the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the Testimony,
27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, the altar
of incense,
28 the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin with its
stand.
29 You are to consecrate them so that they will be most holy. Whatever
touches them shall be holy.
30 Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them to serve me as priests.
31 And you are to tell the Israelites, 'This will be my sacred anointing oil
for the generations to come.
32 It must not be used to anoint an ordinary man, and you must not
make anything like it with the same formula. It is holy, and it must be holy
to you.
33 Anyone who mixes perfume like it or puts it on an outsider shall be
cut off from his people.' "
34 The LORD also said to Moses, "Take fragrant spices—gum resin,
onycha, galbanum, and pure frankincense—in equal measures,
35 and make a fragrant blend of incense, the work of a perfumer,
seasoned with salt, pure and holy.
36 Grind some of it into fine powder and place it in front of the
Testimony* in the Tent of Meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be
most holy to you.
37 You are never to use this formula to make incense for yourselves; you
shall regard it as holy to the LORD.
38 Anyone who makes something like it to enjoy its fragrance shall be cut
off from his people."

31

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the
tribe of Judah.
3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, with skill, ability, and
knowledge in all kinds of craftsmanship,
4 to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze,
5 to cut gemstones for settings, and to carve wood, so that he may be a
master of every craft.
6 Moreover, I have selected Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of
Dan, as his assistant.
I have also given skill to all the craftsmen, that they may fashion all that
I have commanded you:
7 the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the Testimony* and the cover upon it,
and all the other furnishings of the tent—
8 the table with its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils,
the altar of incense,

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‡ **30:24 30:24** *500 shekels* is approximately 12.6 pounds or 5.7 kilograms of cassia. § **30:24 30:24** *A hin* is approximately 0.97 gallons or 3.67 liters of olive oil. * **30:36 30:36** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments. * **31:7 31:7** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

9 the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin with its
stand—
10 as well as the woven garments, both the holy garments for Aaron the
priest and the garments for his sons to serve as priests,
11 in addition to the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place.
They are to make them according to all that I have commanded you."
12 And the LORD said to Moses,
13 "Tell the Israelites, 'Surely you must keep my Sabbaths, for this will be
a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so that you may
know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.
14 Keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Anyone who profanes it must
surely be put to death. Whoever does any work on that day must be cut
off from among his people.
15 For six days work may be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of
complete rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath
day must surely be put to death.
16 The Israelites must keep the Sabbath, celebrating it as a permanent
covenant for the generations to come.
17 It is a sign between me and the Israelites forever; for in six days the
LORD made the heavens and the earth, but on the seventh day he rested
and was refreshed.' "
18 When the LORD had finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he
gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone inscribed by the
finger of God.

32

1 Now when the people saw that Moses was delayed in coming down
from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us
gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who brought us up out of the
land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him!"
2 So Aaron told them, "Take off the gold earrings that are on your wives
and sons and daughters, and bring them to me."
3 Then all the people took off their gold earrings and brought them to
Aaron.
4 He took the gold from their hands, and with an engraving tool he
fashioned it into a molten calf. And they said, "These, O Israel, are your
gods, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"
5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before the calf and proclaimed:
"Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD."
6 So the next day they arose, offered burnt offerings, and presented
peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and got up to
indulge in revelry.*
7 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom
you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.
8 How quickly they have turned aside from the way that I commanded
them! They have made for themselves a molten calf and have bowed
down to it. They have sacrificed to it and said, 'These, O Israel, are your
gods, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.' "
9 The LORD also said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and they are
indeed a stiff-necked people.

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* **32:6 32:6** Or *to play*

10 Now leave me alone, so that my anger may burn against them and
consume them. Then I will make you into a great nation."
11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God, saying, "O LORD, why
does your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of the
land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?
12 Why should the Egyptians declare, 'He brought them out with evil
intent, to kill them in the mountains and wipe them from the face of the
earth'? Turn from your fierce anger and relent from doing harm to your
people.
13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, to whom you
swore by your very self when you declared, 'I will make your descendants
as numerous as the stars in the sky, and I will give your descendants all
this land that I have promised, and it shall be their inheritance forever.' "
14 So the LORD relented from the calamity he had threatened to bring on
his people.
15 Then Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets
of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front
and back.
16 The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of
God, engraved on the tablets.
17 When Joshua heard the sound of the people shouting, he said to
Moses, "The sound of war is in the camp."
18 But Moses replied:

"It is neither the cry of victory nor the cry of defeat;
I hear the sound of singing!"
19 As Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, he
burned with anger and threw the tablets out of his hands,† shattering
them at the base of the mountain.
20 Then he took the calf they had made, burned it in the fire, ground it to
powder, and scattered the powder over the face of the water. Then he
forced the Israelites to drink it.
21 "What did this people do to you," Moses asked Aaron, "that you have
led them into so great a sin?"
22 "Do not be enraged, my lord," Aaron replied. "You yourself know that
the people are intent on evil.
23 They told me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses
who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has
happened to him!'
24 So I said to them, 'Whoever has gold, let him take it off,' and they gave
it to me. And when I threw it into the fire, out came this calf!"
25 Moses saw that the people were out of control, for Aaron had let them
run wild and become a laughingstock‡ to their enemies.
26 So Moses stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for
the LORD, come to me."
And all the Levites gathered around him.
27 He told them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each of
you men is to fasten his sword to his side, go back and forth through the
camp from gate to gate, and slay his brother, his friend, and his neighbor.' "

† **32:19 32:19** Qere; Ketiv *his hand* ‡ **32:25 32:25** Or *and become an object of derision*

28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three
thousand of the people fell dead.
29 Afterward, Moses said, “Ordain yourselves today§ for service to the
LORD, since each man went against his son and his brother, so that the
LORD may bestow a blessing on you this day.”
30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great
sin. Now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your
sin.”
31 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these
people have committed! They have made gods of gold for themselves.
32 Yet now, if you would only forgive their sin.... But if not, please blot
me out of the book that you have written.”
33 The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will
blot out of my book.
34 Now go, lead the people to the place I described. Behold, my angel
shall go before you. But on the day I settle accounts, I will punish them for
their sin.”
35 And the LORD sent a plague on the people because of what they had
done with the calf that Aaron had made.

33

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Leave this place, you and the people you
brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land that I promised to
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’
2 And I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the
Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.
3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with
you, because you are a stiff-necked people; otherwise, I might destroy you
on the way.”
4 When the people heard this bad news, they went into mourning, and
no one put on any of his jewelry.
5 For the LORD had said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites, ‘You are a
stiff-necked people. If I should go with you for a single moment, I would
destroy you. Now take off your jewelry, and I will decide what to do with
you.’ ”
6 So the Israelites stripped themselves of their jewelry from Mount
Horeb onward.*
7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it at a distance outside the
camp. He called it the Tent of Meeting, and anyone inquiring of the LORD
would go to the Tent of Meeting outside the camp.
8 Then, whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would stand
at the entrances to their own tents and watch Moses until he entered the
tent.
9 As Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and
remain at the entrance, and the LORD would speak with Moses.
10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to
the tent, they would stand up and worship, each one at the entrance to his
own tent.

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§ **32:29 32:29** Literally *Fill your hands today*; LXX and Vulgate *Today you have ordained yourselves*

* **33:6 33:6** That is, from Mount Sinai onward, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

11 Thus the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to
his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young assistant
Joshua son of Nun would not leave the tent.
12 Then Moses said to the LORD, “Look, you have been telling me, ‘Lead
this people up,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with
me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have found favor in
my sight.’
13 Now if indeed I have found favor in your sight, please let me know
your ways, that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Remember
that this nation is your people.”
14 And the LORD answered, “My Presence will go with you, and I will
give you rest.”
15 “If your Presence does not go with us,” Moses replied, “do not lead us
up from here.
16 For how then can it be known that your people and I have found
favor in your sight, unless you go with us? How else will we be
distinguished from all the other people on the face of the earth?”
17 So the LORD said to Moses, “I will do this very thing you have asked,
for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”
18 Then Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”
19 “I will cause all my goodness to pass before you,” the LORD replied,
“and I will proclaim my name—the LORD—in your presence. I will have
mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I
have compassion.”
20 But he added, “You cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live.”
21 The LORD continued, “There is a place near me where you are to
stand upon a rock,
22 and when my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and
cover you with my hand until I have passed by.
23 Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back; but my face
must not be seen.”

34

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the
originals, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets,
which you broke.
2 Be ready in the morning, and come up on Mount Sinai to present
yourself before me on the mountaintop.
3 No one may go up with you; in fact, no one may be seen anywhere on
the mountain—not even the flocks or herds may graze in front of the
mountain.”
4 So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the originals. He rose early
in the morning, and taking the two stone tablets in his hands, he went up
Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him.
5 And the LORD descended in a cloud, stood with him there, and
proclaimed his name, the LORD.
6 Then the LORD passed in front of Moses and called out:
“The LORD, the LORD God,
is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in loving devotion and faithfulness,

7 maintaining loving devotion to a thousand generations,*
forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.
Yet he will by no means leave the guilty unpunished;
he will visit the iniquity of the fathers
on their children and grandchildren
to the third and fourth generations."
8 Moses immediately bowed down to the ground and worshiped.
9 "O Lord," he said, "if I have indeed found favor in your sight, my Lord, please go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our iniquity and sin, and take us as your inheritance."
10 And the LORD said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will perform wonders that have never been done in any nation in all the world. All the people among whom you live will see the LORD's work, for it is an awesome thing that I am doing with you.
11 Observe what I command you this day. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.
12 Be careful not to make a treaty† with the inhabitants of the land you are entering, lest they become a snare in your midst.
13 Rather, you must tear down their altars, smash their sacred stones, and chop down their Asherah poles.
14 For you must not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.
15 Do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you, and you will eat their sacrifices.
16 And when you take some of their daughters as brides for your sons, their daughters will prostitute themselves to their gods and cause your sons to do the same.
17 You shall make no molten gods for yourselves.
18 You are to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread.‡ For seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib,§ you are to eat unleavened bread as I commanded you. For in the month of Abib you came out of Egypt.
19 The first offspring of every womb belongs to me, including all the firstborn males among your livestock, whether cattle or sheep.
20 You must redeem the firstborn of a donkey with a lamb; but if you do not redeem it, you are to break its neck. You must redeem all the firstborn of your sons. No one shall appear before me empty-handed.
21 Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even in the seasons of plowing and harvesting, you must rest.
22 And you are to celebrate the Feast of Weeks* with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering† at the turn of the year.
23 Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.

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* **34:7 34:7** Hebrew *to thousands* † **34:12 34:12** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*. ‡ **34:18 34:18** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20. § **34:18 34:18** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April; twice in this verse.
* **34:22 34:22** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. † **34:22 34:22** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is later called *the Feast of Tabernacles* (or *Booths* or *Shelters*).

24 For I will drive out the nations before you and enlarge your borders,
and no one will covet your land when you go up three times a year to
appear before the LORD your God.
25 Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me along with anything
leavened, and do not let any of the sacrifice from the Passover Feast
remain until morning.
26 Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD
your God.
You must not cook a young goat in its mother's milk."
27 The LORD also said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in
accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with
Israel."
28 So Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without
eating bread or drinking water. He wrote on the tablets the words of the
covenant—the Ten Commandments.‡
29 And when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of
the Testimony in his hands, he was unaware that his face had become
radiant from speaking with the LORD.
30 Aaron and all the Israelites looked at Moses, and behold, his face was
radiant. And they were afraid to approach him.
31 But Moses called out to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the
congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke to them.
32 And after this all the Israelites came near, and Moses commanded
them to do everything that the LORD had told him on Mount Sinai.
33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his
face.
34 But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he
would remove the veil until he came out. And when he came out, he
would tell the Israelites what he had been commanded,
35 and the Israelites would see that the face of Moses was radiant. So
Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with
the LORD.

35

1 Then Moses assembled the whole congregation of Israel and said to
them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do:
2 For six days work may be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy
day, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on
that day must be put to death.
3 Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day."
4 Moses also told the whole congregation of Israel, "This is what the
LORD has commanded:
5 Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Let everyone whose
heart is willing bring an offering to the LORD:

gold, silver, and bronze;
6 blue, purple, and scarlet yarn;
fine linen and goat hair;
7 ram skins dyed red and fine leather;*
acacia wood;
8 olive oil for the light;

‡ **34:28 34:28** Hebrew *the Ten Words*
* **35:7 35:7** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals; also in verse 23

spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;
9 and onyx stones and gemstones to be mounted on the ephod and
breastpiece.
10 Let every skilled craftsman among you come and make everything
that the LORD has commanded:

11 the tabernacle with its tent and covering, its clasps and frames, its
crossbars, posts, and bases;
12 the ark with its poles and the cover, and the veil to shield it;
13 the table with its poles, all its utensils, and the Bread of the Presence;
14 the lampstand for light with its accessories and lamps and oil for the
light;
15 the altar of incense with its poles;
the anointing oil and fragrant incense;
the curtain for the doorway at the entrance to the tabernacle;
16 the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grate, its poles, and all its
utensils;
the basin with its stand;
17 the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain
for the gate of the courtyard;
18 the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard, along with
their ropes;
19 and the woven garments for ministering in the holy place—both the
holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons to
serve as priests."
20 Then the whole congregation of Israel withdrew from the presence of
Moses.
21 And everyone whose heart stirred him and whose spirit prompted
him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of
Meeting, for all its services, and for the holy garments.
22 So all who had willing hearts, both men and women, came and
brought brooches and earrings, rings and necklaces, and all kinds of gold
jewelry. And they all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.
23 Everyone who had blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, or fine linen, goat
hair, ram skins dyed red, or articles of fine leather, brought them.
24 And all who could present an offering of silver or bronze brought it as
a contribution to the LORD. Also, everyone who had acacia wood for any
part of the service brought it.
25 Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had
spun: blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, or fine linen.
26 And all the skilled women whose hearts were stirred spun the goat
hair.
27 The leaders brought onyx stones and gemstones to mount on the
ephod and breastpiece,
28 as well as spices and olive oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and
for the fragrant incense.
29 So all the men and women of the Israelites whose hearts prompted
them brought a freewill offering to the LORD for all the work that the
LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.
30 Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has called by name
Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

31 And he has filled him with the spirit of God, with skill, ability, and
knowledge in all kinds of craftsmanship,
32 to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze,
33 to cut gemstones for settings, and to carve wood, so that he may be a
master of every artistic craft.
34 And the LORD has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of
the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others.
35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers,
designers, embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen,
and as weavers—as artistic designers of every kind of craft.

36

1 "So Bezalel, Oholiab, and every skilled person are to carry out
everything commanded by the LORD, who has given them skill and ability
to know how to perform all the work of constructing the sanctuary."
2 Then Moses summoned Bezalel, Oholiab, and every skilled person
whom the LORD had gifted—everyone whose heart stirred him to come
and do the work.
3 They received from Moses all the contributions that the Israelites had
brought to carry out the service of constructing the sanctuary.
Meanwhile, the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning
after morning,
4 so that all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the
sanctuary left their work
5 and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for
doing the work the LORD has commanded us to do."
6 After Moses had given an order, they sent a proclamation throughout
the camp: "No man or woman should make anything else as an offering
for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing more,
7 since what they already had was more than enough to perform all the
work.
8 All the skilled craftsmen among the workmen made the ten curtains
for the tabernacle. They were made of finely spun linen, as well as blue,
purple, and scarlet yarn, with cherubim skillfully worked into them.
9 Each curtain was twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide;* all
the curtains were the same size.
10 And he joined five of the curtains together, and the other five he
joined as well.
11 He made loops of blue material on the edge of the end curtain in the
first set, and also on the end curtain in the second set.
12 He made fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain
of the second set, so that the loops lined up opposite one another.
13 He also made fifty gold clasps to join the curtains together, so that the
tabernacle was a unit.
14 He then made curtains of goat hair for the tent over the
tabernacle—eleven curtains in all.
15 Each of the eleven curtains was the same size—thirty cubits long and
four cubits wide.†

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* **36:9 36:9** Each of the ten curtains was approximately 42 feet long and 6 feet wide (12.8 meters long and 1.8 meters wide). † **36:15 36:15** Each of the eleven curtains was approximately 45 feet long and 6 feet wide (13.7 meters long and 1.8 meters wide).

16 He joined five of the curtains into one set and the other six into another.
17 He made fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in the first set, and fifty loops along the edge of the corresponding curtain in the second set.
18 He also made fifty bronze clasps to join the tent together as a unit.
19 Additionally, he made for the tent a covering of ram skins dyed red, and over that a covering of fine leather.‡
20 Next, he constructed upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle.
21 Each frame was ten cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.§
22 Two tenons* were connected to each other for each frame. He made all the frames of the tabernacle in this way.
23 He constructed twenty frames for the south side of the tabernacle,
24 with forty silver bases to put under the twenty frames—two bases for each frame, one under each tenon.
25 For the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made twenty frames
26 and forty silver bases—two bases under each frame.
27 He made six frames for the rear of the tabernacle, the west side,
28 and two frames for the two back corners of the tabernacle,
29 coupled together from bottom to top and fitted into a single ring. He made both corners in this way.
30 So there were eight frames and sixteen silver bases—two under each frame.
31 He also made five crossbars of acacia wood for the frames on one side of the tabernacle,
32 five for those on the other side, and five for those on the rear side of the tabernacle, to the west.
33 He made the central crossbar to run through the center of the frames, from one end to the other.
34 And he overlaid the frames with gold and made gold rings to hold the crossbars. He also overlaid the crossbars with gold.
35 Next, he made the veil of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen, with cherubim skillfully worked into it.
36 He also made four posts of acacia wood for it and overlaid them with gold, along with gold hooks; and he cast four silver bases for the posts.
37 For the entrance to the tent, he made a curtain embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen,
38 together with five posts and their hooks.
He overlaid the tops of the posts and their bands with gold, and their five bases were bronze.

37

1 Bezalel went on to construct the ark of acacia wood, two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high.*
2 He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside and out, and made a gold molding around it.

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‡ **36:19 36:19** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals § **36:21 36:21** Each frame was approximately 15 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (4.6 meters long and 68.6 centimeters wide). * **36:22 36:22** That is, projecting pieces of wood made for insertion into another piece; similarly in verse 24. * **37:1 37:1** The ark was approximately 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (114.3 centimeters long, 68.6 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high).

3 And he cast four gold rings for its four feet, two rings on one side and
two on the other.
4 Then he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.
5 He inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark in order to
carry it.
6 He constructed a cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and a
cubit and a half wide.†
7 He made two cherubim of hammered gold at the ends of the cover,
8 one cherub on one end and one on the other, all made of one piece
with the cover at its two ends.
9 And the cherubim had wings that spread upward, overshadowing the
cover. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.
10 He also made the table of acacia wood two cubits long, a cubit wide,
and a cubit and a half high.‡
11 He overlaid it with pure gold and made a gold molding around it.
12 And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide§ and put a gold
molding on the rim.
13 He cast four gold rings for the table and fastened them to the four
corners at its four legs.
14 The rings were placed close to the rim, to serve as holders for the
poles used to carry the table.
15 He made the poles of acacia wood for carrying the table and overlaid
them with gold.
16 He also made the utensils for the table out of pure gold: its plates and
dishes, as well as its bowls and pitchers for pouring drink offerings.
17 Then he made the lampstand out of pure hammered gold, all of one
piece: its base and shaft, its cups, and its buds and petals.
18 Six branches extended from the sides, three on one side and three on
the other.
19 There were three cups shaped like almond blossoms on the first
branch, each with buds and petals, three on the next branch, and the same
for all six branches that extended from the lampstand.
20 And on the lampstand were four cups shaped like almond blossoms
with buds and petals.
21 A bud was under the first pair of branches that extended from the
lampstand, a bud under the second pair, and a bud under the third pair.
22 The buds and branches were all of one piece with the lampstand,
hammered out of pure gold.
23 He also made its seven lamps, its wick trimmers, and trays of pure
gold.
24 He made the lampstand and all its utensils from a talent of pure gold.*
25 He made the altar of incense out of acacia wood. It was square, a
cubit long, a cubit wide, and two cubits high.† Its horns were of one piece.
26 And he overlaid with pure gold the top and all the sides and horns.
Then he made a molding of gold around it.

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† **37:6 37:6** The cover was approximately 3.75 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (114.3 centimeters long and 68.6 centimeters wide). ‡ **37:10 37:10** The table was approximately 3 feet long, 1.5 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (91.4 centimeters long, 45.7 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high). § **37:12 37:12** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters. * **37:24 37:24** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold. † **37:25 37:25** The altar was approximately 1.5 feet in length and width, and 3 feet high (45.7 centimeters in length and width, and 91.4 centimeters high).

27 He made two gold rings below the molding on opposite sides to hold
the poles used to carry it.
28 And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.
29 He also made the sacred anointing oil and the pure, fragrant incense,
the work of a perfumer.

38

1 Bezalel constructed* the altar of burnt offering from acacia wood. It
was square, five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high.†
2 He made a horn at each of its four corners, so that the horns and altar
were of one piece, and he overlaid the altar with bronze.
3 He made all the altar's utensils of bronze—its pots, shovels, sprinkling
bowls, meat forks, and firepans.
4 He made a grate of bronze mesh for the altar under its ledge, halfway
up from the bottom.
5 At the four corners of the bronze grate he cast four rings as holders for
the poles.
6 And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze.
7 Then he inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar for
carrying it. He made the altar with boards so that it was hollow.
8 Next he made the bronze basin and its stand from the mirrors of the
women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
9 Then he constructed the courtyard. The south side of the courtyard
was a hundred cubits long‡ and had curtains of finely spun linen,
10 with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, and with silver hooks and
bands on the posts.
11 The north side was also a hundred cubits long, with twenty posts and
twenty bronze bases. The hooks and bands of the posts were silver.
12 The west side was fifty cubits long§ and had curtains, with ten posts
and ten bases. The hooks and bands of the posts were silver.
13 And the east side, toward the sunrise, was also fifty cubits long.
14 The curtains on one side of the entrance were fifteen cubits long,*
with three posts and three bases.
15 And the curtains on the other side were also fifteen cubits long, with
three posts and three bases as well.
16 All the curtains around the courtyard were made of finely spun linen.
17 The bases for the posts were bronze, the hooks and bands were silver,
and the plating for the tops of the posts was silver. So all the posts of the
courtyard were banded with silver.
18 The curtain for the entrance to the courtyard was embroidered with
blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen. It was twenty cubits
long† and, like the curtains of the courtyard, five cubits high,‡
19 with four posts and four bronze bases. Their hooks were silver, as
well as the bands and the plating of their tops.
20 All the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the surrounding courtyard
were bronze.

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* **38:1 38:1** Literally *he constructed* † **38:1 38:1** The altar was approximately 7.5 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (2.3 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high). ‡ **38:9 38:9** *100 cubits* is approximately 150 feet or 45.7 meters. § **38:12 38:12** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters. * **38:14 38:14** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters. † **38:18 38:18** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters. ‡ **38:18 38:18** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.

21 This is the inventory for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the
Testimony, as recorded at Moses' command by the Levites under the
direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.
22 Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made
everything that the LORD had commanded Moses.
23 With him was Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an
engraver, designer, and embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and
fine linen.
24 All the gold from the wave offering used for the work on the sanctuary
totaled 29 talents and 730 shekels,§ according to the sanctuary shekel.
25 The silver from those numbered among the congregation totaled 100
talents and 1,775 shekels,* according to the sanctuary shekel—
26 a beka per person, that is, half a shekel,† according to the sanctuary
shekel, from everyone twenty years of age or older who had crossed over
to be numbered, a total of 603,550 men.
27 The hundred talents of silver‡ were used to cast the bases of the
sanctuary and the bases of the veil—100 bases from the 100 talents, one
talent per base.
28 With the 1,775 shekels of silver§ he made the hooks for the posts,
overlaid their tops, and supplied bands for them.
29 The bronze from the wave offering totaled 70 talents and 2,400
shekels.*
30 He used it to make the bases for the entrance to the Tent of Meeting,
the bronze altar and its bronze grating, all the utensils for the altar,
31 the bases for the surrounding courtyard and its gate, and all the tent
pegs for the tabernacle and its surrounding courtyard.

39

1 From the blue, purple, and scarlet yarn they made specially woven
garments for ministry in the sanctuary, as well as the holy garments for
Aaron, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
2 Bezalel made* the ephod of finely spun linen embroidered with gold,
and with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn.
3 They hammered out thin sheets of gold and cut threads from them to
interweave with the blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine linen—the
work of a skilled craftsman.
4 They made shoulder pieces for the ephod, which were attached at two
of its corners, so it could be fastened.
5 And the skillfully woven waistband of the ephod was of one piece with
the ephod, of the same workmanship—with gold, with blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn, and with finely spun linen, just as the LORD had commanded
Moses.
6 They mounted the onyx stones in gold filigree settings, engraved like a
seal with the names of the sons of Israel.

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§ **38:24 38:24** The total weight of the gold was approximately 1.1 tons or 1 metric ton. * **38:25 38:25** The total weight of the silver was approximately 3.79 tons or 3.44 metric tons. † **38:26 38:26** *A beka* is half a shekel, or approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams. ‡ **38:27 38:27** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. § **38:28 38:28** *1,775 shekels* is approximately 44.6 pounds or 20.2 kilograms of silver. * **38:29 38:29** The total weight of the bronze was approximately 2.67 tons or 2.42 metric tons. * **39:2 39:2** Literally *he made*

7 Then they fastened them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as
memorial stones for the sons of Israel, as the LORD had commanded
Moses.
8 He made the breastpiece with the same workmanship as the ephod,
with gold, with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and with finely spun linen.
9 It was square when folded over double, a span long and a span wide.†
10 And they mounted on it four rows of gemstones:‡

The first row had a ruby, a topaz, and an emerald;
11 the second row had a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;
12 the third row had a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;
13 and the fourth row had a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper.
These stones were mounted in gold filigree settings.
14 The twelve stones corresponded to the names of the sons of Israel.
Each stone was engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve
tribes.
15 For the breastpiece they made braided chains like cords of pure gold.
16 They also made two gold filigree settings and two gold rings, and
fastened the two rings to the two corners of the breastpiece.
17 Then they fastened the two gold chains to the two gold rings at the
corners of the breastpiece,
18 and they fastened the other ends of the two chains to the two filigree
settings, attaching them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front.
19 They made two more gold rings and attached them to the other two
corners of the breastpiece, on the inside edge next to the ephod.
20 They made two additional gold rings and attached them to the bottom
of the two shoulder pieces of the ephod, on its front, near the seam just
above its woven waistband.
21 Then they tied the rings of the breastpiece to the rings of the ephod
with a cord of blue yarn, so that the breastpiece was above the waistband
of the ephod and would not swing out from the ephod, just as the LORD
had commanded Moses.
22 They made the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, the work of a
weaver,
23 with an opening in the center of the robe like that of a garment,§ with
a collar around the opening so that it would not tear.
24 They made pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and finely
spun linen on the lower hem of the robe.
25 They also made bells of pure gold and attached them around the hem
of the robe between the pomegranates,
26 alternating the bells and pomegranates around the lower hem of the
robe to be worn for ministry, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
27 For Aaron and his sons they made tunics of fine linen, the work of a
weaver,
28 as well as the turban of fine linen, the ornate headbands and
undergarments of finely spun linen,
29 and the sash of finely spun linen, embroidered with blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

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† **39:9 39:9** The breastpiece, when folded over, was approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters in both length and width. ‡ **39:10 39:10** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain. § **39:23 39:23** The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain; possibly *a coat of mail.*

30 They also made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and they
engraved on it, like an inscription on a seal:
HOLY TO THE LORD.*
31 Then they fastened to it a blue cord to mount it on the turban, just as
the LORD had commanded Moses.
32 So all the work for the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, was completed.
The Israelites did everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
33 Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses:

the tent with all its furnishings, its clasps, its frames, its crossbars,† and
its posts and bases;
34 the covering of ram skins dyed red, the covering of fine leather,‡ and
the veil of the covering;
35 the ark of the Testimony§ with its poles and the cover;
36 the table with all its utensils and the Bread of the Presence;
37 the pure gold lampstand with its row of lamps and all its utensils, as
well as the oil for the light;
38 the gold altar, the anointing oil, the fragrant incense, and the curtain
for the entrance to the tent;
39 the bronze altar with its bronze grating, its poles, and all its utensils;
the basin with its stand;
40 the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases;
the curtain for the gate of the courtyard, its ropes and tent pegs, and all
the equipment for the service of the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting;
41 and the woven garments for ministering in the sanctuary, both the
holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons to
serve as priests.
42 The Israelites had done all the work just as the LORD had commanded
Moses.
43 And Moses inspected all the work and saw that they had
accomplished it just as the LORD had commanded. So Moses blessed them.

40

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “On the first day of the first month you are to set up the tabernacle, the
Tent of Meeting.
3 Put the ark of the Testimony* in it and screen off the ark with the veil.
4 Then bring in the table and set out its arrangement; bring in the
lampstand as well, and set up its lamps.
5 Place the gold altar of incense in front of the ark of the Testimony, and
hang the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle.
6 Place the altar of burnt offering in front of the entrance to the
tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting.
7 And place the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put
water in it.
8 Set up the surrounding courtyard and hang the curtain for the
entrance to the courtyard.
9 Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it;
consecrate it along with all its furnishings, and it shall be holy.

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* **39:30 39:30** That is, *the LORD* † **39:33 39:33** Qere; Ketiv *its crossbar* ‡ **39:34 39:34** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals § **39:35 39:35** That is, *the ark of the covenant* * **40:3 40:3** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verses 5 and 21

10 Anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; consecrate the
altar, and it shall be most holy.
11 Anoint the basin and its stand and consecrate them.
12 Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting
and wash them with water.
13 And you are to clothe Aaron with the holy garments, anoint him, and
consecrate him, so that he may serve me as a priest.
14 Bring his sons forward and clothe them with tunics.
15 Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so that they may also
serve me as priests. Their anointing will qualify them for a permanent
priesthood throughout their generations."
16 Moses did everything just as the LORD had commanded him.
17 So the tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month of the
second year.
18 When Moses set up the tabernacle, he laid its bases, positioned its
frames, inserted its crossbars, and set up its posts.
19 Then he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering over
the tent, just as the LORD had commanded him.
20 Moses took the Testimony and placed it in the ark, attaching the poles
to the ark; and he set the cover atop the ark.
21 Then he brought the ark into the tabernacle, put up the veil for the
screen, and shielded off the ark of the Testimony, just as the LORD had
commanded him.
22 Moses placed the table in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of the
tabernacle, outside the veil.
23 He arranged the bread on it before the LORD, just as the LORD had
commanded him.
24 He also placed the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the table
on the south side of the tabernacle
25 and set up the lamps before the LORD, just as the LORD had
commanded him.
26 Moses placed the gold altar in the Tent of Meeting, in front of the veil,
27 and he burned fragrant incense on it, just as the LORD had
commanded him.
28 Then he put up the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle.
29 He placed the altar of burnt offering near the entrance to the
tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and
the grain offering, just as the LORD had commanded him.
30 He placed the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put
water in it for washing;
31 and from it Moses, Aaron, and his sons washed their hands and feet.
32 They washed whenever they entered the Tent of Meeting or
approached the altar, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
33 And Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and the altar,
and he hung the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard. So Moses
finished the work.
34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD
filled the tabernacle.
35 Moses was unable to enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had
settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
36 Whenever the cloud was lifted from above the tabernacle, the
Israelites would set out through all the stages of their journey.

37 If the cloud was not lifted, they would not set out until the day it was
taken up.
38 For the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire
was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel through all
their journeys.

Leviticus

1 Then the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of
Meeting, saying,
2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When any of you brings an
offering to the LORD, you may bring as your offering an animal from the
herd or the flock.
3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to present an
unblemished male. He must bring it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting
for its acceptance before the LORD.
4 He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, so it can be
accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.
5 And he shall slaughter the young bull before the LORD, and Aaron’s
sons the priests are to present the blood and splatter it on all sides of the
altar at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
6 Next, he is to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces.
7 The sons of Aaron the priest shall put a fire on the altar and arrange
wood on the fire.
8 Then Aaron’s sons the priests are to arrange the pieces, including the
head and the fat, atop the burning wood on the altar.
9 The entrails and legs must be washed with water, and the priest shall
burn all of it on the altar as a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing
aroma to the LORD.
10 If, however, one’s offering is a burnt offering from the flock—from the
sheep or goats—he is to present an unblemished male.
11 He shall slaughter it on the north side of the altar before the LORD,
and Aaron’s sons the priests are to splatter its blood against the altar on all
sides.
12 He is to cut the animal into pieces, and the priest shall arrange them,
including the head and fat, atop the burning wood that is on the altar.
13 The entrails and legs must be washed with water, and the priest shall
present all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food
offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
14 If, instead, one’s offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, he is
to present a turtledove or a young pigeon.
15 Then the priest shall bring it to the altar, twist off its head, and burn it
on the altar; its blood should be drained out on the side of the altar.
16 And he is to remove the crop with its contents* and throw it to the
east side of the altar, in the place for ashes.
17 He shall tear it open by its wings, without dividing the bird
completely. And the priest is to burn it on the altar atop the burning wood.
It is a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

2

1 “When anyone brings a grain offering to the LORD, his offering must
consist of fine flour. He is to pour olive oil on it, put frankincense on it,
2 and bring it to Aaron’s sons the priests. The priest shall take a handful
of the flour and oil, together with all the frankincense, and burn this as a

* **1:16 1:16** Or *the crop and feathers*

memorial portion on the altar, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the
LORD.
3 The remainder of the grain offering shall belong to Aaron and his sons;
it is a most holy part of the food offerings to the LORD.
4 Now if you bring an offering of grain baked in an oven, it must consist
of fine flour, either unleavened cakes mixed with oil or unleavened wafers
coated with oil.
5 If your offering is a grain offering prepared on a griddle,* it must be
unleavened bread made of fine flour mixed with oil.
6 Crumble it and pour oil on it; it is a grain offering.
7 If your offering is a grain offering cooked in a pan,† it must consist of
fine flour with oil.
8 When you bring to the LORD the grain offering made in any of these
ways, it is to be presented to the priest, and he shall take it to the altar.
9 The priest is to remove the memorial portion from the grain offering
and burn it on the altar as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
10 But the remainder of the grain offering shall belong to Aaron and his
sons; it is a most holy part of the food offerings to the LORD.
11 No grain offering that you present to the LORD may be made with
leaven, for you are not to burn any leaven or honey as a food offering to
the LORD.
12 You may bring them to the LORD as an offering of firstfruits, but they
must not go up on the altar as a pleasing aroma.
13 And you shall season each of your grain offerings with salt. You must
not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offering;
you are to add salt to each of your offerings.
14 If you bring a grain offering of firstfruits to the LORD, you shall offer
crushed heads of new grain roasted on the fire.
15 And you are to put oil and frankincense on it; it is a grain offering.
16 The priest shall then burn the memorial portion of the crushed grain
and the oil, together with all its frankincense, as a food offering to the
LORD.

3

1 “If one’s offering is a peace offering and he offers an animal from the
herd, whether male or female, he must present it without blemish before
the LORD.
2 He is to lay his hand on the head of the offering and slaughter it at the
entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Then Aaron’s sons the priests shall
splatter the blood on all sides of the altar.
3 From the peace offering he is to bring a food offering to the LORD: the
fat that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them,
4 both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the
liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys.
5 Then Aaron’s sons are to burn it on the altar atop the burnt offering
that is on the burning wood, as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the
LORD.
6 If, however, one’s peace offering to the LORD is from the flock, he must
present a male or female without blemish.
7 If he is presenting a lamb for his offering, he must present it before the
LORD.

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* **2:5 2:5** That is, a shallow pan for baking or frying † **2:7 2:7** That is, a deep pan or stew pan

8 He is to lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it in
front of the Tent of Meeting. Then Aaron's sons shall splatter its blood on
all sides of the altar.
9 And from the peace offering he shall bring a food offering to the LORD
consisting of its fat: the entire fat tail cut off close to the backbone, the fat
that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them,
10 both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the
liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys.
11 Then the priest is to burn them on the altar as food, a food offering to
the LORD.
12 If one's offering is a goat, he is to present it before the LORD.
13 He must lay his hand on its head and slaughter it in front of the Tent of
Meeting. Then Aaron's sons shall splatter its blood on all sides of the altar.
14 And from his offering he shall present a food offering to the LORD: the
fat that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them,
15 both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the
liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys.
16 Then the priest is to burn the food on the altar as a food offering, a
pleasing aroma. All the fat is the LORD's.
17 This is a permanent statute for the generations to come, wherever you
live: You must not eat any fat or any blood."

4

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Tell the Israelites to do as follows with one who sins unintentionally
against any of the LORD's commandments and does what is forbidden by
them:
3 If the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, he must bring
to the LORD a young bull without blemish as a purification offering* for
the sin he has committed.
4 He must bring the bull to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before the
LORD, lay his hand on the bull's head, and slaughter it before the LORD.
5 Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull's blood and bring it
into the Tent of Meeting.
6 The priest is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of it seven
times before the LORD, in front of the veil of the sanctuary.
7 The priest must then put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of
fragrant incense that is before the LORD in the Tent of Meeting. And he is
to pour out the rest of the bull's blood at the base of the altar of burnt
offering at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
8 Then he shall remove all the fat from the bull of the purification
offering—the fat that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them,
9 both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the
liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys—
10 just as the fat is removed from the ox of the peace offering. Then the
priest shall burn them on the altar of burnt offering.
11 But the hide of the bull and all its flesh, with its head and legs and its
entrails and dung—
12 all the rest of the bull—he must take outside the camp to a
ceremonially clean place where the ashes are poured out, and there he
must burn it on a wood fire on the ash heap.

* **4:3 4:3** Or *sin offering*; here and throughout Leviticus

13 Now if the whole congregation of Israel strays unintentionally and the
matter escapes the notice of the assembly so that they violate any of the
LORD's commandments and incur guilt by doing what is forbidden,
14 when they become aware of the sin they have committed, then the
assembly must bring a young bull as a purification offering and present it
before the Tent of Meeting.
15 The elders of the congregation are to lay their hands on the bull's
head before the LORD, and it shall be slaughtered before the LORD.
16 Then the anointed priest is to bring some of the bull's blood into the
Tent of Meeting,
17 and he is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times
before the LORD in front of the veil.
18 He is also to put some of the blood on the horns of the altar that is
before the LORD in the Tent of Meeting, and he must pour out the rest of
the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering at the entrance to the
Tent of Meeting.
19 And he is to remove all the fat from it and burn it on the altar.
20 He shall offer this bull just as he did the bull for the purification
offering; in this way the priest will make atonement on their behalf, and
they will be forgiven.
21 Then he is to take the bull outside the camp and burn it, just as he
burned the first bull. It is the purification offering for the assembly.

22 When a leader sins unintentionally and does what is prohibited by
any of the commandments of the LORD his God, he incurs guilt.
23 When he becomes aware of the sin he has committed, he must bring
an unblemished male goat as his offering.
24 He is to lay his hand on the head of the goat and slaughter it at the
place where the burnt offering is slaughtered before the LORD. It is a
purification offering.
25 Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the purification offering
with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour
out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar.
26 He must burn all its fat on the altar, like the fat of the peace offerings;
thus the priest will make atonement for that man's sin, and he will be
forgiven.

27 And if one of the common people sins unintentionally and does what
is prohibited by any of the LORD's commandments, he incurs guilt.
28 When he becomes aware of the sin he has committed, he must bring
an unblemished female goat as his offering for that sin.
29 He is to lay his hand on the head of the purification offering and
slaughter it at the place of the burnt offering.
30 Then the priest is to take some of its blood with his finger, put it on the
horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour out the rest of the blood at
the base of the altar.
31 Then he is to remove all the fat, just as it is removed from the peace
offering, and the priest is to burn it on the altar as a pleasing aroma to the
LORD. In this way the priest will make atonement for him, and he will be
forgiven.

32 If, however, he brings a lamb as a purification offering, he must bring
an unblemished female.

33 And he is to lay his hand on the head of the purification offering and
slaughter it as a purification offering at the place where the burnt offering
is slaughtered.
34 Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the purification offering
with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour
out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.
35 And he shall remove all the fat, just as the fat of the lamb is removed
from the peace offerings, and he shall burn it on the altar along with the
food offerings to the LORD. In this way the priest will make atonement for
him for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven.

5

1 "If someone sins by failing to testify when he hears a public charge
about something he has witnessed, whether he has seen it or learned of it,
he shall bear the iniquity.
2 Or if a person touches anything unclean—whether the carcass of any
unclean wild animal or livestock or crawling creature—even if he is
unaware of it, he is unclean and guilty.
3 Or if he touches human uncleanness—anything by which one becomes
unclean—even if he is unaware of it, when he realizes it, he is guilty.
4 Or if someone swears thoughtlessly with his lips to do anything good
or evil—in whatever matter a man may rashly pronounce an oath—even
if he is unaware of it, when he realizes it, he is guilty in the matter.
5 If someone incurs guilt in one of these ways, he must confess the sin he
has committed,
6 and he must bring his guilt offering to the LORD for the sin he has
committed: a female lamb or goat from the flock as a purification offering.
And the priest will make atonement for him concerning his sin.
7 If, however, he cannot afford a lamb, he may bring to the LORD as
restitution for his sin two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a
purification offering and the other as a burnt offering.
8 He is to bring them to the priest, who shall first present the one for the
purification offering. He is to twist its head at the front of its neck without
severing it;
9 then he is to sprinkle some of the blood of the purification offering on
the side of the altar, while the rest of the blood is drained out at the base of
the altar. It is a purification offering.
10 And the priest must prepare the second bird as a burnt offering
according to the ordinance. In this way the priest will make atonement for
him for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven.
11 But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he may
bring a tenth of an ephah of fine flour* as a purification offering. He must
not put olive oil or frankincense on it, because it is a purification offering.
12 He is to bring it to the priest, who shall take a handful from it as a
memorial portion and burn it on the altar atop the food offerings to the
LORD; it is a purification offering.
13 In this way the priest will make atonement for him for any of these
sins he has committed, and he will be forgiven. The remainder will belong
to the priest, like the grain offering."

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* **5:11 5:11** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour).

14 Then the LORD said to Moses,
15 “If someone acts unfaithfully and sins unintentionally against any of
the LORD’s holy things, he must bring his guilt offering to the LORD: an
unblemished ram from the flock or its equivalence† in silver shekels
according to the sanctuary shekel;‡ it is a guilt offering.
16 Regarding any holy thing he has harmed, he must make restitution by
adding a fifth of its value to it and giving it to the priest, who will make
atonement on his behalf with the ram as a guilt offering, and he will be
forgiven.
17 If someone sins and violates any of the LORD’s commandments even
though he was unaware, he is guilty and shall bear his punishment.
18 He is to bring to the priest an unblemished ram of proper value from
the flock as a guilt offering. Then the priest will make atonement on his
behalf for the wrong he has committed in ignorance, and he will be
forgiven.
19 It is a guilt offering; he was certainly guilty§ before the LORD.”
20 And the LORD said to Moses,
21 “If someone sins and acts unfaithfully against the LORD by deceiving
his neighbor in regard to a deposit or security entrusted to him or stolen,
or if he extorts his neighbor
22 or finds lost property and lies about it and swears falsely, or if he
commits any such sin that a man might commit—
23 once he has sinned and becomes guilty, he must return what he has
stolen or taken by extortion, or the deposit entrusted to him, or the lost
property he found,
24 or anything else about which he has sworn falsely.
He must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value, and pay it to
the owner on the day he acknowledges his guilt.
25 Then he must bring to the priest his guilt offering to the LORD: an
unblemished ram of proper value from the flock.
26 In this way the priest will make atonement for him before the LORD,
and he will be forgiven for anything he may have done to incur guilt.”

6

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Command Aaron and his sons that this is the law of the burnt offering:
The burnt offering is to remain on the hearth of the altar all night, until
morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar.
3 And the priest shall put on his linen robe and linen undergarments,
and he shall remove from the altar the ashes of the burnt offering that the
fire has consumed and place them beside it.
4 Then he must take off his garments, put on other clothes, and carry the
ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place.
5 The fire on the altar shall be kept burning; it must not be extinguished.
Every morning the priest is to add wood to the fire, arrange the burnt
offering on it, and burn the fat portions of the peace offerings on it.
6 The fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it must not be
extinguished.

† **5:15 5:15** Or *flock, of proper value* ‡ **5:15 5:15** *A shekel* is approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams of silver. § **5:19 5:19** Or *he has paid full compensation*

7 Now this is the law of the grain offering: Aaron's sons shall present it
before the LORD in front of the altar.
8 The priest is to remove a handful of fine flour and olive oil, together
with all the frankincense from the grain offering, and burn the memorial
portion on the altar as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
9 Aaron and his sons are to eat the remainder. It must be eaten without
leaven in a holy place; they are to eat it in the courtyard of the Tent of
Meeting.
10 It must not be baked with leaven; I have assigned it as their portion of
my food offerings. It is most holy, like the purification offering and the
guilt offering.
11 Any male among the sons of Aaron may eat it. This is a permanent
portion from the food offerings to the LORD for the generations to come.
Anything that touches them will become holy."
12 Then the LORD said to Moses,
13 "This is the offering that Aaron and his sons must present to the LORD
on the day he is anointed: a tenth of an ephah of fine flour* as a regular
grain offering, half of it in the morning and half in the evening.
14 It shall be prepared with oil on a griddle;† you are to bring it
well-kneaded and present it as a grain offering baked‡ in pieces, a pleasing
aroma to the LORD.
15 The priest, who is one of Aaron's sons and will be anointed to take his
place, is to prepare it. As a permanent portion for the LORD, it must be
burned completely.
16 Every grain offering for a priest shall be burned completely; it is not
to be eaten."
17 And the LORD said to Moses,
18 "Tell Aaron and his sons that this is the law of the purification
offering: In the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered, the
purification offering shall be slaughtered before the LORD; it is most holy.
19 The priest who offers it shall eat it; it must be eaten in a holy place, in
the courtyard of the Tent of Meeting.
20 Anything that touches its flesh will become holy, and if any of the
blood is spattered on a garment, you must wash it in a holy place.
21 The clay pot in which the purification offering is boiled must be
broken; if it is boiled in a bronze pot, the pot must be scoured and rinsed
with water.
22 Any male among the priests may eat it; it is most holy.
23 But no purification offering may be eaten if its blood has been
brought into the Tent of Meeting to make atonement in the Holy Place; it
must be burned.

7

1 "Now this is the law of the guilt offering, which is most holy:
2 The guilt offering must be slaughtered in the place where the burnt
offering is slaughtered, and the priest shall splatter its blood on all sides of
the altar.
3 And all the fat from it shall be offered: the fat tail, the fat that covers
the entrails,

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* **6:13 6:13** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour). † **6:14 6:14** That is, a shallow pan for baking or frying ‡ **6:14 6:14** Or *broken*

4 both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the
liver, which is to be removed with the kidneys.
5 The priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering to the LORD;
it is a guilt offering.
6 Every male among the priests may eat of it. It must be eaten in a holy
place; it is most holy.
7 The guilt offering is like the purification offering; the same law applies
to both. It belongs to the priest who makes atonement with it.
8 As for the priest who presents a burnt offering for anyone, the hide of
that offering belongs to him.
9 Likewise, every grain offering that is baked in an oven or cooked in a
pan* or on a griddle† belongs to the priest who presents it,
10 and every grain offering, whether dry or mixed with oil, belongs
equally to all the sons of Aaron.
11 Now this is the law of the peace offering that one may present to the
LORD:
12 If he offers it in thanksgiving, then along with the sacrifice of
thanksgiving he shall offer unleavened cakes mixed with olive oil,
unleavened wafers coated with oil, and well-kneaded cakes of fine flour
mixed with oil.
13 Along with his peace offering of thanksgiving he is to present an
offering with cakes of leavened bread.
14 From the cakes he must present one portion of each offering as a
contribution to the LORD. It belongs to the priest who sprinkles the blood
of the peace offering.
15 The meat of the sacrifice of his peace offering of thanksgiving must be
eaten on the day he offers it; none of it may be left until morning.
16 If, however, the sacrifice he offers is a vow or a freewill offering, it
shall be eaten on the day he presents his sacrifice, but the remainder may
be eaten on the next day.
17 But any meat of the sacrifice remaining until the third day must be
burned up.
18 If any of the meat from his peace offering is eaten on the third day, it
will not be accepted. It will not be credited to the one who presented it; it
shall be an abomination, and the one who eats of it shall bear his iniquity.
19 Meat that touches anything unclean must not be eaten; it is to be
burned up. As for any other meat, anyone who is ceremonially clean may
eat it.
20 But if anyone who is unclean eats meat from the peace offering that
belongs to the LORD, that person must be cut off from his people.
21 If one touches anything unclean, whether human uncleanness, an
unclean animal, or any unclean, detestable thing, and then eats any of the
meat of the peace offering that belongs to the LORD, that person must be
cut off from his people."
22 Then the LORD said to Moses,
23 "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'You are not to eat any of the fat of an
ox, a sheep, or a goat.
24 The fat of an animal found dead or mauled by wild beasts may be
used for any other purpose, but you must not eat it.

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* **7:9 7:9** That is, a deep pan or stew pan † **7:9 7:9** That is, a shallow pan for baking or frying

25 If anyone eats the fat of an animal from which a food offering may be
presented to the LORD, the one who eats it must be cut off from his people.
26 You must not eat the blood of any bird or animal in any of your
dwellings.
27 If anyone eats blood, that person must be cut off from his people.' "
28 Then the LORD said to Moses,
29 "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'Anyone who presents a peace offering
to the LORD must bring it as his sacrifice to the LORD.
30 With his own hands he is to bring the food offerings to the LORD; he
shall bring the fat, together with the breast, and wave the breast as a wave
offering before the LORD.
31 The priest is to burn the fat on the altar, but the breast belongs to
Aaron and his sons.
32 And you are to give the right thigh to the priest as a contribution from
your peace offering.
33 The son of Aaron who presents the blood and fat of the peace offering
shall have the right thigh as a portion.
34 I have taken from the sons of Israel the breast of the wave offering
and the thigh of the contribution of their peace offerings, and I have given
them to Aaron the priest and his sons as a permanent portion from the
sons of Israel.' "
35 This is the portion of the food offerings to the LORD for Aaron and his
sons since the day they were presented to serve the LORD as priests.
36 On the day they were anointed, the LORD commanded that this be
given them by the sons of Israel. It is a permanent portion for the
generations to come.
37 This is the law of the burnt offering, the grain offering, the purification
offering, the guilt offering, the ordination offering, and the peace offering,
38 which the LORD gave Moses on Mount Sinai on the day he
commanded the Israelites to present their offerings to the LORD in the
Wilderness of Sinai.

8

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Take Aaron and his sons, their garments, the anointing oil, the bull of
the purification offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened
bread,
3 and assemble the whole congregation at the entrance to the Tent of
Meeting."
4 So Moses did as the LORD had commanded him, and the assembly
gathered at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
5 And Moses said to them, "This is what the LORD has commanded to be
done."
6 Then Moses presented Aaron and his sons and washed them with
water.
7 He put the tunic on Aaron, tied the sash around him, clothed him with
the robe, and put the ephod on him. He tied the woven band of the ephod
around him and fastened it to him.
8 Then he put the breastpiece on him and placed the Urim and
Thummim* in the breastpiece.

* **8:8 8:8** Literally *Lights and Perfections*

9 Moses also put the turban on Aaron's head and set the gold plate, the
holy diadem, on the front of the turban, as the LORD had commanded him.
10 Next, Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and
everything in it; and so he consecrated them.
11 He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the
altar and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them.
12 He also poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and
anointed him to consecrate him.
13 Then Moses presented Aaron's sons, put tunics on them, wrapped
sashes around them, and tied headbands on them, just as the LORD had
commanded him.
14 Moses then brought the bull near for the purification offering, and
Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head.
15 Moses slaughtered the bull, took some of the blood, and applied it
with his finger to all four horns of the altar, purifying the altar. He poured
out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar and consecrated it so that
atonement could be made on it.
16 Moses also took all the fat that was on the entrails, the lobe of the
liver, and both kidneys and their fat, and burned it all on the altar.
17 But the bull with its hide, flesh, and dung he burned outside the camp,
as the LORD had commanded him.
18 Then Moses presented the ram for the burnt offering, and Aaron and
his sons laid their hands on its head.
19 Moses slaughtered the ram and splattered the blood on all sides of the
altar.
20 He cut the ram into pieces and burned the head, the pieces, and the
fat.
21 He washed the entrails and legs with water and burned the entire
ram on the altar as a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering to
the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
22 After that, Moses presented the other ram, the ram of ordination, and
Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head.
23 Moses slaughtered the ram and took some of its blood and put it on
Aaron's right earlobe, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of
his right foot.
24 Moses also presented Aaron's sons and put some of the blood on their
right earlobes, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of
their right feet. Then he splattered the blood on all sides of the altar.
25 And Moses took the fat—the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails,
the lobe of the liver, and both kidneys with their fat—as well as the right
thigh.
26 And from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD,
he took one cake of unleavened bread, one cake of bread made with oil,
and one wafer, and he placed them on the fat portions and on the right
thigh.
27 He put all these in the hands of Aaron and his sons and waved them
before the LORD as a wave offering.
28 Then Moses took these from their hands and burned them on the altar
with the burnt offering. This was an ordination offering, a pleasing
aroma, a food offering to the LORD.
29 He also took the breast—Moses' portion of the ram of ordination—and
waved it before the LORD as a wave offering, as the LORD had
commanded him.

30 Next, Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that
was on the altar and sprinkled them on Aaron and his garments, and on
his sons and their garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments,
as well as Aaron's sons and their garments.
31 And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the meat at the entrance
to the Tent of Meeting and eat it there with the bread that is in the basket
of ordination offerings, as I commanded, saying, 'Aaron and his sons are
to eat it.'
32 Then you must burn up the remainder of the meat and bread.
33 You must not go outside the entrance to the Tent of Meeting for seven
days, until the days of your ordination are complete; for it will take seven
days to ordain you.
34 What has been done today has been commanded by the LORD in
order to make atonement on your behalf.
35 You must remain at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting day and night
for seven days and keep the LORD's charge so that you will not die, for this
is what I have been commanded."
36 So Aaron and his sons did everything the LORD had commanded
through Moses.

9

1 On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders
of Israel.
2 He said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a young bull for a purification
offering and a ram for a burnt offering, both without blemish, and present
them before the LORD.
3 Then speak to the Israelites and say, 'Take a male goat for a
purification offering, a calf and a lamb—both a year old and without
blemish—for a burnt offering,
4 an ox* and a ram for a peace offering to sacrifice before the LORD, and
a grain offering mixed with oil. For today the LORD will appear to you.' "
5 So they took what Moses had commanded to the front of the Tent of
Meeting, and the whole congregation drew near and stood before the
LORD.
6 And Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded you to do, so
that the glory of the LORD may appear to you."
7 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Approach the altar and sacrifice your
purification offering and your burnt offering to make atonement for
yourself and for the people. And sacrifice the people's offering to make
atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded."
8 So Aaron approached the altar and slaughtered the calf as a
purification offering for himself.
9 The sons of Aaron brought the blood to him, and he dipped his finger
in the blood and applied it to the horns of the altar. And he poured out the
rest of the blood at the base of the altar.
10 On the altar he burned the fat, the kidneys, and the lobe of the liver
from the purification offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses.
11 But he burned up the flesh and the hide outside the camp.
12 Then Aaron slaughtered the burnt offering. His sons brought him the
blood, and he splattered it on all sides of the altar.

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* **9:4 9:4** Or *a bull* or *a cow*; also in verses 18 and 19

13 They brought him the burnt offering piece by piece, including the
head, and he burned them on the altar.
14 He washed the entrails and the legs and burned them atop the burnt
offering on the altar.
15 Aaron then presented the people's offering. He took the male goat for
the people's purification offering, slaughtered it, and offered it for sin like
the first one.
16 He presented the burnt offering and offered it according to the
ordinance.
17 Next he presented the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned
it on the altar in addition to the morning's burnt offering.
18 Then he slaughtered the ox and the ram as the people's peace
offering. His sons brought him the blood, and he splattered it on all sides
of the altar.
19 They also brought the fat portions from the ox and the ram—the fat
tail, the fat covering the entrails, the kidneys, and the lobe of the liver—
20 and placed these on the breasts. Aaron burned the fat portions on the
altar,
21 but he waved the breasts and the right thigh as a wave offering before
the LORD, as Moses had commanded.
22 Aaron lifted up his hands† toward the people and blessed them. And
having made the purification offering, the burnt offering, and the peace
offering, he stepped down.
23 Moses and Aaron then entered the Tent of Meeting. When they came
out, they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the
people.
24 Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt
offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it,
they shouted for joy and fell facedown.

10

1 Now Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them
and added incense, and offered strange* fire before the LORD, contrary to
his command.
2 So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them,
and they died in the presence of the LORD.
3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD meant when he said:

'To those who come near me
I will show my holiness,
and in the sight of all the people
I will reveal my glory.' "
But Aaron remained silent.
4 Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan,† sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel,
and said to them, "Come here; carry the bodies of your cousins outside the
camp, away from the front of the sanctuary."
5 So they came forward and carried them, still in their tunics, outside
the camp, as Moses had directed.
6 Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not
uncover your heads‡ and do not tear your garments, or else you will die,

† **9:22 9:22** Qere; Ketiv *his hand* * **10:1 10:1** Or *unauthorized* † **10:4 10:4** *Elzaphan* is a variant of *Elizaphan*; see Numbers 3:30. ‡ **10:6 10:6** Or *Do not let your hair become disheveled*

and the LORD will be angry with the whole congregation. But your brothers, the whole house of Israel, may mourn on account of the fire that the LORD has ignited.
7 You shall not go outside the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, or you will die, for the LORD's anointing oil is on you."
So they did as Moses instructed.
8 Then the LORD said to Aaron,
9 "You and your sons are not to drink wine or strong drink when you enter the Tent of Meeting, or else you will die; this is a permanent statute for the generations to come.
10 You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the clean and the unclean,
11 so that you may teach the Israelites all the statutes that the LORD has given them through Moses."
12 And Moses said to Aaron and his remaining sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, "Take the grain offering that remains from the food offerings to the LORD and eat it without leaven beside the altar, because it is most holy.
13 You shall eat it in a holy place, because it is your share and your sons' share of the food offerings to the LORD; for this is what I have been commanded.
14 And you and your sons and daughters may eat the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution in a ceremonially clean place, because these portions have been assigned to you and your children from the peace offerings of the sons of Israel.
15 They are to bring the thigh of the contribution and the breast of the wave offering, together with the fat portions of the food offerings, to wave as a wave offering before the LORD. It will belong permanently to you and your children, as the LORD has commanded."
16 Later, Moses searched carefully for the goat of the purification offering, and behold, it had been burned up. He was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's remaining sons, and asked,
17 "Why didn't you eat the purification offering in the holy place? For it is most holy; it was given to you to take away the guilt of the congregation by making atonement for them before the LORD.
18 Since its blood was not brought inside the holy place, you should have eaten it in the sanctuary area, as I commanded."
19 But Aaron replied to Moses, "Behold, this very day they presented their purification offering and their burnt offering before the LORD. Since these things have happened to me, if I had eaten the purification offering today, would it have been acceptable in the sight of the LORD?"
20 And when Moses heard this explanation, he was satisfied.

11

1 The LORD spoke again to Moses and Aaron, telling them,
2 "Say to the Israelites, 'Of all the beasts of the earth, these ones you may eat:
3 You may eat any animal that has a split hoof completely divided and that chews the cud.
4 But of those that only chew the cud or only have a divided hoof, you are not to eat the following:*

* **11:4 11:4** The precise identification of some of the birds and animals in this chapter is uncertain.

The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is
unclean for you.
5 The rock badger,† though it chews the cud, does not have a divided
hoof; it is unclean for you.
6 The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is
unclean for you.
7 And the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not
chew the cud; it is unclean for you.
8 You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean
for you.
9 Of all the creatures that live in the water, whether in the seas or in the
streams, you may eat anything with fins and scales.
10 But the following among all the teeming life and creatures in the
water are detestable to you: everything in the seas or streams that does
not have fins and scales.
11 They shall be an abomination to you; you must not eat their meat, and
you must detest their carcasses.
12 Everything in the water that does not have fins and scales shall be
detestable to you.
13 Additionally, you are to detest the following birds, and they must not
be eaten because they are detestable:

the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,
14 the kite, any kind of falcon,
15 any kind of raven,
16 the ostrich,‡ the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,
17 the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl,
18 the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey,
19 the stork, any kind of heron,
the hoopoe, and the bat.
20 All flying insects that walk on all fours are detestable to you.
21 However, you may eat the following kinds of flying insects that walk
on all fours: those having§ jointed legs above their feet for hopping on the
ground.
22 Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket, or
grasshopper.
23 All other flying insects that have four legs are detestable to you.
24 These creatures will make you unclean. Whoever touches their
carcasses will be unclean until evening,
25 and whoever picks up one of their carcasses must wash his clothes,
and he will be unclean until evening.
26 Every animal with hooves not completely divided* or that does not
chew the cud is unclean for you. Whoever touches any of them will be
unclean.
27 All the four-footed animals that walk on their paws are unclean for
you; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean until evening,
28 and anyone who picks up a carcass must wash his clothes, and he will
be unclean until evening. They are unclean for you.

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† **11:5 11:5** Or *The coney* or *The hyrax* ‡ **11:16 11:16** Literally *the daughter of the ostrich* or *the daughter of the owl* § **11:21 11:21** Qere; Ketiv *not having* * **11:26 11:26** Literally *a split hoof not completely divided*

29 The following creatures that move along the ground are unclean for
you: the mole, the mouse, any kind of great lizard,
30 the gecko, the monitor lizard, the common lizard, the skink, and the
chameleon.
31 These animals are unclean for you among all the crawling creatures.
Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening.
32 When one of them dies and falls on something, that article becomes
unclean; any article of wood, clothing, leather, sackcloth, or any
implement used for work must be rinsed with water and will remain
unclean until evening; then it will be clean.
33 If any of them falls into a clay pot, everything in it will be unclean;
you must break the pot.
34 Any food coming into contact with water from that pot will be
unclean, and any drink in such a container will be unclean.
35 Anything upon which one of their carcasses falls will be unclean. If it
is an oven or cooking pot, it must be smashed; it is unclean and will
remain unclean for you.
36 Nevertheless, a spring or cistern containing water will remain clean,
but one who touches a carcass in it will be unclean.
37 If a carcass falls on any seed for sowing, the seed is clean;
38 but if water has been put on the seed and a carcass falls on it, it is
unclean for you.
39 If an animal that you may eat dies, anyone who touches the carcass
will be unclean until evening.
40 Whoever eats from the carcass must wash his clothes and will be
unclean until evening, and anyone who picks up the carcass must wash
his clothes and will be unclean until evening.
41 Every creature that moves along the ground is detestable; it must not
be eaten.
42 Do not eat any creature that moves along the ground, whether it
crawls on its belly or walks on four or more feet; for such creatures are
detestable.
43 Do not defile yourselves by any crawling creature; do not become
unclean or defiled by them.
44 For I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be
holy, because I am holy. You must not defile yourselves by any creature
that crawls along the ground.
45 For I am the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt so
that I would be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.
46 This is the law regarding animals, birds, all living creatures that move
in the water, and all creatures that crawl along the ground.
47 You must distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between
animals that may be eaten and those that may not.' "

12

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Say to the Israelites, 'A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth
to a son will be unclean for seven days, as she is during the days of her
menstruation.
3 And on the eighth day the flesh of the boy's foreskin is to be
circumcised.

4 The woman shall continue in purification from her bleeding for
thirty-three days. She must not touch anything sacred or go into the
sanctuary until the days of her purification are complete.
5 If, however, she gives birth to a daughter, the woman will be unclean
for two weeks as she is during her menstruation. Then she must continue
in purification from her bleeding for sixty-six days.
6 When the days of her purification are complete, whether for a son or
for a daughter, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of
Meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a
turtledove for a purification offering.
7 And the priest will present them before the LORD and make atonement
for her; and she shall be ceremonially cleansed from her flow of blood.
This is the law for a woman giving birth, whether to a male or to a female.
8 But if she cannot afford a lamb, she shall bring two turtledoves or two
young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a purification
offering. Then the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be
clean.' "

13

1 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
2 "When someone has a swelling or rash or bright spot on his skin that
may be an infectious skin disease,* he must be brought to Aaron the priest
or to one of his sons who is a priest.
3 The priest is to examine the infection on his skin, and if the hair in the
infection has turned white and the sore appears to be deeper than the
skin, it is a skin disease. After the priest examines him, he must
pronounce him unclean.
4 If, however, the spot on his skin is white and does not appear to be
deeper than the skin, and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest
shall isolate the infected person for seven days.
5 On the seventh day the priest is to reexamine him, and if he sees that
the infection is unchanged and has not spread on the skin, the priest must
isolate him for another seven days.
6 The priest will examine him again on the seventh day, and if the sore
has faded and has not spread on the skin, the priest shall pronounce him
clean; it is a rash. The person must wash his clothes and be clean.
7 But if the rash spreads further on his skin after he has shown himself
to the priest for his cleansing, he must present himself again to the priest.
8 The priest will reexamine him, and if the rash has spread on the skin,
the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a skin disease.
9 When anyone develops a skin disease, he must be brought to the priest.
10 The priest will examine him, and if there is a white swelling on the
skin that has turned the hair white, and there is raw flesh in the swelling,
11 it is a chronic skin disease and the priest must pronounce him
unclean. He need not isolate him, for he is unclean.
12 But if the skin disease breaks out all over his skin so that it covers all
the skin of the infected person from head to foot, as far as the priest can
see,

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* **13:2 13:2** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy*, were used for various skin diseases; here and throughout verses 3–46.

13 the priest shall examine him, and if the disease has covered his entire
body, he is to pronounce the infected person clean. Since it has all turned
white, he is clean.
14 But whenever raw flesh appears on someone, he will be unclean.
15 When the priest sees the raw flesh, he must pronounce him unclean.
The raw flesh is unclean; it is a skin disease.
16 But if the raw flesh changes and turns white, he must go to the priest.
17 The priest will reexamine him, and if the infection has turned white,
the priest is to pronounce the infected person clean; then he is clean.
18 When a boil appears on someone's skin and it heals,
19 and a white swelling or a reddish-white spot develops where the boil
was, he must present himself to the priest.
20 The priest shall examine it, and if it appears to be beneath the skin
and the hair in it has turned white, the priest shall pronounce him
unclean; it is a diseased infection that has broken out in the boil.
21 But when the priest examines it, if there is no white hair in it, and it is
not beneath the skin and has faded, the priest shall isolate him for seven
days.
22 If it spreads any further on the skin, the priest must pronounce him
unclean; it is an infection.
23 But if the spot remains unchanged and does not spread, it is only the
scar from the boil, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.
24 When there is a burn on someone's skin and the raw area of the burn
becomes reddish-white or white,
25 the priest must examine it. If the hair in the spot has turned white
and the spot appears to be deeper than the skin, it is a disease that has
broken out in the burn. The priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a
diseased infection.
26 But if the priest examines it and there is no white hair in the spot, and
it is not beneath the skin but has faded, the priest shall isolate him for
seven days.
27 On the seventh day the priest is to reexamine him, and if it has spread
further on the skin, the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a
diseased infection.
28 But if the spot is unchanged and has not spread on the skin but has
faded, it is a swelling from the burn, and the priest is to pronounce him
clean; for it is only the scar from the burn.
29 If a man or woman has an infection on the head or chin,
30 the priest shall examine the infection, and if it appears to be deeper
than the skin and the hair in it is yellow and thin, the priest must
pronounce him unclean; it is a scaly outbreak, an infectious disease of the
head or chin.
31 But if the priest examines the scaly infection and it does not appear to
be deeper than the skin, and there is no black hair in it, the priest shall
isolate the infected person for seven days.
32 On the seventh day the priest is to reexamine the infection, and if the
scaly outbreak has not spread and there is no yellow hair in it, and it does
not appear to be deeper than the skin,
33 then the person must shave himself except for the scaly area. Then
the priest shall isolate him for another seven days.
34 On the seventh day the priest shall examine the scaly outbreak, and if
it has not spread on the skin and does not appear to be deeper than the

skin, the priest is to pronounce him clean. He must wash his clothes, and
he will be clean.
35 If, however, the scaly outbreak spreads further on the skin after his
cleansing,
36 the priest is to examine him, and if the scaly outbreak has spread on
the skin, the priest need not look for yellow hair; the person is unclean.
37 If, however, in his sight the scaly outbreak is unchanged and black
hair has grown in it, then it has healed. He is clean, and the priest is to
pronounce him clean.
38 When a man or a woman has white spots on the skin,
39 the priest shall examine them, and if the spots are dull white, it is a
harmless rash that has broken out on the skin; the person is clean.
40 Now if a man loses his hair and is bald, he is still clean.
41 Or if his hairline recedes and he is bald on his forehead, he is still
clean.
42 But if there is a reddish-white sore on the bald head or forehead, it is
an infectious disease breaking out on it.
43 The priest is to examine him, and if the swelling of the infection on his
bald head or forehead is reddish-white like a skin disease,
44 the man is diseased; he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him
unclean because of the infection on his head.
45 A diseased person must wear torn clothes and uncover his head,† and
he must cover his mouth and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'
46 As long as he has the infection, he remains unclean. He must live
alone in a place outside the camp.
47 If any fabric is contaminated with mildew‡—any wool or linen
garment,
48 any weave or knit of linen or wool, or any article of leather—
49 and if the mark in the fabric, leather, weave, knit, or leather article is
green or red, then it is contaminated with mildew and must be shown to
the priest.
50 And the priest is to examine the mildew and isolate the contaminated
fabric for seven days.
51 On the seventh day the priest shall reexamine it, and if the mildew
has spread in the fabric, weave, knit, or leather, then regardless of how it
is used, it is a harmful mildew; the article is unclean.
52 He is to burn the fabric, weave, or knit, whether the contaminated
item is wool or linen or leather. Since the mildew is harmful, the article
must be burned up.
53 But when the priest reexamines it, if the mildew has not spread in the
fabric, weave, knit, or leather article,
54 the priest is to order the contaminated article to be washed and
isolated for another seven days.
55 After it has been washed, the priest is to reexamine it, and if the
mildewed article has not changed in appearance, it is unclean. Even
though the mildew has not spread, you must burn it, whether the rot is on
the front or back.

† **13:45 13:45** Or *let his hair hang loose* ‡ **13:47 13:47** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy* regarding skin diseases, are translated as *mildew* regarding blemishes on garments, utensils, or buildings; here and throughout the remainder of this chapter.

56 If the priest examines it and the mildew has faded after it has been
washed, he must cut the contaminated section out of the fabric, leather,
weave, or knit.
57 But if it reappears in the fabric, weave, or knit, or on any leather
article, it is spreading. You must burn the contaminated article.
58 If the mildew disappears from the fabric, weave, or knit, or any
leather article after washing, then it is to be washed again, and it will be
clean.
59 This is the law concerning a mildew contamination in wool or linen
fabric, weave, or knit, or any leather article, for pronouncing it clean or
unclean."

14

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "This is the law for the one afflicted with a skin disease* on the day of
his cleansing, when he is brought to the priest.
3 The priest is to go outside the camp to examine him, and if the skin
disease of the afflicted person has healed,
4 the priest shall order that two live clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet
yarn, and hyssop be brought for the one to be cleansed.
5 Then the priest shall command that one of the birds be slaughtered
over fresh water† in a clay pot.
6 And he is to take the live bird together with the cedar wood, scarlet
yarn, and hyssop, and dip them into the blood of the bird that was
slaughtered over the fresh water.
7 Seven times he shall sprinkle the one to be cleansed of the skin disease.
Then he shall pronounce him clean and release the live bird into the open
field.
8 The one being cleansed must wash his clothes, shave off all his hair,
and bathe with water; then he will be ceremonially clean. Afterward, he
may enter the camp, but he must remain outside his tent for seven days.
9 On the seventh day he must shave off all his hair—his head, his beard,
his eyebrows, and the rest of his hair. He must wash his clothes and bathe
himself with water, and he will be clean.
10 On the eighth day he is to bring two unblemished male lambs, an
unblemished ewe lamb a year old, a grain offering of three-tenths of an
ephah of fine flour‡ mixed with olive oil, and one log of olive oil.§
11 The priest who performs the cleansing shall present the one to be
cleansed, together with these offerings, before the LORD at the entrance to
the Tent of Meeting.
12 Then the priest is to take one of the male lambs and present it as a
guilt offering, along with the log of olive oil; and he must wave them as a
wave offering before the LORD.
13 Then he is to slaughter the lamb in the sanctuary area where the
purification offering and burnt offering are slaughtered. Like the
purification offering, the guilt offering belongs to the priest; it is most holy.

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* **14:2 14:2** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy*, were used for various skin diseases; also in verses 3, 7, 32, 54, and 57. † **14:5 14:5** Or *flowing water* or *living water*; here and in verses 6, 50, 51, and 52 ‡ **14:10 14:10** *Three-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 6 dry quarts or 6.6 liters (probably about 7.6 pounds or 3.5 kilograms of flour). § **14:10 14:10** Or *one log of oil*; that is, approximately 0.33 quarts or 0.31 liters; also in verses 12, 15, 21, and 24

14 The priest is to take some of the blood from the guilt offering and put
it on the right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right
hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.
15 Then the priest shall take some of the log of olive oil, pour it into his
left palm,
16 dip his right forefinger into the oil in his left palm, and sprinkle some
of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD.
17 And the priest is to put some of the oil remaining in his palm on the
right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand,
and on the big toe of his right foot, on top of the blood of the guilt offering.
18 The rest of the oil in his palm, the priest is to put on the head of the
one to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before the LORD.
19 Then the priest is to sacrifice the purification offering and make
atonement for the one to be cleansed from his uncleanness. After that, the
priest shall slaughter the burnt offering
20 and offer it on the altar, with the grain offering, to make atonement
for him, and he will be clean.
21 If, however, the person is poor and cannot afford these offerings, he is
to take one male lamb as a guilt offering to be waved to make atonement
for him, along with a tenth of an ephah of fine flour* mixed with olive oil
for a grain offering, a log of olive oil,
22 and two turtledoves or two young pigeons, whichever he can afford,
one to be a purification offering and the other a burnt offering.
23 On the eighth day he is to bring them for his cleansing to the priest at
the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before the LORD.
24 The priest shall take the lamb for the guilt offering, along with the log
of olive oil, and wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.
25 And after he slaughters the lamb for the guilt offering, the priest is to
take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the right earlobe
of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big
toe of his right foot.
26 Then the priest is to pour some of the oil into his left palm
27 and sprinkle with his right forefinger some of the oil in his left palm
seven times before the LORD.
28 The priest shall also put some of the oil in his palm on the right
earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on
the big toe of his right foot—on the same places as the blood of the guilt
offering.
29 The rest of the oil in his palm, the priest is to put on the head of the
one to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before the LORD.
30 Then he must sacrifice the turtledoves or young pigeons, whichever
he can afford,
31 as he is able to afford,† one as a purification offering and the other as
a burnt offering, together with the grain offering. In this way the priest
will make atonement before the LORD for the one to be cleansed.
32 This is the law for someone who has a skin disease and cannot afford
the cost of his cleansing."
33 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

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* **14:21 14:21** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour). † **14:31 14:31** LXX and Syriac omit *as he is able to afford*

34 “When you enter the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your
possession, and I put a contamination of mildew‡ into a house in that land,
35 the owner of the house shall come and tell the priest, ‘Something like
mildew has appeared in my house.’
36 The priest must order that the house be cleared before he enters it to
examine the mildew, so that nothing in the house will become unclean.
After this, the priest shall go in to inspect the house.
37 He is to examine the house, and if the mildew on the walls consists of
green or red depressions that appear to be beneath the surface of the wall,
38 the priest shall go outside the doorway of the house and close it up for
seven days.
39 On the seventh day the priest is to return and inspect the house. If the
mildew has spread on the walls,
40 he must order that the contaminated stones be pulled out and thrown
into an unclean place outside the city.
41 And he shall have the inside of the house scraped completely and the
plaster that is scraped off dumped into an unclean place outside the city.
42 So different stones must be obtained to replace the contaminated
ones, as well as additional mortar to replaster the house.
43 If the mildew reappears in the house after the stones have been torn
out and the house has been scraped and replastered,
44 the priest must come and inspect it.
If the mildew has spread in the house, it is a destructive mildew; the
house is unclean.
45 It must be torn down with its stones, its timbers, and all its plaster,
and taken outside the city to an unclean place.
46 Anyone who enters the house during any of the days that it is closed
up will be unclean until evening.
47 And anyone who sleeps in the house or eats in it must wash his
clothes.
48 If, however, the priest comes and inspects it, and the mildew has not
spread after the house has been replastered, he shall pronounce the house
clean, because the mildew is gone.
49 He is to take two birds, cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop to purify
the house;
50 and he shall slaughter one of the birds over fresh water in a clay pot.
51 Then he shall take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet yarn, and
the live bird, dip them in the blood of the slaughtered bird and the fresh
water, and sprinkle the house seven times.
52 And he shall cleanse the house with the bird's blood, the fresh water,
the live bird, the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet yarn.
53 Finally, he is to release the live bird into the open fields outside the
city. In this way he will make atonement for the house, and it will be clean.
54 This is the law for any infectious skin disease, for a scaly outbreak,
55 for mildew in clothing or in a house,
56 and for a swelling, rash, or spot,

‡ **14:34 14:34** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy* regarding skin diseases, are translated as *mildew* regarding blemishes on garments, utensils, or buildings; here and throughout the remainder of this chapter.

57 to determine when something is clean or unclean. This is the law
regarding skin diseases and mildew.§”

15

1 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
2 “Say to the Israelites, ‘When any man has a bodily discharge, the
discharge is unclean.
3 This uncleanness is from his discharge, whether his body allows the
discharge to flow or blocks it. So his discharge will bring about
uncleanness.
4 Any bed on which the man with the discharge lies will be unclean, and
any furniture on which he sits will be unclean.
5 Anyone who touches his bed must wash his clothes and bathe with
water, and he will be unclean until evening.
6 Whoever sits on furniture on which the man with the discharge was
sitting must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean
until evening.
7 Whoever touches the body of the man with a discharge must wash his
clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.
8 If the man with the discharge spits on one who is clean, that person
must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until
evening.
9 Any saddle on which the man with the discharge rides will be unclean.
10 Whoever touches anything that was under him will be unclean until
evening, and whoever carries such things must wash his clothes and
bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.
11 If the man with the discharge touches anyone without first rinsing his
hands with water, the one who was touched must wash his clothes and
bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.
12 Any clay pot that the man with the discharge touches must be broken,
and any wooden utensil must be rinsed with water.
13 When the man has been cleansed from his discharge, he must count
off seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe himself in
fresh water,* and he shall be clean.
14 On the eighth day he is to take two turtledoves or two young pigeons,
come before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, and give
them to the priest.
15 The priest is to sacrifice them, one as a purification offering and the
other as a burnt offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for
the man before the LORD because of his discharge.
16 When a man has an emission of semen, he must bathe his whole body
with water, and he will be unclean until evening.
17 Any clothing or leather on which there is an emission of semen must
be washed with water, and it will remain unclean until evening.
18 If a man lies with a woman and there is an emission of semen, both
must bathe with water, and they will remain unclean until evening.
19 When a woman has a discharge consisting of blood from her body,
she will be unclean due to her menstruation for seven days, and anyone
who touches her will be unclean until evening.

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§ **14:57 14:57** The Hebrew translated here as *skin diseases and mildew* is one singular term; see the footnotes for verses 2 and 34. * **15:13 15:13** Or *flowing water* or *living water*

20 Anything on which she lies or sits during her menstruation will be
unclean,
21 and anyone who touches her bed must wash his clothes and bathe
with water, and he will be unclean until evening.
22 Whoever touches any furniture on which she was sitting must wash
his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.
23 And whether it is a bed or furniture on which she was sitting,
whoever touches it will be unclean until evening.
24 If a man lies with her and her menstrual flow touches him, he will be
unclean for seven days, and any bed on which he lies will become unclean.
25 When a woman has a discharge of her blood for many days at a time
other than her menstrual period, or if it continues beyond her period, she
will be unclean all the days of her unclean discharge, just as she is during
the days of her menstruation.
26 Any bed on which she lies or any furniture on which she sits during
the days of her discharge will be unclean, like her bed during her
menstrual period.
27 Anyone who touches these things will be unclean; he must wash his
clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.
28 When a woman is cleansed of her discharge, she must count off seven
days, and after that she will be ceremonially clean.
29 On the eighth day she is to take two turtledoves or two young pigeons
and bring them to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
30 The priest is to sacrifice one as a purification offering and the other as
a burnt offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her before
the LORD for her unclean discharge.
31 You must keep the children of Israel separate from their uncleanness,
so that they do not die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle,
which is among them.
32 This is the law of him who has a discharge, of the man who has an
emission of semen whereby he is unclean,
33 of a woman in her menstrual period, of any male or female who has a
discharge, and of a man who lies with an unclean woman.' "

16

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of two of Aaron's sons
when they approached the presence of the LORD.
2 And the LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to enter
freely into the Holy Place* behind the veil in front of the cover† on the ark,
or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud above the cover.
3 This is how Aaron is to enter the Holy Place: with a young bull for a
purification offering and a ram for a burnt offering.
4 He is to wear the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments. He
must tie a linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are
holy garments, and he must bathe himself with water before he wears
them.
5 And he shall take from the congregation of Israel two male goats for a
purification offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

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* **16:2 16:2** Or *the Most Holy Place*; also in verses 16, 17, 20, 23, and 27 † **16:2 16:2** Or *atonement cover* or *mercy seat*; Hebrew *kapporet*; here and throughout this chapter

6 Aaron is to present the bull for his purification offering and make
atonement for himself and his household.
7 Then he shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at
the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
8 After Aaron casts lots for the two goats, one for the LORD and the other
for Azazel,‡
9 he shall present the goat chosen by lot for the LORD and sacrifice it as
a purification offering.
10 But the goat chosen by lot for Azazel shall be presented alive before
the LORD to make atonement by sending it into the wilderness to Azazel.
11 When Aaron presents the bull for his purification offering and makes
atonement for himself and his household, he is to slaughter the bull for his
own purification offering.
12 Then he must take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before
the LORD, and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense, and take
them inside the veil.
13 He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the cloud of
incense will conceal the cover above the Testimony,§ so that he will not
die.
14 And he is to take some of the bull's blood and sprinkle it with his
finger on the east side of the cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with
his finger seven times before the cover.
15 Aaron shall then slaughter the goat for the purification offering for
the people and bring its blood behind the veil, and with its blood he must
do as he did with the bull's blood: He is to sprinkle it against the cover and
in front of it.
16 So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place because of the
impurities and rebellious acts of the Israelites in regard to all their sins.
He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting which abides among them in
the midst of their impurities.
17 No one may be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to
make atonement in the Holy Place until he leaves, after he has made
atonement for himself, his household, and the whole assembly of Israel.
18 Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make
atonement for it. He is to take some of the bull's blood and some of the
goat's blood and put it on all the horns of the altar.
19 He is to sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to
cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the Israelites.
20 When Aaron has finished purifying the Holy Place, the Tent of
Meeting, and the altar, he is to bring forward the live goat.
21 Then he is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess
over it all the iniquities and rebellious acts of the Israelites in regard to all
their sins. He is to put them on the goat's head and send it away into the
wilderness by the hand of a man appointed for the task.
22 The goat will carry on itself all their iniquities into a solitary place,
and the man will release it into the wilderness.
23 Then Aaron is to enter the Tent of Meeting, take off the linen garments
he put on before entering the Holy Place, and leave them there.

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‡ **16:8 16:8** Or *the other for the scapegoat*; the Hebrew also has *Azazel* twice in verse 10 and once in verse 26 § **16:13 16:13** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

24 He is to bathe himself with water in a holy place and put on his own
clothes. Then he must go out and sacrifice his burnt offering and the
people's burnt offering to make atonement for himself and for the people.
25 He is also to burn the fat of the purification offering on the altar.
26 The man who released the goat for Azazel must wash his clothes and
bathe himself with water; afterward he may reenter the camp.
27 The bull for the purification offering and the goat for the purification
offering, whose blood was brought into the Holy Place to make atonement,
must be taken outside the camp; and their hides, flesh, and dung must be
burned up.
28 The one who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself
with water, and afterward he may reenter the camp.
29 This is to be a permanent statute for you: On the tenth day of the
seventh month, you shall deny yourselves* and not do any
work—whether the native or the foreigner who resides among you—
30 because on this day atonement will be made for you to cleanse you,
and you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.
31 It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, that you may deny yourselves;
it is a permanent statute.
32 The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as
priest shall make atonement. He will put on the sacred linen garments
33 and make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary,† the Tent of Meeting, and
the altar, and for the priests and all the people of the assembly.
34 This is to be a permanent statute for you, to make atonement once a
year for the Israelites because of all their sins."
And he did as the LORD had commanded Moses.‡

17

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites and tell them this is
what the LORD has commanded:
3 'Anyone from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox,* a lamb, or a
goat in the camp or outside of it
4 instead of bringing it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to present
it as an offering to the LORD before his tabernacle—that man shall incur
bloodguilt. He has shed blood and must be cut off from among his people.
5 For this reason the Israelites will bring to the LORD the sacrifices they
have been offering in the open fields. They are to bring them to the priest
at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and offer them as sacrifices of peace
offerings to the LORD.
6 The priest will then splatter the blood on the altar of the LORD at the
entrance to the Tent of Meeting and burn the fat as a pleasing aroma to
the LORD.
7 They must no longer offer their sacrifices to the goat demons† to which
they have prostituted themselves. This will be a permanent statute for
them for the generations to come.'
8 Tell them that if anyone from the house of Israel or any foreigner
living among them offers a burnt offering or a sacrifice

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* **16:29 16:29** Or *afflict your souls* or *humble yourselves*; also in verse 31 † **16:33 16:33** Or *the Most Holy Place* ‡ **16:34 16:34** LXX *And it was done* * **17:3 17:3** Or *a bull* or *a cow* † **17:7 17:7** Or *goat idols*

9 but does not bring it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to sacrifice
it to the LORD, that man must be cut off from his people.
10 If anyone from the house of Israel or a foreigner living among them
eats any blood, I will set my face against that person and cut him off from
among his people.
11 For the life‡ of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you to
make atonement for your lives upon the altar; for it is the blood that
makes atonement for the life.
12 Therefore I say to the Israelites, 'None of you may eat blood, nor may
any foreigner living among you eat blood.'
13 And if any Israelite or foreigner living among them hunts down a wild
animal or bird that may be eaten, he must drain its blood and cover it
with dirt.
14 For the life of all flesh is its blood. Therefore I have told the Israelites,
'You must not eat the blood of any living thing, because the life of all flesh
is its blood; whoever eats it must be cut off.'
15 And any person, whether native or foreigner, who eats anything
found dead or mauled by wild beasts must wash his clothes and bathe
with water, and he will be unclean until evening; then he will be clean.
16 But if he does not wash his clothes and bathe himself, then he shall
bear his iniquity."

18

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: I am the LORD your God.
3 You must not follow the practices of the land of Egypt, where you used
to live, and you must not follow the practices of the land of Canaan, into
which I am bringing you. You must not walk in their customs.
4 You are to practice my judgments and keep my statutes by walking in
them. I am the LORD your God.
5 Keep my statutes and my judgments, for the man who does these
things will live by them.* I am the LORD.
6 None of you are to approach any close relative to have sexual
relations.† I am the LORD.
7 You must not expose the nakedness of your father by having sexual
relations with your mother. She is your mother; you must not have sexual
relations with her.
8 You must not have sexual relations with your father's wife; it would
dishonor your father.
9 You must not have sexual relations with your sister, either your
father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she was born in the
same home or elsewhere.
10 You must not have sexual relations with your son's daughter or your
daughter's daughter, for that would shame your family.
11 You must not have sexual relations with the daughter of your father's
wife, born to your father; she is your sister.
12 You must not have sexual relations with your father's sister; she is
your father's close relative.
13 You must not have sexual relations with your mother's sister, for she
is your mother's close relative.

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‡ **17:11 17:11** Literally *the soul*; also in verse 14
† **18:6 18:6** Literally *to uncover (their) nakedness*; here and throughout this chapter
* **18:5 18:5** See also Ezekiel 20:11, 13, and 21.

14 You must not dishonor your father's brother by approaching his wife
to have sexual relations with her; she is your aunt.
15 You must not have sexual relations with your daughter-in-law. She is
your son's wife; you are not to have sexual relations with her.
16 You must not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that
would shame your brother.
17 You must not have sexual relations with both a woman and her
daughter. You are not to marry her son's daughter or her daughter's
daughter and have sexual relations with her. They are close relatives; it is
depraved.
18 You must not take your wife's sister as a rival wife and have sexual
relations with her while your wife is still alive.
19 You must not approach a woman to have sexual relations with her
during her menstrual period.
20 You must not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife and thus defile
yourself with her.
21 You must not give any of your children to be sacrificed‡ to Molech, for
you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.
22 You must not lie with a man as with a woman; that is an abomination.
23 You must not lie carnally with any animal, thus defiling yourself with
it; a woman must not stand before an animal to mate with it; that is a
perversion.
24 Do not defile yourselves by any of these practices, for by all these
things the nations I am driving out before you have defiled themselves.
25 Even the land has become defiled, so I am punishing it for its sin, and
the land will vomit out its inhabitants.
26 But you are to keep my statutes and ordinances, and you must not
commit any of these abominations—neither your native-born nor the
foreigner who lives among you.
27 For the men who were in the land before you committed all these
abominations, and the land has become defiled.
28 So if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it spewed out the
nations before you.
29 Therefore anyone who commits any of these abominations must be
cut off from among his people.
30 You must keep my charge not to practice any of the abominable
customs that were practiced before you, so that you do not defile
yourselves by them. I am the LORD your God."

19

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Speak to the whole congregation of Israel and tell them: Be holy
because I, the LORD your God, am holy.
3 Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must keep my
Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.
4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods. I am the
LORD your God.
5 When you sacrifice a peace offering to the LORD, you shall offer it for
your acceptance.
6 It shall be eaten on the day you sacrifice it, or on the next day; but
what remains on the third day must be burned up.

‡ **18:21 18:21** Hebrew *to make them pass through (the fire)*

7 If any of it is eaten on the third day, it is tainted and will not be
accepted.
8 Whoever eats it will bear his iniquity, for he has profaned what is holy
to the LORD. That person must be cut off from his people.
9 When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the
very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.
10 You must not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes.
Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.
11 You must not steal. You must not lie or deceive one another.
12 You must not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of
your God. I am the LORD.
13 You must not defraud your neighbor or rob him.
You must not withhold until morning the wages due a hired hand.
14 You must not curse the deaf or place a stumbling block before the
blind, but you shall fear your God. I am the LORD.
15 You must not pervert justice; you must not show partiality to the poor
or favoritism to the rich; you are to judge your neighbor fairly.
16 You must not go about spreading slander among your people.
You must not endanger the life* of your neighbor. I am the LORD.
17 You must not harbor hatred against your brother in your heart.
Directly rebuke your neighbor, so that you will not incur guilt on account
of him.
18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against any of your people, but
love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.
19 You are to keep my statutes. You shall not crossbreed two different
kinds of livestock; you shall not sow your fields with two kinds of seed;
and you shall not wear clothing made of two kinds of material.
20 If a man lies carnally with a slave woman promised to another man
but who has not been redeemed or given her freedom, there must be due
punishment. But they are not to be put to death, because she had not been
freed.
21 The man, however, must bring a ram to the entrance to the Tent of
Meeting as his guilt offering to the LORD.
22 The priest shall make atonement on his behalf before the LORD with
the ram of the guilt offering for the sin he has committed, and he will be
forgiven the sin he has committed.
23 When you enter the land and plant any kind of tree for food, you shall
regard the fruit as forbidden.† For three years it will be forbidden to you
and must not be eaten.
24 In the fourth year all its fruit must be consecrated as a praise offering
to the LORD.
25 But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit; thus your harvest will be
increased. I am the LORD your God.
26 You must not eat anything with blood still in it.
You must not practice divination or sorcery.
27 You must not cut off the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the
edges of your beard.
28 You must not make any cuts in your bodies for the dead or put tattoo
marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.

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* **19:16 19:16** Literally *blood* † **19:23 19:23** Hebrew *as uncircumcised*; twice in this verse

29 You must not defile your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the
land will be prostituted and filled with depravity.
30 You must keep my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I
am the LORD.
31 You must not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out, or
you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.
32 You are to rise in the presence of the elderly, honor the aged, and fear
your God. I am the LORD.
33 When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you must not oppress
him.
34 You must treat the foreigner living among you as native-born and love
him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the
LORD your God.
35 You must not act unjustly in judgment or in measures of length,
weight, or volume.
36 You shall maintain honest scales and weights, an honest ephah,‡ and
an honest hin.§ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land
of Egypt.
37 You must keep all my statutes and all my ordinances and follow them.
I am the LORD."

20

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Tell the Israelites, 'Any Israelite or foreigner living in Israel who gives
any of his children to Molech must be put to death. The people of the land
are to stone him.
3 And I will set my face against that man and cut him off from his
people, because by giving his offspring to Molech, he has defiled my
sanctuary and profaned my holy name.
4 And if the people of the land ever hide their eyes and fail to put to
death the man who gives one of his children to Molech,
5 then I will set my face against that man and his family and cut off from
among their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting
themselves with Molech.
6 Whoever turns to mediums or spiritists to prostitute himself with them,
I will also set my face against that person and cut him off from his people.
7 Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, because I am the LORD
your God.
8 And you shall keep my statutes and practice them. I am the LORD who
sanctifies you.
9 If anyone reviles* his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has
reviled his father or mother; his blood shall be upon him.
10 If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of
his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must surely be put to
death.
11 If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's
nakedness. Both must surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.
12 If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both must surely be put to
death. They have acted perversely; their blood is upon them.

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‡ **19:36 19:36** *An ephah* is a dry measure of approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters. § **19:36 19:36** *A hin* is a liquid measure of approximately 0.97 gallons or 3.67 liters. * **20:9 20:9** Or *dishonors* or *curses*; similarly again in this verse

13 If a man lies with a man as with a woman, they have both committed
an abomination. They must surely be put to death; their blood is upon
them.
14 If a man marries both a woman and her mother, it is depraved. Both
he and they must be burned in the fire, so that there will be no depravity
among you.
15 If a man lies carnally with an animal, he must be put to death. And
you are also to kill the animal.
16 If a woman approaches any animal to mate with it, you must kill both
the woman and the animal. They must surely be put to death; their blood
is upon them.
17 If a man marries his sister, whether the daughter of his father or of
his mother, and they have sexual relations,† it is a disgrace. They must be
cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered the nakedness of his
sister; he shall bear his iniquity.
18 If a man lies with a menstruating woman and has sexual relations
with her,‡ he has exposed the source of her flow, and she has uncovered
the source of her blood. Both of them must be cut off from among their
people.
19 You must not have sexual relations with the sister of your mother or
your father, for it is exposing one's own kin; both shall bear their iniquity.
20 If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered the nakedness of
his uncle. They will bear their sin; they shall die childless.
21 If a man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity. He has
uncovered the nakedness of his brother; they shall be childless.
22 You are therefore to keep all my statutes and ordinances and carry
them out, so that the land where I am bringing you to live will not vomit
you out.
23 You must not follow the statutes of the nations I am driving out before
you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.
24 But I have told you that you will inherit their land, since I will give it
to you as an inheritance—a land flowing with milk and honey. I am the
LORD your God, who has set you apart from the peoples.
25 You are therefore to distinguish between clean and unclean animals
and birds. Do not become contaminated by any animal or bird, or by
anything that crawls on the ground; I have set these apart as unclean for
you.
26 You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set
you apart from the nations to be my own.
27 A man or a woman who is a medium or spiritist must surely be put to
death. They shall be stoned; their blood is upon them.' "

21

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to Aaron's sons, the priests, and
tell them that a priest is not to defile himself for a dead person among his
people,
2 except for his immediate family—his mother, father, son, daughter, or
brother,
3 or his unmarried sister who is near to him, since she has no husband.

† **20:17 20:17** Literally *and he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness* ‡ **20:18 20:18** Literally *uncovers her nakedness*; similarly in verse 19

4 He is not to defile himself for those related to him by marriage, and so
profane himself.
5 Priests must not make bald spots on their heads, shave off the edges of
their beards, or make cuts in their bodies.
6 They must be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God.
Because they present to the LORD the food offerings, the food of their God,
they must be holy.
7 A priest must not marry a woman defiled by prostitution or divorced
by her husband, for the priest is holy to his God.
8 You are to regard him as holy, since he presents the food of your God.
He shall be holy to you, because I the LORD am holy—I who set you apart.
9 If a priest's daughter defiles herself by prostituting herself, she
profanes her father; she must be burned in the fire.
10 The priest who is highest among his brothers, who has had the
anointing oil poured on his head and has been ordained to wear the
priestly garments, must not uncover his head* or tear his garments.
11 He must not go near any dead body; he must not defile himself, even
for his father or mother.
12 He must not leave or desecrate the sanctuary of his God, for the
consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him. I am the LORD.
13 The woman he marries must be a virgin.
14 He is not to marry a widow, a divorced woman, or one defiled by
prostitution. He is to marry a virgin from his own people,
15 so that he does not defile his offspring among his people, for I am the
LORD who sanctifies him."
16 Then the LORD said to Moses,
17 "Say to Aaron, 'For the generations to come, none of your descendants
who has a physical defect may approach to offer the food of his God.
18 No man who has any defect may approach—no man who is blind,
lame, disfigured, or deformed;
19 no man who has a broken foot or hand,
20 or who is a hunchback or dwarf, or who has an eye defect, a festering
rash, scabs, or a crushed testicle.
21 No descendant of Aaron the priest who has a defect shall approach to
present the food offerings to the LORD. Since he has a defect, he is not to
come near to offer the food of his God.
22 He may eat the most holy food of his God as well as the holy food,
23 but because he has a defect, he must not go near the veil or approach
the altar, so as not to desecrate my sanctuaries. For I am the LORD who
sanctifies them.' "
24 Moses told this to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites.

22

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Tell Aaron and his sons to treat with respect the sacred offerings that
the Israelites have consecrated to me, so that they do not profane my holy
name. I am the LORD.
3 Tell them that for the generations to come, if any of their descendants
in a state of uncleanness approaches the sacred offerings that the
Israelites consecrate to the LORD, that person must be cut off from my
presence. I am the LORD.

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* **21:10 21:10** Or *must not let his hair hang loose*

4 If a descendant of Aaron has a skin disease* or a discharge, he may not
eat the sacred offerings until he is clean. Whoever touches anything
defiled by a corpse or by a man who has an emission of semen,
5 or whoever touches a crawling creature or a person that makes him
unclean, whatever the uncleanness may be—
6 the man who touches any of these will remain unclean until evening.
He must not eat from the sacred offerings unless he has bathed himself
with water.
7 When the sun has set, he will become clean, and then he may eat from
the sacred offerings, for they are his food.
8 He must not eat anything found dead or torn by wild animals, which
would make him unclean. I am the LORD.
9 The priests must keep my charge, lest they bear the guilt and die
because they profane it. I am the LORD who sanctifies them.
10 No one outside a priest's family may eat the sacred offering, nor may
the guest of a priest or his hired hand eat it.
11 But if a priest buys a slave with his own money, or if a slave is born in
his household, that slave may eat his food.
12 If the priest's daughter is married to a man other than a priest, she is
not to eat of the sacred contributions.
13 But if a priest's daughter with no children becomes widowed or
divorced and returns to her father's house, she may share her father's
food as in her youth. But no outsider may share it.
14 If anyone eats a sacred offering in error, he must add a fifth to its
value and give the sacred offering to the priest.
15 The priests must not profane the sacred offerings that the Israelites
present to the LORD
16 by allowing the people to eat the sacred offerings and thus to bear the
punishment for guilt. For I am the LORD who sanctifies them."
17 Then the LORD said to Moses,
18 "Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the Israelites and tell them, 'Any
man of the house of Israel or any foreign resident who presents a gift for a
burnt offering to the LORD, whether to fulfill a vow or as a freewill
offering,
19 must offer an unblemished male from the cattle, sheep, or goats in
order for it to be accepted on your behalf.
20 You must not present anything with a defect, because it will not be
accepted on your behalf.
21 When a man presents a peace offering to the LORD from the herd or
flock to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, it must be without blemish or
defect to be acceptable.
22 You are not to present to the LORD any animal that is blind, injured,
or maimed, or anything with a running sore, a festering rash, or a scab;
you must not put any of these on the altar as a food offering to the LORD.
23 You may present as a freewill offering an ox† or sheep that has a
deformed or stunted limb, but it is not acceptable in fulfillment of a vow.
24 You are not to present to the LORD an animal whose testicles are
bruised, crushed, torn, or cut; you are not to sacrifice them in your land.

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* **22:4 22:4** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy*, were used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13. † **22:23 22:23** Or *a bull* or *a cow*

25 You must not present food to your God from any such animal
obtained from a foreigner.‡ They will not be accepted on your behalf,
because they are deformed and flawed.' "
26 Then the LORD said to Moses,
27 "When an ox,§ a sheep, or a goat is born, it must remain with its
mother for seven days. From the eighth day on, it will be acceptable as a
food offering presented to the LORD.
28 But you must not slaughter an ox* or a sheep on the same day as its
young.
29 When you sacrifice a thank offering to the LORD, offer it so that it may
be acceptable on your behalf.
30 It must be eaten that same day. Do not leave any of it until morning. I
am the LORD.
31 You are to keep my commandments and practice them. I am the LORD.
32 You must not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy
among the Israelites. I am the LORD who sanctifies you,
33 who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God. I am the
LORD."

23

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them, 'These are my appointed feasts,
the feasts of the LORD that you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.
3 For six days work may be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of
complete rest, a day of sacred assembly. You must not do any work;
wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD.
4 These are the LORD's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are
to proclaim at their appointed times.
5 The Passover to the LORD begins at twilight on the fourteenth* day of
the first month.
6 On the fifteenth day of the same month begins the Feast of Unleavened
Bread† to the LORD. For seven days you must eat unleavened bread.
7 On the first day you are to hold a sacred assembly; you are not to do
any regular work.
8 For seven days you are to present a food offering to the LORD. On the
seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly; you must not do any regular
work.' "
9 And the LORD said to Moses,
10 "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'When you enter the land that I am
giving you and you reap its harvest, you are to bring to the priest a sheaf
of the firstfruits of your harvest.
11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD so that it may be
accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the
Sabbath.
12 On the day you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a year-old lamb
without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD,

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‡ **22:25 22:25** Hebrew *from the hand of a foreigner* § **22:27 22:27** Or *a calf* * **22:28 22:28** Or *a cow* * **23:5 23:5** Hebrew *begins between the two evenings of the fourteenth* † **23:6 23:6** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

13 along with its grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour‡
mixed with oil—a food offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma—and its
drink offering of a quarter hin of wine.§
14 You must not eat any bread or roasted or new grain until the very day
you have brought this offering to your God. This is to be a permanent
statute for the generations to come, wherever you live.
15 From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the
wave offering, you are to count off seven full weeks.
16 You shall count off fifty days until the day after the seventh Sabbath,
and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.
17 Bring two loaves of bread from your dwellings as a wave offering,
each made from two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with leaven,
as the firstfruits to the LORD.
18 Along with the bread you are to present seven unblemished male
lambs a year old, one young bull, and two rams. They will be a burnt
offering to the LORD, together with their grain offerings and drink
offerings—a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
19 You shall also prepare one male goat as a purification offering and
two male lambs a year old as a peace offering.
20 The priest is to wave the lambs as a wave offering before the LORD,
together with the bread of the firstfruits. The bread and the two lambs
shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.
21 On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly, and you
must not do any regular work. This is to be a permanent statute wherever
you live for the generations to come.
22 When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap all the way to the
edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for
the poor and the foreign resident. I am the LORD your God.' "
23 The LORD also said to Moses,
24 "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'On the first day of the seventh month
you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly announced by trumpet
blasts.*
25 You must not do any regular work, but you are to present a food
offering to the LORD.' "
26 Again the LORD said to Moses,
27 "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. You
shall hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves,† and present a food
offering to the LORD.
28 On this day you are not to do any work, for it is the Day of Atonement,
when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God.
29 If anyone does not humble himself on this day, he must be cut off
from his people.
30 I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on
this day.
31 You are not to do any work at all. This is a permanent statute for the
generations to come, wherever you live.

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‡ **23:13 23:13** *Two-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters (probably about 5.1 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of flour); also in verse 17. § **23:13 23:13** *A quarter hin* is approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters of wine. * **23:24 23:24** Or *a sacred assembly, a memorial of shouting* † **23:27 23:27** Or *afflict your souls* or *humble yourselves*; also in verse 32

32 It will be a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall deny
yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the
following evening you are to keep your Sabbath."
33 And the LORD said to Moses,
34 "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh
month the Feast of Booths‡ to the LORD begins, and it continues for seven
days.
35 On the first day there shall be a sacred assembly. You must not do any
regular work.
36 For seven days you are to present a food offering to the LORD. On the
eighth day you are to hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering
to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you must not do any regular work.
37 These are the LORD's appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim as
sacred assemblies for presenting food offerings to the LORD—burnt
offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its
designated day.
38 These offerings are in addition to the offerings for the LORD's
Sabbaths, and in addition to your gifts, to all your vow offerings, and to all
the freewill offerings you give to the LORD.
39 On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered
the produce of the land, you are to celebrate a feast to the LORD for seven
days. There shall be complete rest on the first day and also on the eighth
day.
40 On the first day you are to gather the fruit of majestic trees, the
branches of palm trees, and the boughs of leafy trees and of willows§ of
the brook. And you are to rejoice before the LORD your God for seven
days.
41 You are to celebrate this as a feast to the LORD for seven days each
year. This is a permanent statute for the generations to come; you are to
celebrate it in the seventh month.
42 You are to dwell in booths* for seven days. All the native-born of
Israel must dwell in booths,
43 so that your descendants may know that I made the Israelites dwell in
booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your
God.' "
44 So Moses announced to the Israelites the appointed feasts of the LORD.

24

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Command the Israelites to bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the
light, to keep the lamps burning continually.
3 Outside the veil of the Testimony* in the Tent of Meeting, Aaron is to
tend the lamps continually before the LORD from evening until morning.
This is to be a permanent statute for the generations to come.
4 He shall tend the lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD
continually.

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‡ **23:34 23:34** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22). § **23:40 23:40** Or *poplars* * **23:42 23:42** Or *tabernacles* or *shelters*; twice in this verse, and also in verse 43; see the footnote for verse 34. * **24:3 24:3** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

5 You are also to take fine flour and bake twelve loaves, using two-tenths
of an ephah for each loaf,†
6 and set them in two rows—six per row—on the table of pure gold
before the LORD.
7 And you are to place pure frankincense near each row, so that it may
serve as a memorial portion for the bread, a food offering to the LORD.
8 Every Sabbath day the bread is to be set out before the LORD on behalf
of the Israelites as a permanent covenant.
9 It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in a holy place; for it
is to him a most holy part of the food offerings to the LORD—his portion
forever."
10 Now the son of an Israelite mother and an Egyptian father went out
among the Israelites, and a fight broke out in the camp between him and
an Israelite.
11 The son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name with a curse. So
they brought him to Moses. (his mother's name was Shelomith daughter
of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.)
12 They placed him in custody until the will of the LORD should be made
clear to them.
13 Then the LORD said to Moses,
14 "Take the blasphemer‡ outside the camp, and have all who heard him
lay their hands on his head; then have the whole assembly stone him.
15 And you are to tell the Israelites, 'If anyone curses his God, he shall
bear the consequences of his sin.
16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD must surely be put to
death; the whole assembly must surely stone him, whether he is a foreign
resident or native; if he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.
17 And if a man takes the life of anyone else, he must surely be put to
death.
18 Whoever kills an animal must make restitution—life for life.
19 If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to
him:
20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. Just as he injured the
other person, the same must be inflicted on him.
21 Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a
man must be put to death.
22 You are to have the same standard of law for the foreign resident and
the native; for I am the LORD your God.' "
23 Then Moses spoke to the Israelites, and they took the blasphemer
outside the camp and stoned him. So the Israelites did as the LORD had
commanded Moses.

25

1 Then the LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai,
2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I
am giving you, the land itself must observe a Sabbath to the LORD.
3 For six years you may sow your field and prune your vineyard and
gather its crops.
4 But in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for
the land—a Sabbath to the LORD.
You are not to sow your field or prune your vineyard.

† **24:5 24:5** *Two-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters (probably about 5.1 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of flour). ‡ **24:14 24:14** Literally *the one who cursed*; also in verse 23

5 You are not to reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the
grapes of your untended vines. The land must have a year of complete
rest.
6 Whatever the land yields during the Sabbath year shall be food for
you—for yourself, your male and female slave, the hired hand or
foreigner who stays with you,
7 and for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. All its growth
may serve as food.
8 And you shall count off seven Sabbaths of years—seven times seven
years—so that the seven Sabbaths of years amount to forty-nine years.
9 Then you are to sound the horn far and wide on the tenth day of the
seventh month, the Day of Atonement. You shall sound it throughout your
land.
10 So you are to consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty in the
land for all its inhabitants. It shall be your Jubilee, when each of you is to
return to his property and to his clan.
11 The fiftieth year will be a Jubilee for you; you are not to sow the land
or reap its aftergrowth or harvest the untended vines.
12 For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You may eat only the crops
taken directly from the field.
13 In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his own property.
14 If you make a sale to your neighbor or a purchase from him, you must
not take advantage of each other.
15 You are to buy from your neighbor according to the number of years
since the last Jubilee; he is to sell to you according to the number of
harvest years remaining.
16 You shall increase the price in proportion to a greater number of
years, or decrease it in proportion to a lesser number of years; for he is
selling you a given number of harvests.
17 Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God; for I am the
LORD your God.
18 You are to keep my statutes and carefully observe my judgments, so
that you may dwell securely in the land.
19 Then the land will yield its fruit, so that you can eat your fill and dwell
in safety in the land.
20 Now you may wonder, 'What will we eat in the seventh year if we do
not sow or gather our produce?'
21 But I will send my blessing upon you in the sixth year, so that the land
will yield a crop sufficient for three years.
22 While you are sowing in the eighth year, you will be eating from the
previous harvest, until the ninth year's harvest comes in.
23 The land must not be sold permanently, because it is mine, and you
are but foreigners and residents with me.
24 Thus for every piece of property you possess, you must provide for
the redemption of the land.
25 If your brother becomes impoverished and sells some of his property,
his nearest of kin may come and redeem what his brother has sold.
26 Or if a man has no one to redeem it for him, but he prospers and
acquires enough to redeem his land,
27 he shall calculate the years since its sale, repay the balance to the man
to whom he sold it, and return to his property.

28 But if he cannot obtain enough to repay him, what he sold will remain
in possession of the buyer until the Year of Jubilee. In the Jubilee,
however, it is to be released, so that he may return to his property.
29 If a man sells a house in a walled city, he retains his right of
redemption until a full year after its sale; during that year it may be
redeemed.
30 If it is not redeemed by the end of a full year, then the house in the
walled city* is permanently transferred to its buyer and his descendants.
It is not to be released in the Jubilee.
31 But houses in villages with no walls around them are to be considered
as open fields. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the
Jubilee.
32 As for the cities of the Levites, the Levites always have the right to
redeem their houses in the cities they possess.
33 So whatever belongs to the Levites may be redeemed—a house sold in
a city they possess—and must be released in the Jubilee, because the
houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the Israelites.
34 But the open pastureland around their cities may not be sold, for this
is their permanent possession.
35 Now if your countryman becomes destitute and cannot support
himself among you, then you are to help him as you would a foreigner or
stranger, so that he can continue to live among you.
36 Do not take any interest or profit from him, but fear your God, that
your countryman may live among you.
37 You must not lend him your silver at interest or sell him your food for
profit.
38 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to
give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.
39 If a countryman among you becomes destitute and sells himself to
you, then you must not force him into slave labor.
40 Let him stay with you as a hired worker or temporary resident; he is
to work for you until the Year of Jubilee.
41 Then he and his children are to be released, and he may return to his
clan and to the property of his fathers.
42 Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of the
land of Egypt, they are not to be sold as slaves.
43 You are not to rule over them harshly, but you shall fear your God.
44 Your male and female slaves shall come from the nations around you,
from whom you may purchase them.
45 You may also purchase them from the foreigners residing among you
or their clans living among you who are born in your land. These may
become your property.
46 You may leave them to your sons after you to inherit as property; you
can make them slaves for life. But as for your brothers, the Israelites, no
man may rule harshly over his brother.
47 If a foreigner residing among you prospers, but your countryman
dwelling near him becomes destitute and sells himself to the foreigner or
to a member of his clan,
48 he retains the right of redemption after he has sold himself. One of
his brothers may redeem him:

* **25:30 25:30** Qere; Ketiv *in the city that has no wall*

49 either his uncle or cousin or any close relative from his clan may
redeem him. Or if he prospers, he may redeem himself.
50 He and his purchaser will then count the time from the year he sold
himself up to the Year of Jubilee. The price of his sale will be determined
by the number of years, based on the daily wages of a hired hand.
51 If many years remain, he must pay for his redemption in proportion
to his purchase price.
52 If only a few years remain until the Year of Jubilee, he is to calculate
and pay his redemption according to his remaining years.
53 He shall be treated like a man hired from year to year, but a foreign
owner must not rule over him harshly in your sight.
54 Even if he is not redeemed in any of these ways, he and his children
shall be released in the Year of Jubilee.
55 For the Israelites are my servants. They are my servants, whom I
brought out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

26

1 "You must not make idols for yourselves or set up a carved image or
sacred pillar; you must not place a sculpted stone in your land to bow
down to it. For I am the LORD your God.
2 You must keep my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I
am the LORD.
3 If you follow my statutes and carefully keep my commandments,
4 I will give you rains in their season, and the land will yield its produce,
and the trees of the field will bear their fruit.
5 Your threshing will continue until the grape harvest, and the grape
harvest will continue until sowing time; you will have your fill of food to
eat and will dwell securely in your land.
6 And I will give peace to the land, and you will lie down with nothing to
fear. I will rid the land of dangerous animals, and no sword will pass
through your land.
7 You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before
you.
8 Five of you will pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you will pursue
ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.
9 I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I
will establish my covenant with you.
10 You will still be eating the old supply of grain when you need to clear
it out to make room for the new.
11 And I will make my dwelling place* among you, and I will not reject†
you.
12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.
13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so
that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians. I broke the bars of
your yoke and enabled you to walk in uprightness.
14 If, however, you fail to obey me and to carry out all these
commandments,
15 and if you reject my statutes, despise my ordinances, and neglect to
carry out all my commandments, and so break my covenant,

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* **26:11 26:11** Or *my tabernacle* † **26:11 26:11** Or *despise*; also in verse 30

16 then this is what I will do to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror,
wasting disease, and fever that will destroy your sight and drain your life.
You will sow your seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it.
17 And I will set my face against you, so that you will be defeated by your
enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when
no one pursues you.
18 And if after all this you will not obey me, I will proceed to punish you
sevenfold for your sins.
19 I will break down your stubborn pride and make your sky like iron
and your land like bronze,
20 and your strength will be spent in vain. For your land will not yield its
produce, and the trees of the land will not bear their fruit.
21 If you walk in hostility toward me and refuse to obey me, I will
multiply your plagues seven times, according to your sins.
22 I will send wild animals against you to rob you of your children,
destroy your livestock, and reduce your numbers, until your roads lie
desolate.
23 And if in spite of these things you do not accept my discipline, but
continue to walk in hostility toward me,
24 then I will act with hostility toward you, and I will strike you
sevenfold for your sins.
25 And I will bring a sword against you to execute the vengeance of the
covenant. Though you withdraw into your cities, I will send a plague
among you, and you will be delivered into the hand of the enemy.
26 When I cut off your supply‡ of bread, ten women will bake your bread
in a single oven and dole out your bread by weight, so that you will eat but
not be satisfied.
27 But if in spite of all this you do not obey me, but continue to walk in
hostility toward me,
28 then I will walk in fury against you, and I, even I, will punish you
sevenfold for your sins.
29 You will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters.
30 I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and
heap your lifeless bodies on the lifeless remains of your idols; and I will
reject you.
31 I will reduce your cities to rubble and lay waste your sanctuaries, and
I will refuse to smell the pleasing aroma of your sacrifices.
32 And I will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who dwell in it will
be appalled.
33 But I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out a sword
after you as your land becomes desolate and your cities are laid waste.
34 Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths all the days it lies desolate,
while you are in the land of your enemies. At that time the land will rest
and enjoy its Sabbaths.
35 As long as it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not receive
during the Sabbaths when you lived in it.
36 As for those of you who survive, I will send a faintness into their
hearts in the lands of their enemies, so that even the sound of a
windblown leaf will put them to flight. And they will flee as one flees the
sword, and fall when no one pursues them.

‡ **26:26 26:26** Hebrew *staff*

37 They will stumble over one another as before the sword, though no
one is behind them. So you will not be able to stand against your enemies.
38 You will perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies will
consume you.
39 Those of you who survive in the lands of your enemies will waste
away in their iniquity and will decay in the sins of their fathers.
40 But if they will confess their iniquity and that of their fathers in the
unfaithfulness that they practiced against me, by which they have also
walked in hostility toward me—
41 and I acted with hostility toward them and brought them into the land
of their enemies—and if their uncircumcised hearts will be humbled and
they will make amends for their iniquity,
42 then I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with
Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.
43 For the land will be abandoned by them, and it will enjoy its Sabbaths
by lying desolate without them. And they will pay the penalty for their
iniquity, because they rejected my ordinances and abhorred my statutes.
44 Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will
not reject or despise them so as to destroy them and break my covenant
with them; for I am the LORD their God.
45 But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their fathers,
whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I
might be their God. I am the LORD."
46 These are the statutes, ordinances, and laws that the LORD established
between himself and the Israelites through Moses on Mount Sinai.

27

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them, 'When someone makes a
special vow to the LORD involving the value of persons,
3 if the valuation concerns a male from twenty to sixty years of age, then
your valuation shall be fifty shekels of silver,* according to the sanctuary
shekel.†
4 Or if it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty shekels.‡
5 And if the person is from five to twenty years of age, then your
valuation for the male shall be twenty shekels,§ and for the female ten
shekels.*
6 Now if the person is from one month to five years of age, then your
valuation for the male shall be five shekels of silver,† and for the female
three shekels of silver.‡
7 And if the person is sixty years of age or older, then your valuation
shall be fifteen shekels§ for the male and ten shekels for the female.
8 But if the one making the vow is too poor to pay the valuation, he is to
present the person* before the priest, who shall set the value according to
what the one making the vow can afford.

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* **27:3 27:3** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver; also in verse 16. † **27:3 27:3** *A shekel* weighed approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams; also in verse 25. ‡ **27:4 27:4** *30 shekels* is approximately 12 ounces or 342 grams of silver. § **27:5 27:5** *20 shekels* is approximately 8 ounces or 228 grams of silver. * **27:5 27:5** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams of silver; also in verse 7. † **27:6 27:6** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams of silver. ‡ **27:6 27:6** *3 shekels* is approximately 1.2 ounces or 34.2 grams of silver. § **27:7 27:7** *15 shekels* is approximately 6 ounces or 171 grams of silver. * **27:8 27:8** Or *present himself*

9 If he vows an animal that may be brought as an offering to the LORD,
any such animal given to the LORD shall be holy.
10 He must not replace it or exchange it, either good for bad or bad for
good. But if he does substitute one animal for another, both that animal
and its substitute will be holy.

11 But if the vow involves any of the unclean animals that may not be
brought as an offering to the LORD, the animal must be presented before
the priest.
12 The priest shall set its value, whether high or low; as the priest values
it, the price will be set.
13 If, however, the owner decides to redeem the animal, he must add a
fifth to its value.
14 Now if a man consecrates his house as holy to the LORD, then the
priest shall value it either as good or bad. The price will stand just as the
priest values it.
15 But if he who consecrated his house redeems it, he must add a fifth to
the assessed value, and it will belong to him.

16 If a man consecrates to the LORD a parcel of his land, then your
valuation shall be proportional to the seed required for it—fifty shekels of
silver for every homer of barley seed.†
17 If he consecrates his field during the Year of Jubilee, the price will
stand according to your valuation.

18 But if he consecrates his field after the Jubilee, the priest is to
calculate the price in proportion to the years left until the next Year of
Jubilee, so that your valuation will be reduced.
19 And if the one who consecrated the field decides to redeem it, he must
add a fifth to the assessed value, and it shall belong to him.

20 If, however, he does not redeem the field, or if he has sold it to
another man, it may no longer be redeemed.
21 When the field is released in the Jubilee, it will become holy, like a
field devoted to the LORD; it becomes the property of the priests.

22 Now if a man consecrates to the LORD a field he has purchased, which
is not a part of his own property,
23 then the priest shall calculate for him the value up to the Year of
Jubilee, and the man shall pay the assessed value on that day as a sacred
offering to the LORD.
24 In the Year of Jubilee the field shall return to the one from whom it
was bought—the original owner of the land.
25 Every valuation will be according to the sanctuary shekel, twenty
gerahs to the shekel.‡

26 But no one may consecrate a firstborn of the livestock, because a
firstborn belongs to the LORD. Whether it is an ox or a sheep, it is the
LORD's.
27 But if it is among the unclean animals, then he may redeem it
according to your valuation and add a fifth of its value. If it is not
redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your valuation.

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† **27:16 27:16** *A homer* is a dry measure of approximately 6.24 bushels or 220 liters (probably about 291 pounds or 132 kilograms of barley seed). ‡ **27:25 27:25** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).

28 Nothing that a man sets apart§ to the LORD from all he
owns—whether a man, an animal, or his inherited land—can be sold or
redeemed; everything so devoted is most holy to the LORD.
29 No person set apart for destruction may be ransomed; he must surely
be put to death.
30 Thus any tithe from the land, whether from the seed of the land or the
fruit of the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.
31 If a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he must add a fifth to its
value.
32 Every tenth animal from the herd or flock that passes under the
shepherd's rod will be holy to the LORD.
33 He must not inspect whether it is good or bad, and he shall not make
any substitution. But if he does make a substitution, both the animal and
its substitute shall become holy; they cannot be redeemed.' "
34 These are the commandments that the LORD gave to Moses for the
Israelites on Mount Sinai.

§ **27:28 27:28** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD; similarly in verse 29.

Numbers

1 On the first day of the second month of the second year after the
Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in
the Tent of Meeting in the Wilderness of Sinai. He said:
2 "Take a census of the whole congregation of Israel by their clans and
families, listing every man by name, one by one.
3 You and Aaron are to number those who are twenty years of age or
older by their divisions—everyone who can serve in Israel's army.
4 And one man from each tribe, the head of each family, must be there
with you.
5 These are the names of the men who are to assist you:

From the tribe of Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur;
6 from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai;
7 from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab;
8 from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar;
9 from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon;
10 from the sons of Joseph:
from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud,
and from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur;
11 from Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni;
12 from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai;
13 from Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran;
14 from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel;
15 and from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan."
16 These men were appointed from the congregation; they were the
leaders of the tribes of their fathers, the heads of the clans of Israel.
17 So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by
name,
18 and on the first day of the second month they assembled the whole
congregation and recorded their ancestry by clans and families, counting
one by one the names of those twenty years of age or older,
19 just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
So Moses numbered them in the Wilderness of Sinai:

20 From the sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, according to the
records of their clans and families, counting one by one the names of
every male twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army,
21 those registered to the tribe of Reuben numbered 46,500.
22 From the sons of Simeon, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting one by one the names of every male twenty years
of age or older who could serve in the army,
23 those registered to the tribe of Simeon numbered 59,300.
24 From the sons of Gad, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
25 those registered to the tribe of Gad numbered 45,650.

26 From the sons of Judah, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
27 those registered to the tribe of Judah numbered 74,600.
28 From the sons of Issachar, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
29 those registered to the tribe of Issachar numbered 54,400.
30 From the sons of Zebulun, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
31 those registered to the tribe of Zebulun numbered 57,400.
32 From the sons of Joseph:
From the sons of Ephraim, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or
older who could serve in the army,
33 those registered to the tribe of Ephraim numbered 40,500.
34 And from the sons of Manasseh, according to the records of their
clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of
age or older who could serve in the army,
35 those registered to the tribe of Manasseh numbered 32,200.
36 From the sons of Benjamin, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
37 those registered to the tribe of Benjamin numbered 35,400.
38 From the sons of Dan, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
39 those registered to the tribe of Dan numbered 62,700.
40 From the sons of Asher, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
41 those registered to the tribe of Asher numbered 41,500.
42 From the sons of Naphtali, according to the records of their clans and
families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older
who could serve in the army,
43 those registered to the tribe of Naphtali numbered 53,400.

44 These were the men numbered by Moses and Aaron, with the
assistance of the twelve leaders of Israel, each one representing his family.
45 So all the Israelites twenty years of age or older who could serve in
Israel's army were counted according to their families.
46 And all those counted totaled 603,550.

47 The Levites, however, were not numbered along with them by the
tribe of their fathers.
48 For the LORD had said to Moses:
49 "Do not number the tribe of Levi in the census with the other
Israelites.
50 Instead, you are to appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the
Testimony, all its furnishings, and everything in it. They shall carry the
tabernacle and all its articles, care for it, and camp around it.

51 Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites are to take it down,
and whenever it is to be pitched, the Levites are to set it up. Any outsider
who goes near it must be put to death.
52 The Israelites are to camp by their divisions, each man in his own
camp and under his own standard.
53 But the Levites are to camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony
and watch over it, so that no wrath will fall on the congregation of Israel.
So the Levites are responsible for the tabernacle of the Testimony."
54 Thus the Israelites did everything just as the LORD had commanded
Moses.

2

1 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron:
2 "The Israelites are to camp around the Tent of Meeting at a distance
from it, each man under his standard, with the banners of his family.
3 On the east side, toward the sunrise, the divisions of Judah are to camp
under their standard:
The leader of the Judahites is Nahshon son of Amminadab,
4 and his division numbers 74,600.
5 The tribe of Issachar will camp next to it. The leader of the Issacharites
is Nethanel son of Zuar,
6 and his division numbers 54,400.
7 Next will be the tribe of Zebulun. The leader of the Zebulunites is Eliab
son of Helon,
8 and his division numbers 57,400.
9 The total number of men in the divisions of the camp of Judah is
186,400; they shall set out first.
10 On the south side, the divisions of Reuben are to camp under their
standard:
The leader of the Reubenites is Elizur son of Shedeur,
11 and his division numbers 46,500.
12 The tribe of Simeon will camp next to it. The leader of the Simeonites
is Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai,
13 and his division numbers 59,300.
14 Next will be the tribe of Gad. The leader of the Gadites is Eliasaph son
of Reuel,*
15 and his division numbers 45,650.
16 The total number of men in the divisions of the camp of Reuben is
151,450; they shall set out second.
17 In the middle of the camps, the Tent of Meeting is to travel with the
camp of the Levites. They are to set out in the order they encamped, each
in his own place under his standard.
18 On the west side, the divisions of Ephraim are to camp under their
standard:
The leader of the Ephraimites is Elishama son of Ammihud,
19 and his division numbers 40,500.
20 The tribe of Manasseh will be next to it. The leader of the Manassites
is Gamaliel son of Pedahzur,
21 and his division numbers 32,200.
22 Next will be the tribe of Benjamin. The leader of the Benjamites is
Abidan son of Gideoni,
23 and his division numbers 35,400.

* **2:14 2:14** Leningrad Codex and most MT manuscripts; many MT manuscripts, SP, and Vulgate (see also Numbers 1:14) *Deuel*

24 The total number of men in the divisions of the camp of Ephraim is
108,100; they shall set out third.
25 On the north side, the divisions of Dan are to camp under their
standard:
The leader of the Danites is Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai,
26 and his division numbers 62,700.
27 The tribe of Asher will camp next to it. The leader of the Asherites is
Pagiel son of Ocran,
28 and his division numbers 41,500.
29 Next will be the tribe of Naphtali. The leader of the Naphtalites is
Ahira son of Enan,
30 and his division numbers 53,400.
31 The total number of men in the camp of Dan is 157,600; they shall set
out last, under their standards."
32 These are the Israelites, numbered according to their families. The
total of those counted in the camps, by their divisions, was 603,550.
33 But the Levites were not counted among the other Israelites, as the
LORD had commanded Moses.
34 So the Israelites did everything the LORD commanded Moses; they
camped under their standards in this way and set out in the same way,
each man with his clan and his family.

3

1 This is the account of Aaron and Moses at the time the LORD spoke
with Moses on Mount Sinai.
2 These are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn, then
Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
3 These were Aaron's sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to
serve as priests.
4 Nadab and Abihu, however, died in the presence of the LORD when
they offered strange* fire before the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai. And
since they had no sons, only Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during
the lifetime of their father Aaron.
5 Then the LORD said to Moses,
6 "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist
him.
7 They are to perform duties for him and for the whole congregation
before the Tent of Meeting, attending to the service of the tabernacle.
8 They shall take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting and
fulfill obligations for the Israelites by attending to the service of the
tabernacle.
9 Assign the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they have been given
exclusively to him† from among the Israelites.
10 So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons to carry out the duties of the
priesthood; but any outsider who approaches the tabernacle must be put
to death."
11 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
12 "Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel in
place of every firstborn Israelite from the womb. The Levites belong to me,

* **3:4 3:4** Or *unauthorized* † **3:9 3:9** Most MT manuscripts; some MT manuscripts, SP, and LXX (see also Numbers 8:16) *to me*

13 for all the firstborn are mine. On the day I struck down every
firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated to myself all the firstborn in
Israel, both man and beast. They are mine; I am the LORD."
14 Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, saying,
15 "Number the Levites by their families and clans. You are to count
every male a month old or more."
16 So Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, as he
had been commanded.
17 These were the sons of Levi by name: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
18 These were the names of the sons of Gershon by their clans: Libni and
Shimei.
19 The sons of Kohath by their clans were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and
Uzziel.
20 And the sons of Merari by their clans were Mahli and Mushi. These
were the clans of the Levites, according to their families.
21 From Gershon came the Libnite clan and the Shimeite clan; these
were the Gershonite clans.
22 The number of all the males a month old or more was 7,500.
23 The Gershonite clans were to camp on the west, behind the tabernacle,
24 and the leader of the families of the Gershonites was Eliasaph son of
Lael.
25 The duties of the Gershonites at the Tent of Meeting were the
tabernacle and tent, its covering, the curtain for the entrance to the Tent
of Meeting,
26 the curtains of the courtyard, the curtain for the entrance to the
courtyard that surrounds the tabernacle and altar, and the cords—all the
service for these items.
27 From Kohath came the clans of the Amramites, the Izharites, the
Hebronites, and the Uzzielites; these were the clans of the Kohathites.
28 The number of all the males a month old or more was 8,600.‡ They
were responsible for the duties of the sanctuary.
29 The clans of the Kohathites were to camp on the south side of the
tabernacle,
30 and the leader of the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan§ son of
Uzziel.
31 Their duties were the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the
articles of the sanctuary used with them, and the curtain—all the service
for these items.
32 The chief of the leaders of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron the
priest; he oversaw those responsible for the duties of the sanctuary.
33 From Merari came the clans of the Mahlites and Mushites; these were
the Merarite clans.
34 The number of all the males a month old or more was 6,200.
35 The leader of the families of the Merarites was Zuriel son of Abihail;
they were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle.
36 The duties assigned to the sons of Merari were the tabernacle's
frames, crossbars, posts, bases, and all its equipment—all the service for
these items,
37 as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases,
tent pegs, and ropes.

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‡ **3:28 3:28** Some LXX manuscripts *8,300*; see the total in verse 39. § **3:30 3:30** *Elizaphan* is a variant of *Elzaphan*; see Exodus 6:22 and Leviticus 10:4.

38 Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons were to camp to the east of the
tabernacle, toward the sunrise, before the Tent of Meeting. They were to
perform the duties of the sanctuary as a service on behalf of the Israelites;
but any outsider who approached the sanctuary was to be put to death.
39 The total number of Levites that Moses and Aaron counted by their
clans at the LORD's command, including all the males a month old or
more, was 22,000.
40 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Number every firstborn male of the
Israelites a month old or more, and list their names.
41 You are to take the Levites for me—I am the LORD—in place of all the
firstborn of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites in place of all the
firstborn of the livestock of the Israelites."
42 So Moses numbered all the firstborn of the Israelites, as the LORD had
commanded him.
43 The total number of the firstborn males a month old or more, listed by
name, was 22,273.
44 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
45 "Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn of Israel, and the
livestock of the Levites in place of their livestock. The Levites belong to
me; I am the LORD.
46 To redeem the 273 firstborn Israelites who outnumber the Levites,
47 you are to collect five shekels* for each one, according to the
sanctuary shekel of twenty gerahs.†
48 Give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for the
excess among the Israelites."
49 So Moses collected the redemption money from those in excess of the
number redeemed by the Levites.
50 He collected the money from the firstborn of the Israelites: 1,365
shekels,‡ according to the sanctuary shekel.
51 And Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons in
obedience to the word of the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded him.

4

1 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
2 "Take a census of the Kohathites among the Levites by their clans and
families,
3 men from thirty to fifty years old—everyone who is qualified to serve
in the work at the Tent of Meeting.
4 This service of the Kohathites at the Tent of Meeting regards the most
holy things.
5 Whenever the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons are to go in, take
down the veil of the curtain, and cover the ark of the Testimony* with it.
6 They are to place over this a covering of fine leather,† spread a solid
blue cloth over it, and insert its poles.
7 Over the table of the Presence they are to spread a blue cloth and place
the plates and cups on it, along with the bowls and pitchers for the drink
offering. The regular bread offering is to remain on it.

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* **3:47 3:47** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams. † **3:47 3:47** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams). ‡ **3:50 3:50** *1,365 shekels* is approximately 34.3 pounds or 15.6 kilograms. * **4:5 4:5** That is, *the ark of the covenant* † **4:6 4:6** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals; also in verses 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 25; see Exodus 25:5.

8 And they shall spread a scarlet cloth over them, cover them with fine
leather, and insert the poles.
9 They are to take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand used for light,
together with its lamps, wick trimmers, and trays, as well as the jars of oil
with which to supply it.
10 Then they shall wrap it and all its utensils inside a covering of fine
leather and put it on the carrying frame.
11 Over the gold altar they are to spread a blue cloth, cover it with fine
leather, and insert the poles.
12 They are to take all the utensils for serving in the sanctuary, place
them in a blue cloth, cover them with fine leather, and put them on the
carrying frame.
13 Then they shall remove the ashes from the bronze altar, spread a
purple cloth over it,
14 and place on it all the vessels used to serve there: the firepans, meat
forks, shovels, and sprinkling bowls—all the equipment of the altar. They
are to spread over it a covering of fine leather and insert the poles.
15 When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and
all their equipment, as soon as the camp is ready to move, the Kohathites
shall come and do the carrying. But they must not touch the holy objects,
or they will die. These are the transportation duties of the Kohathites
regarding the Tent of Meeting.
16 Eleazar son of Aaron the priest shall oversee the oil for the light, the
fragrant incense, the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil. He has
oversight of the entire tabernacle and everything in it, including the holy
objects and their utensils."
17 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
18 "Do not allow the Kohathite tribal clans to be cut off from among the
Levites.
19 In order that they may live and not die when they come near the most
holy things, do this for them: Aaron and his sons are to go in and assign
each man his task and what he is to carry.
20 But the Kohathites are not to go in and look at the holy objects, even
for a moment, or they will die."
21 And the LORD said to Moses,
22 "Take a census of the Gershonites as well, by their families and clans,
23 from thirty to fifty years old, counting everyone who comes to serve
in the work at the Tent of Meeting.
24 This is the service of the Gershonite clans regarding work and
transport:
25 They are to carry the curtains of the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting
with the covering of fine leather over it, the curtains for the entrance to
the Tent of Meeting,
26 the curtains of the courtyard, and the curtains for the entrance at the
gate of the courtyard that surrounds the tabernacle and altar, along with
their ropes and all the equipment for their service. The Gershonites will
do all that needs to be done with these items.
27 All the service of the Gershonites—all their transport duties and other
work—is to be done at the direction of Aaron and his sons; you are to
assign to them all that they are responsible to carry.
28 This is the service of the Gershonite clans at the Tent of Meeting, and
their duties shall be under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

29 As for the sons of Merari, you are to number them by their clans and families,
30 from thirty to fifty years old, counting everyone who comes to serve in the work of the Tent of Meeting.
31 This is the duty for all their service at the Tent of Meeting: to carry the frames of the tabernacle with its crossbars, posts, and bases,
32 and the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes, including all their equipment and everything related to their use. You shall assign by name the items that they are responsible to carry.
33 This is the service of the Merarite clans according to all their work at the Tent of Meeting, under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest."
34 So Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the congregation numbered the Kohathites by their clans and families,
35 everyone from thirty to fifty years old who came to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting.
36 And those numbered by their clans totaled 2,750.
37 These were counted from the Kohathite clans, everyone who could serve at the Tent of Meeting. Moses and Aaron numbered them according to the command of the LORD through Moses.
38 Then the Gershonites were numbered by their clans and families,
39 everyone from thirty to fifty years old who came to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting.
40 And those numbered by their clans and families totaled 2,630.
41 These were counted from the Gershonite clans who served at the Tent of Meeting, whom Moses and Aaron counted at the LORD's command.
42 And the Merarites were numbered by their clans and families,
43 everyone from thirty to fifty years old who came to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting.
44 The men registered by their clans numbered 3,200.
45 These were counted from the Merarite clans, whom Moses and Aaron numbered at the LORD's command through Moses.
46 So Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered by their clans and families all the Levites
47 from thirty to fifty years old who came to do the work of serving and carrying the Tent of Meeting.
48 And the number of men was 8,580.
49 At the LORD's command through Moses they were numbered, and each one was assigned his work and burden, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

5

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Command the Israelites to send away from the camp anyone with a skin disease,* anyone who has a bodily discharge, and anyone who is defiled by a dead body.
3 You must send away male and female alike; send them outside the camp so they will not defile their camp, where I dwell among them."
4 So the Israelites did this, sending such people outside the camp. They did just as the LORD had instructed Moses.

* **5:2 5:2** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy*, were used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

5 And the LORD said to Moses,
6 “Tell the Israelites that when a man or woman acts unfaithfully against
the LORD by committing any sin against another, that person is guilty
7 and must confess the sin he has committed. He must make full
restitution, add a fifth to its value, and give all this to the one he has
wronged.
8 But if the man has no relative to whom restitution can be made for the
wrong, the restitution belongs to the LORD and must be given to the priest
along with the ram of atonement, by which the atonement is made for
him.
9 Every sacred contribution the Israelites bring to the priest shall belong
to him.
10 Each man’s sacred gifts are his own, but whatever he gives to the
priest will belong to the priest.”
11 Then the LORD said to Moses,
12 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them that if any man’s wife goes astray
and is unfaithful to him
13 by sleeping with another man, and it is concealed from her husband
and her impurity is undetected (since there is no witness against her and
she was not caught in the act),
14 and if a feeling of jealousy comes over her husband and he suspects
his wife who has defiled herself—or if a feeling of jealousy comes over
him and he suspects her even though she has not defiled herself—
15 then he is to bring his wife to the priest.
He must also bring for her an offering of a tenth of an ephah of barley
flour.† He is not to pour oil over it or put frankincense on it, because it is a
grain offering for jealousy, an offering of memorial as a reminder of
iniquity.
16 The priest is to bring the wife forward and have her stand before the
LORD.
17 Then he is to take some holy water in a clay jar and put some of the
dust from the tabernacle floor into the water.
18 After the priest has the woman stand before the LORD, he is to let
down her hair and place in her hands the grain offering of memorial,
which is the grain offering for jealousy. The priest is to hold the bitter
water that brings a curse.
19 And he is to put the woman under oath and say to her, ‘If no other
man has slept with you and you have not gone astray and become defiled
while under your husband’s authority, may you be immune to this bitter
water that brings a curse.
20 But if you have gone astray while under your husband’s authority and
have defiled yourself and lain carnally with a man other than your
husband’—
21 and the priest shall have the woman swear under the oath of the
curse—‘then may the LORD make you an attested curse among your
people by making your thigh shrivel and your belly swell.
22 May this water that brings a curse enter your stomach and cause your
belly to swell and your thigh to shrivel.’
Then the woman is to say, ‘Amen, Amen.’
23 And the priest shall write these curses on a scroll and wash them off
into the bitter water.

† **5:15 5:15** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 3.5 pounds or 1.6 kilograms of barley flour).

24 He is to have the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse,
and it will enter her and may cause her bitter suffering.
25 The priest shall take from her hand the grain offering for jealousy,
wave it before the LORD, and bring it to the altar.
26 Then the priest is to take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial
portion and burn it on the altar; after that he is to have the woman drink
the water.
27 When he has made her drink the water, if she has defiled herself and
been unfaithful to her husband, then the water that brings a curse will
enter her and cause bitter suffering; her belly will swell, her thigh will
shrivel, and she will become accursed among her people.
28 But if the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, she will be
unaffected and able to conceive children.
29 This is the law of jealousy when a wife goes astray and defiles herself
while under her husband's authority,
30 or when a feeling of jealousy comes over a husband and he suspects
his wife. He is to have the woman stand before the LORD, and the priest is
to apply to her this entire law.
31 The husband will be free from guilt, but the woman shall bear her
iniquity."

6

1 And the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them that if a man or woman makes a
special vow, the vow of a Nazirite,* to separate himself to the LORD,
3 he is to abstain from wine and strong drink. He must not drink vinegar
made from wine or strong drink, and he must not drink any grape juice or
eat fresh grapes or raisins.
4 All the days of his separation, he is not to eat anything that comes from
the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins.
5 For the entire period of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his
head. He must be holy until the time of his separation to the LORD is
complete; he must let the hair of his head grow long.
6 Throughout the days of his separation to the LORD, he must not go
near a dead body.
7 Even if his father or mother or brother or sister should die, he is not to
defile himself, because the symbol of consecration to his God is upon his
head.
8 Throughout the time of his separation, he is holy to the LORD.
9 If someone suddenly dies in his presence and defiles his consecrated
head of hair, he must shave his head on the day of his cleansing—the
seventh day.
10 On the eighth day he must bring two turtledoves or two young
pigeons to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
11 And the priest is to offer one as a purification offering† and the other
as a burnt offering to make atonement for him, because he has sinned by
being in the presence of the dead body. On that day he must consecrate
his head again.

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* **6:2 6:2** *Nazirite* means *one separated* or *one consecrated.* † **6:11 6:11** Or *sin offering*; here and throughout Numbers

12 He must rededicate his time of separation to the LORD and bring a
year-old male lamb as a guilt offering. But the preceding days shall not be
counted, because his separation was defiled.
13 Now this is the law of the Nazirite when his time of separation is
complete: He must be brought to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting,
14 and he is to present an offering to the LORD of an unblemished
year-old male lamb as a burnt offering, an unblemished year-old female
lamb as a purification offering, and an unblemished ram as a peace
offering—
15 together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—and a basket
of unleavened cakes made from fine flour mixed with oil and unleavened
wafers coated with oil.
16 The priest is to present all these before the LORD and make the
purification offering and the burnt offering.
17 He shall also offer the ram as a peace offering to the LORD, along with
the basket of unleavened bread. And the priest is to offer the
accompanying grain offering and drink offering.
18 Then at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the Nazirite is to shave
his consecrated head, take the hair, and put it on the fire under the peace
offering.
19 And the priest is to take the boiled shoulder from the ram, one
unleavened cake from the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and put
them into the hands of the Nazirite who has just shaved the hair of his
consecration.
20 The priest shall then wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.
This is a holy portion for the priest, in addition to the breast of the wave
offering and the thigh that was presented. After that, the Nazirite may
drink wine.
21 This is the law of the Nazirite who vows his offering to the LORD for
his separation, in addition to whatever else he can afford; he must fulfill
whatever vow he makes, according to the law of his separation."
22 Then the LORD said to Moses,
23 "Tell Aaron and his sons: This is how you are to bless the Israelites.
Say to them:

24 'May the LORD bless you
and keep you;
25 may the LORD cause his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
26 may the LORD lift up his countenance toward you
and give you peace.'
27 So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

7

1 On the day Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed and
consecrated it and all its furnishings, along with the altar and all its
utensils.
2 And the leaders of Israel, the heads of their families, presented an
offering. These men were the tribal leaders who had supervised the
registration.

3 They brought as their offering before the LORD six covered carts and
twelve oxen—an ox from each leader and a cart from every two
leaders—and presented them before the tabernacle.
4 And the LORD said to Moses,
5 “Accept these gifts from them, that they may be used in the work of the
Tent of Meeting. And give them to the Levites, to each man according to
his service.”
6 So Moses took the carts and oxen and gave them to the Levites.
7 He gave the Gershonites two carts and four oxen, as their service
required,
8 and he gave the Merarites four carts and eight oxen, as their service
required, all under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.
9 But he did not give any to the Kohathites, since they were to carry on
their shoulders the holy objects for which they were responsible.
10 When the altar was anointed, the leaders approached with their
offerings for its dedication and presented them before the altar.
11 And the LORD said to Moses, “Each day one leader is to present his
offering for the dedication of the altar.”
12 On the first day Nahshon son of Amminadab from the tribe of Judah
drew near with his offering.
13 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty
shekels,* and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels,† both according to
the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain
offering;
14 one gold dish weighing ten shekels,‡ filled with incense;
15 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
16 one male goat for a purification offering;
17 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Nahshon son of
Amminadab.
18 On the second day Nethanel son of Zuar, the leader of Issachar, drew
near.
19 The offering he presented was one silver platter weighing a hundred
and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both
according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil
for a grain offering;
20 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
21 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
22 one male goat for a purification offering;
23 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Nethanel son of Zuar.
24 On the third day Eliab son of Helon, the leader of the Zebulunites,
drew near.
25 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty
shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to

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* **7:13 7:13** *130 shekels* is approximately 3.3 pounds or 1.48 kilograms; here and throughout this chapter. † **7:13 7:13** *70 shekels* is approximately 1.76 pounds or 797.8 grams; here and throughout this chapter. ‡ **7:14 7:14** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams; here and throughout this chapter.

the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;
26 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
27 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering;
28 one male goat for a purification offering;
29 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Eliab son of Helon.
30 On the fourth day Elizur son of Shedeur, the leader of the Reubenites, drew near.
31 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;
32 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
33 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering;
34 one male goat for a purification offering;
35 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Elizur son of Shedeur.
36 On the fifth day Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, the leader of the Simeonites, drew near.
37 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;
38 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
39 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering;
40 one male goat for a purification offering;
41 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.
42 On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, the leader of the Gadites, drew near.
43 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;
44 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
45 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering;
46 one male goat for a purification offering;
47 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Eliasaph son of Deuel.
48 On the seventh day Elishama son of Ammihud, the leader of the Ephraimites, drew near.
49 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;
50 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;

51 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
52 one male goat for a purification offering;
53 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Elishama son of Ammihud.
54 On the eighth day Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, the leader of the
Manassites, drew near.
55 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty
shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to
the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain
offering;
56 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
57 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
58 one male goat for a purification offering;
59 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.
60 On the ninth day Abidan son of Gideoni, the leader of the Benjamites,
drew near.
61 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty
shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to
the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain
offering;
62 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
63 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
64 one male goat for a purification offering;
65 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Abidan son of Gideoni.
66 On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, the leader of the
Danites, drew near.
67 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty
shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to
the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain
offering;
68 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
69 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
70 one male goat for a purification offering;
71 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Ahiezer son of
Ammishaddai.
72 On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Ocran, the leader of the Asherites,
drew near.
73 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty
shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to
the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain
offering;
74 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
75 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
76 one male goat for a purification offering;

77 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Pagiel son of Ocran.
78 On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, the leader of the Naphtalites,
drew near.
79 His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty
shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to
the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain
offering;
80 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense;
81 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt
offering;
82 one male goat for a purification offering;
83 and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five
male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Ahira son of Enan.
84 So these were the offerings from the leaders of Israel for the
dedication of the altar when it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve
silver bowls, and twelve gold dishes.
85 Each silver platter weighed a hundred and thirty shekels, and each
silver bowl seventy shekels. The total weight of the silver articles was two
thousand four hundred shekels,§ according to the sanctuary shekel.
86 The twelve gold dishes filled with incense weighed ten shekels each,
according to the sanctuary shekel. The total weight of the gold dishes was
a hundred and twenty shekels.*
87 All the livestock for the burnt offering totaled twelve bulls, twelve
rams, and twelve male lambs a year old—together with their grain
offerings—and twelve male goats for the purification offering.
88 All the livestock sacrificed for the peace offering totaled twenty-four
bulls, sixty rams, sixty male goats, and sixty male lambs a year old. This
was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed.
89 When Moses entered the Tent of Meeting to speak with the LORD, he
heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above
the cover† on the ark of the Testimony.‡ Thus the LORD spoke to him.

8

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Speak to Aaron and tell him: ‘When you set up the seven lamps, they
are to light the area in front of the lampstand.’ ”
3 And Aaron did so; he set up the lamps facing toward the front of the
lampstand, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
4 This is how the lampstand was constructed: it was made of hammered
gold from its base to its blossoms, fashioned according to the pattern the
LORD had shown Moses.
5 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
6 “Take the Levites from among the Israelites and make them
ceremonially clean.
7 This is what you must do to cleanse them: Sprinkle them with the
water of purification. Have them shave their whole bodies and wash their
clothes, and so purify themselves.

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§ **7:85 7:85** *2,400 shekels* is approximately 60.3 pounds or 27.4 kilograms. * **7:86 7:86** *120 shekels* is approximately 3 pounds or 1.4 kilograms. † **7:89 7:89** Or *atonement cover* or *mercy seat*; Hebrew *kapporet* ‡ **7:89 7:89** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

8 Then have them take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour
mixed with oil, and you are to take a second young bull for a purification
offering.
9 Bring the Levites before the Tent of Meeting and assemble the whole
congregation of Israel.
10 You are to present the Levites before the LORD and have the Israelites
lay their hands upon them.
11 Aaron is to present the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering
from the sons of Israel, so that they may perform the service of the LORD.
12 And the Levites are to lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, and
offer to the LORD one as a purification offering and the other as a burnt
offering, to make atonement for the Levites.
13 You are to have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons and then
present them before the LORD as a wave offering.
14 In this way you shall separate the Levites from the rest of the
Israelites, and the Levites will belong to me.
15 After you have cleansed them and presented them as a wave offering,
they may come to serve at the Tent of Meeting.
16 For the Levites have been wholly given to me from among the sons of
Israel. I have taken them for myself in place of all who come first from the
womb, the firstborn of all the sons of Israel.
17 For every firstborn male in Israel is mine, both man and beast. I set
them apart for myself on the day I struck down all the firstborn in the
land of Egypt.
18 But I have taken the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the
sons of Israel.
19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from
among the Israelites, to perform the service for the Israelites at the Tent of
Meeting and to make atonement on their behalf, so that no plague will
come against the Israelites when they approach the sanctuary."
20 So Moses, Aaron, and the whole congregation of Israel did with the
Levites everything that the LORD had commanded Moses they should do.
21 The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes, and Aaron
presented them as a wave offering before the LORD. Aaron also made
atonement for them to cleanse them.
22 After that, the Levites came to perform their service at the Tent of
Meeting in the presence of Aaron and his sons. Thus they did with the
Levites just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
23 And the LORD said to Moses,
24 "This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years of age or older
shall enter to perform the service in the work at the Tent of Meeting.
25 But at the age of fifty, they must retire from performing the work and
no longer serve.
26 After that, they may assist their brothers in fulfilling their duties at
the Tent of Meeting, but they themselves are not to do the work. This is
how you are to assign responsibilities to the Levites."

9

1 In the first month of the second year after Israel had come out of the
land of Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai:
2 "The Israelites are to observe the Passover at its appointed time.

3 You are to observe it at the appointed time, at twilight on the
fourteenth* day of this month, in accordance with its statutes and
ordinances."
4 So Moses told the Israelites to observe the Passover,
5 and they did so in the Wilderness of Sinai, at twilight on the fourteenth
day of the first month. The Israelites did everything just as the LORD had
commanded Moses.
6 But there were some men who were unclean due to a dead body, so
they could not observe the Passover on that day. And they came before
Moses and Aaron that same day
7 and said to Moses, "We are unclean because of a dead body, but why
should we be excluded from presenting the LORD's offering with the other
Israelites at the appointed time?"
8 "Wait here until I find out what the LORD commands concerning you,"
Moses replied.
9 Then the LORD said to Moses,
10 "Tell the Israelites: 'When any one of you or your descendants is
unclean because of a dead body, or is away on a journey, he may still
observe the Passover to the LORD.
11 Such people are to observe it at twilight on the fourteenth day of the
second month. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread
and bitter herbs;
12 they may not leave any of it until morning or break any of its bones.
They must observe the Passover according to all its statutes.
13 But if a man who is ceremonially clean and is not on a journey still
fails to observe the Passover, he must be cut off from his people, because
he did not present the LORD's offering at its appointed time. That man will
bear the consequences of his sin.
14 If a foreigner dwelling among you wants to observe the Passover to
the LORD, he is to do so according to the Passover statute and its
ordinances. You are to apply the same statute to both the foreigner and
the native of the land.' "
15 On the day that the tabernacle, the Tent of the Testimony, was set up,
the cloud covered it and appeared like fire above the tabernacle from
evening until morning.
16 It remained that way continually; the cloud would cover the
tabernacle,† and at night it would appear like fire.
17 Whenever the cloud was lifted from above the Tent, the Israelites
would set out, and wherever the cloud settled, there the Israelites would
camp.
18 At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at the LORD's
command they camped. As long as the cloud remained over the
tabernacle, they remained encamped.
19 Even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the
Israelites kept the LORD's charge and did not set out.
20 Sometimes the cloud remained over the tabernacle for only a few
days, and they would camp at the LORD's command and set out at the
LORD's command.

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* **9:3 9:3** Hebrew *between the two evenings of the fourteenth*; also in verses 5 and 11 † **9:16 9:16** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate add *by day*

21 Sometimes the cloud remained only from evening until morning, and
when it lifted in the morning, they would set out. Whether it was by day
or by night, when the cloud was taken up, they would set out.
22 Whether the cloud lingered for two days, a month, or longer, the
Israelites camped and did not set out as long as the cloud remained over
the tabernacle; but when it was lifted, they would set out.
23 They camped at the LORD's command, and they set out at the LORD's
command; they carried out the LORD's charge according to his command
through Moses.

10

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Make two trumpets of hammered silver to be used for calling the
congregation and for having the camps set out.
3 When both are sounded, the whole congregation is to assemble before
you at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
4 But if only one is sounded, then the leaders, the heads of the clans of
Israel, are to gather before you.
5 When you sound short blasts, the camps that lie on the east side are to
set out.
6 When you sound the short blasts a second time, the camps that lie on
the south side are to set out. The blasts are to signal them to set out.
7 To convene the assembly, you are to sound long blasts, not short ones.
8 The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to sound the trumpets. This shall be
a permanent statute for you and the generations to come.
9 When you enter into battle in your land against an adversary who
attacks you, sound short blasts on the trumpets, and you will be
remembered before the LORD your God and saved from your enemies.
10 And on your joyous occasions, your appointed feasts, and the
beginning of each month, you are to blow the trumpets over your burnt
offerings and peace offerings to serve as a reminder for you before your
God. I am the LORD your God."
11 On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the
cloud was lifted from above the tabernacle of the Testimony,
12 and the Israelites set out from the Wilderness of Sinai, traveling from
place to place until the cloud settled in the Wilderness of Paran.
13 They set out this first time according to the LORD's command through
Moses.
14 First, the divisions of the camp of Judah set out under their standard,
with Nahshon son of Amminadab in command.
15 Nethanel son of Zuar was over the division of the tribe of Issachar,
16 and Eliab son of Helon was over the division of the tribe of Zebulun.
17 Then the tabernacle was taken down, and the Gershonites and the
Merarites set out, transporting it.
18 Then the divisions of the camp of Reuben set out under their
standard, with Elizur son of Shedeur in command.
19 Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai was over the division of the tribe of
Simeon,
20 and Eliasaph son of Deuel was over the division of the tribe of Gad.
21 Then the Kohathites set out, transporting the holy objects; the
tabernacle was to be set up before their arrival.
22 Next, the divisions of the camp of Ephraim set out under their
standard, with Elishama son of Ammihud in command.

23 Gamaliel son of Pedahzur was over the division of the tribe of
Manasseh,
24 and Abidan son of Gideoni was over the division of the tribe of
Benjamin.
25 Finally, the divisions of the camp of Dan set out under their standard,
serving as the rear guard for all units, with Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai
in command.
26 Pagiel son of Ocran was over the division of the tribe of Asher,
27 and Ahira son of Enan was over the division of the tribe of Naphtali.
28 This was the order of march for the Israelite divisions as they set out.
29 Then Moses said to Hobab, the son of Moses' father-in-law Reuel* the
Midianite, "We are setting out for the place of which the LORD said: 'I will
give it to you.' Come with us, and we will treat you well, for the LORD has
promised good things to Israel."
30 "I will not go," Hobab replied. "Instead, I am going back to my own
land and my own people."
31 "Please do not leave us," Moses said, "since you know where we should
camp in the wilderness, and you can serve as our eyes.
32 If you come with us, we will share with you whatever good things the
LORD gives us."
33 So they set out on a three-day journey from the mountain of the
LORD, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD traveling ahead of them
for those three days to seek a resting place for them.
34 And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out
from the camp.
35 Whenever the ark set out, Moses would say,

"Rise up, O LORD!
May your enemies be scattered;
may those who hate you flee before you."
36 And when it came to rest, he would say:

"Return, O LORD,
to the countless thousands of Israel."

11

1 Soon the people began to complain about their hardship in the hearing
of the LORD, and when he heard them, his anger was kindled, and fire
from the LORD blazed among them and consumed the outskirts of the
camp.
2 And the people cried out to Moses, and he prayed to the LORD, and the
fire died down.
3 So that place was called Taberah,* because the fire of the LORD had
burned among them.
4 Meanwhile, the rabble among them had a strong craving for other
food, and again the Israelites wept and said, "Who will feed us meat?
5 We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt, along with the
cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic.
6 But now our appetite is gone; there is nothing to see but this manna!"
7 Now the manna resembled coriander seed, and its appearance was like
that of gum resin.

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* **10:29 10:29** *Reuel* was also called *Jethro*; see Exodus 3:1. * **11:3 11:3** *Taberah* means *burning*.

8 The people walked around and gathered it, ground it on a handmill or
crushed it in a mortar, then boiled it in a cooking pot or shaped it into
cakes. It tasted like pastry baked with fine oil.
9 When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it.
10 Then Moses heard the people of family after family weeping at the
entrances to their tents, and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly,
and Moses was also displeased.
11 So Moses asked the LORD, “Why have you brought this trouble on
your servant? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you have laid
upon me the burden of all these people?
12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth, so that you
should tell me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries an infant,’ to
the land that you swore to give their fathers?
13 Where can I get meat for all these people? For they keep crying out to
me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’
14 I cannot carry all these people by myself; it is too burdensome for me.
15 If this is how you are going to treat me, please kill me right now—if I
have found favor in your eyes—and let me not see my own wretchedness.”
16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Bring me seventy of the elders of Israel
known to you as leaders and officers of the people. Bring them to the Tent
of Meeting and have them stand there with you.
17 And I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some
of the spirit that is on you and put that spirit on them. They will help you
bear the burden of the people, so that you do not have to bear it by
yourself.
18 And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you
will eat meat, because you have cried out in the hearing of the LORD,
saying: ‘Who will feed us meat? For we were better off in Egypt!’
Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat.
19 You will eat it not for one or two days, nor for five or ten or twenty
days,
20 but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and makes
you nauseous—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you,
and have cried out before him, saying, ‘Why did we ever leave Egypt?’ ”
21 But Moses replied, “Here I am among 600,000 men on foot, yet you say,
‘I will give them meat, and they will eat for a month.’
22 If all our flocks and herds were slaughtered for them, would they
have enough? Or if all the fish in the sea were caught for them, would
they have enough?”
23 The LORD answered Moses, “Is the LORD’s arm too short? Now you
will see whether or not my word will come to pass.”
24 So Moses went out and relayed to the people the words of the LORD,
and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and had them stand
around the tent.
25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and he took
some of the spirit that was on Moses and placed that spirit on the seventy
elders. As the spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but they never did
so again.
26 Two men, however, had remained in the camp—one named Eldad and
the other Medad—and the spirit rested on them. They were among those

listed, but they had not gone out to the tent, and they prophesied in the camp.
27 A young man ran and reported to Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”
28 Joshua son of Nun, the attendant to Moses since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!”
29 But Moses replied, “Are you jealous on my account? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would place his spirit on them!”
30 Then Moses returned to the camp, along with the elders of Israel.
31 Now a wind sent by the LORD came up, drove in quail from the sea, and brought them near the camp, up to two cubits deep,† for a day’s journey in every direction around the camp.
32 All that day and night, and all the next day, the people stayed up gathering the quail. No one gathered less than ten homers,‡ and they spread them out all around the camp.
33 But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and the LORD struck them with a very severe plague.
34 So they called that place Kibroth-hattaavah,§ because there they buried the people who had craved other food.
35 From Kibroth-hattaavah the people moved on to Hazeroth, where they remained for some time.

12

1 Then Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married, for he had taken a Cushite wife.
2 “Does the LORD speak only through Moses?” they said. “Does he not also speak through us?” And the LORD heard this.
3 Now Moses was a very humble man, more so than any man on the face of the earth.
4 And suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “You three, come out to the Tent of Meeting.” So the three went out,
5 and the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the Tent, and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them had stepped forward,
6 he said, “Hear now my words:

If there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, will reveal myself to him in a vision;
I will speak to him in a dream.
7 But this is not so with my servant Moses;
he is faithful in all my house.
8 I speak with him face to face,
clearly and not in riddles;
he sees the form of the LORD.
Why then were you unafraid to speak against my servant Moses?”
9 So the anger of the LORD burned against them, and he departed.

† **11:31 11:31** Or *about two cubits above the surface of the ground*; that is, approximately 3 feet or 91.4 centimeters ‡ **11:32 11:32** *10 homers* is approximately 62.4 bushels or 2,200 liters. § **11:34 11:34** *Kibroth-hattaavah* means *graves of craving*.

10 As the cloud lifted from above the Tent, suddenly Miriam became
leprous,* white as snow. Aaron turned toward her, saw that she was
leprous,
11 and said to Moses, “My lord, please do not hold against us this sin we
have so foolishly committed.
12 Please do not let her be like a stillborn infant whose flesh is half
consumed when he comes out of his mother’s womb.”
13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, “O God, please heal her!”
14 But the LORD answered Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face,
would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Let her be confined
outside the camp for seven days; after that she may be brought back in.”
15 So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the
people did not move on until she was brought in again.
16 After that, the people set out from Hazeroth and camped in the
Wilderness of Paran.

13

1 And the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Send out for yourself men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am
giving to the Israelites. From each of their fathers’ tribes send one man
who is a leader among them.”
3 So at the command* of the LORD, Moses sent them out from the
Wilderness of Paran. All the men were leaders of the Israelites,
4 and these were their names:

From the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zaccur;
5 from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori;
6 from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh;
7 from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph;
8 from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun;
9 from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu;
10 from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi;
11 from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi;
12 from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli;
13 from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael;
14 from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi;
15 and from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Machi.
16 These were the names of the men Moses sent to spy out the land; and
Moses gave to Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.
17 When Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he told them,
“Go up through the Negev and into the hill country.
18 See what the land is like and whether its people are strong or weak,
few or many.
19 Is the land where they live good or bad? Are the cities where they
dwell open camps or fortifications?
20 Is the soil fertile or unproductive? Are there trees in it or not? Be
courageous and bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the
season for the first ripe grapes.)
21 So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as
far as Rehob, toward Lebo-hamath.

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* **12:10** **12:10** The Hebrew word traditionally translated as *leprous* was used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13. * **13:3** **13:3** Literally *according to the mouth*

22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman,
Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, dwelled. It had been built
seven years before Zoan in Egypt.
23 When they came to the Valley of Eshcol,† they cut down a branch with
a single cluster of grapes, which they carried on a pole between two men.
They also took some pomegranates and figs.
24 Because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut there, that place was
called the Valley of Eshcol.
25 After forty days the men returned from spying out the land,
26 and they went back to Moses, Aaron, and the whole congregation of
Israel in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh. They brought back a report
for the whole congregation and showed them the fruit of the land.
27 And they gave this account to Moses: "We went into the land to which
you sent us, and indeed, it is flowing with milk and honey. Here is some of
its fruit!
28 Nevertheless, the people living in the land are strong, and the cities
are large and fortified. We even saw the descendants of Anak there.
29 The Amalekites live in the land of the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites,
and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea
and along the Jordan."
30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We must go up
and take possession of the land, for we can certainly conquer it!"
31 But the men who had gone up with him replied, "We cannot go up
against the people, for they are stronger than we are!"
32 So they gave the Israelites a bad report about the land that they had
spied out: "The land we explored devours its inhabitants, and all the
people we saw there are great in stature.
33 We even saw the Nephilim there—the descendants of Anak that come
from the Nephilim! We seemed like grasshoppers in our own sight, and
we must have seemed the same to them!"

14

1 Then the whole congregation lifted up their voices and cried out, and
that night the people wept.
2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole
congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if
only we had died in this wilderness!
3 Why is the LORD bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our
wives and children will become plunder. Would it not be better for us to
go back to Egypt?"
4 So they said to one another, "Let us appoint a leader and return to
Egypt."
5 Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown before the whole assembly of the
congregation of Israel.
6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those
who had spied out the land, tore their clothes
7 and said to the whole congregation of Israel, "The land we passed
through and explored is an exceedingly good land.
8 If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land, a land
flowing with milk and honey, and he will give it to us.

† **13:23 13:23** *Eshcol* means *cluster*; also in verse 24.

9 Only do not rebel against the LORD, and do not be afraid of the people
of the land, for they will be like bread for us. Their protection has been
removed, and the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them!"
10 But the whole congregation threatened to stone Joshua and Caleb.
Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites at the Tent of
Meeting.
11 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people treat me with
contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, despite all the signs
I have performed among them?
12 I will strike them with a plague and destroy them—and I will make
you into a nation greater and mightier than they are."
13 But Moses said to the LORD, "The Egyptians will hear of it, for by your
strength you brought this people from among them.
14 And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have already
heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people, that you, O LORD,
have been seen face to face, that your cloud stands over them, and that
you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
15 If you kill this people as one man, the nations who have heard of your
fame will say,
16 'Because the LORD was unable to bring this people into the land he
swore to give them, he has slaughtered them in the wilderness.'
17 So now I pray, may the power of my Lord be magnified, just as you
have declared:
18 'The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in loving devotion,*
forgiving iniquity and transgression. Yet he will by no means leave the
guilty unpunished; he will visit the iniquity of the fathers upon their
children to the third and fourth generation.'
19 Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people, in keeping with the
greatness of your loving devotion, just as you have forgiven them ever
since they left Egypt."
20 "I have pardoned them as you requested," the LORD replied.
21 "Yet as surely as I live and as surely as the whole earth is filled with
the glory of the LORD,
22 not one of the men who have seen my glory and the signs I performed
in Egypt and in the wilderness—yet have tested me and disobeyed me
these ten times—
23 not one will ever see the land that I swore to give their fathers. None
of those who have treated me with contempt will see it.
24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and has followed
me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he has entered, and his
descendants will inherit it.
25 Now since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the valleys,
turn back tomorrow and head for the wilderness along the route to the
Sea of Reeds.†"
26 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
27 "How long will this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have
heard the complaints that the Israelites are making against me.
28 So tell them: As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you
exactly as I heard you say.

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* **14:18 14:18** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. † **14:25 14:25** Or *the Red Sea*

29 Your bodies will fall in this wilderness—all who were numbered in
the census, everyone twenty years of age or older—because you have
grumbled against me.
30 Surely none of you will enter the land in which I swore to settle you,
except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.
31 But I will bring your children, whom you said would become plunder,
into the land you have rejected—and they will enjoy it.
32 As for you, however, your bodies will fall in this wilderness.
33 Your children will be shepherds in the wilderness for forty years, and
they will suffer for your unfaithfulness until the last of your bodies lies in
the wilderness.
34 In keeping with the forty days you spied out the land, you shall bear
your guilt forty years—a year for each day—and you will experience my
alienation.
35 I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this
entire wicked congregation, which has conspired against me. They will
meet their end in the wilderness, and there they will die."
36 So the men Moses had sent to spy out the land, who had returned and
made the whole congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad
report about the land—
37 those men who had brought out the bad report about the land—were
struck down by a plague before the LORD.
38 Of those men who had gone to spy out the land, only Joshua son of
Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh remained alive.
39 And when Moses relayed these words to all the Israelites, the people
mourned bitterly.
40 Early the next morning they got up and went up toward the ridge of
the hill country. "We have indeed sinned," they said, "but we will go to the
place the LORD has promised."
41 But Moses said, "Why are you transgressing the commandment of the
LORD? This will not succeed!
42 Do not go up, lest you be struck down by your enemies, because the
LORD is not among you.
43 For there the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you, and you will
fall by the sword. Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will
not be with you."
44 But they dared to go up to the ridge of the hill country, though neither
Moses nor the ark of the covenant of the LORD moved from the camp.
45 Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that part of the hill
country came down, attacked them, and routed them all the way to
Hormah.

15

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: After you enter the land that I
am giving you as a home
3 and you present a food offering to the LORD from the herd or flock to
produce a pleasing aroma to the LORD—either a burnt offering or a
sacrifice, for a special vow or freewill offering or appointed feast—

4 then the one presenting his offering to the LORD shall also present a
grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour* mixed with a quarter
hin of olive oil.†
5 With the burnt offering or sacrifice of each lamb, you are to prepare a
quarter hin of wine as a drink offering.
6 With a ram you are to prepare a grain offering of two-tenths of an
ephah‡ of fine flour mixed with a third of a hin of olive oil,§
7 and a third of a hin of wine as a drink offering, a pleasing aroma to the
LORD.
8 When you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering or sacrifice to fulfill
a vow or as a peace offering to the LORD,
9 present with the bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of
fine flour* mixed with half a hin of olive oil.†
10 Also present half a hin of wine as a drink offering. It is a food offering,
a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
11 This is to be done for each bull, ram, lamb, or goat.
12 This is how you must prepare each one, no matter how many.
13 Everyone who is native-born shall prepare these things in this way
when he presents a food offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
14 And for the generations to come, if a foreigner residing with you or
someone else among you wants to prepare a food offering as a pleasing
aroma to the LORD, he is to do exactly as you do.
15 The assembly is to have the same statute both for you and for the
foreign resident; it is a permanent statute for the generations to come. You
and the foreigner shall be the same before the LORD.
16 The same law and the same ordinance will apply both to you and to
the foreigner residing with you."
17 Then the LORD said to Moses,
18 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land to
which I am bringing you
19 and you eat the food of the land, you shall lift up an offering to the
LORD.
20 From the first of your dough, you are to lift up a cake as a
contribution; offer it just like an offering from the threshing floor.
21 Throughout your generations, you are to give the LORD an offering
from the first of your dough.
22 Now if you stray unintentionally and do not obey all these
commandments that the LORD has spoken to Moses—
23 all that the LORD has commanded you through Moses from the day
the LORD gave them and continuing through the generations to come—
24 and if it was done unintentionally without the knowledge of the
congregation, then the whole congregation is to prepare one young bull as
a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering and

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* **15:4 15:4** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour). † **15:4 15:4** Or *a quarter hin of oil*; that is, approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters; similarly in verse 5 ‡ **15:6 15:6** *Two-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters (probably about 5.1 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of flour). § **15:6 15:6** Or *a third of a hin of oil*; that is, approximately 1.3 quarts or 1.2 liters; similarly in verse 7 * **15:9 15:9** *Three-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 6 dry quarts or 6.6 liters (probably about 7.6 pounds or 3.5 kilograms of flour). † **15:9 15:9** Or *half a hin of oil*; that is, approximately 1.9 quarts or 1.8 liters; similarly in verse 10

drink offering according to the regulation, and one male goat as a purification offering.

25 The priest is to make atonement for the whole congregation of Israel,
so that they may be forgiven; for the sin was unintentional and they have
brought to the LORD a food offering and a purification offering, presented
before the LORD for their unintentional sin.
26 Then the whole congregation of Israel and the foreigners residing
among them will be forgiven, since it happened to all the people
unintentionally.

27 Also, if one person sins unintentionally, he is to present a year-old
female goat as a purification offering.
28 And the priest shall make atonement before the LORD on behalf of the
person who erred by sinning unintentionally; and when atonement has
been made for him, he will be forgiven.
29 You shall have the same law for the one who acts in error, whether he
is a native-born Israelite or a foreigner residing among you.

30 But the person who sins defiantly, whether a native or foreigner,
blasphemes the LORD. That person shall be cut off from among his people.
31 He shall certainly be cut off, because he has despised the word of the
LORD and broken his commandment; his guilt remains on him."

32 While the Israelites were in the wilderness, a man was found
gathering wood on the Sabbath day.
33 Those who found the man gathering wood brought him to Moses,
Aaron, and the whole congregation,
34 and because it had not been declared what should be done to him,
they placed him in custody.

35 And the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death.
The whole congregation is to stone him outside the camp."

36 So the whole congregation took the man outside the camp and stoned
him to death, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

37 And the LORD said to Moses,
38 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them that throughout the generations
to come they are to make for themselves tassels for the corners of their
garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.
39 These will serve as tassels for you to look at, so that you may
remember all the commandments of the LORD, that you may obey them
and not prostitute yourselves by following your own heart and your own
eyes.

40 Then you will remember and obey all my commandments, and you
will be holy to your God.
41 I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to
be your God. I am the LORD your God."

16

1 Now Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath son of Levi, along with some
Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of
Peleth—conducted
2 a rebellion against Moses, along with 250 men of Israel renowned as
leaders of the congregation and representatives in the assembly.

3 They came together against Moses and Aaron and told them, “You have
taken too much upon yourselves!* For everyone in the entire
congregation is holy, and the LORD is in their midst. Why then do you
exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”
4 When Moses heard this, he fell facedown.
5 Then he said to Korah and all his followers, “Tomorrow morning the
LORD will reveal who belongs to him† and who is holy, and he will bring
that person near to himself. The one he chooses he will bring near to
himself.
6 You, Korah, and all your followers are to do as follows: Take censers,
7 and tomorrow you are to place fire and incense in them in the presence
of the LORD. Then the man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy.
It is you sons of Levi who have taken too much upon yourselves!”
8 Moses also said to Korah, “Now listen, you sons of Levi!
9 Is it not enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from
the congregation of Israel and brought you near to himself to perform the
work at the LORD’s tabernacle, and to stand before the congregation to
minister to them?
10 He has brought you near, you and all your fellow Levites, but you are
seeking the priesthood as well.
11 Therefore, it is you and all your followers who have conspired against
the LORD! As for Aaron, who is he that you should grumble against him?”
12 Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but
they said, “We will not come!
13 Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing
with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? Must you also appoint
yourself as ruler over us?
14 Moreover, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and
honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you gouge
out the eyes of these men? No, we will not come!”
15 Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, “Do not regard
their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them or mistreated a
single one of them.”
16 And Moses said to Korah, “You and all your followers are to appear
before the LORD tomorrow—you and they and Aaron.
17 Each man is to take his censer, place incense in it, and present it
before the LORD—250 censers. You and Aaron are to present your censers
as well.”
18 So each man took his censer, put fire and incense in it, and stood with
Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
19 When Korah had gathered his whole assembly against them at the
entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the
whole congregation.
20 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
21 “Separate yourselves from this congregation so that I may consume
them in an instant.”
22 But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and said, “O God, the God of the
spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will you be angry with the whole
congregation?”

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* **16:3** **16:3** Figuratively *you have gone too far* or *you have appropriated too much authority to yourselves*; similarly in verse 7 † **16:5** **16:5** LXX *God has visited and knows those who are his*

23 Then the LORD said to Moses,
24 “Tell the congregation to move away from the dwellings of Korah,
Dathan, and Abiram.”
25 So Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of
Israel followed him.
26 And he warned the congregation, “Move away now from the tents of
these wicked men. Do not touch anything that belongs to them, or you will
be swept away because of all their sins.”
27 So they moved away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and
Abiram. Meanwhile, Dathan and Abiram had come out and stood at the
entrances to their tents with their wives and children and infants.
28 Then Moses said, “This is how you will know that the LORD has sent
me to do all these things, for it was not my own doing:
29 If these men die a natural death, or if they suffer the fate of all men,
then the LORD has not sent me.
30 But if the LORD brings about something unprecedented, and the earth
opens its mouth and swallows them and all that belongs to them so that
they go down alive into Sheol, then you will know that these men have
treated the LORD with contempt.”
31 As soon as Moses had finished saying all this, the ground beneath
them split open,
32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their
households—all Korah’s men and all their possessions.
33 They went down alive into Sheol with all they owned. The earth
closed over them, and they vanished from the assembly.
34 At their cries, all the people of Israel who were around them fled,
saying, “The earth may swallow us too!”
35 And fire came forth from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who
were offering the incense.

17

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Tell Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to remove the censers from the
flames and to scatter the coals far away, because the censers are holy.
3 As for the censers of those who sinned at the cost of their own lives,
hammer them into sheets to overlay the altar, for these were presented
before the LORD, and so have become holy. They will serve as a sign to the
Israelites.”
4 So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers brought by those who
had been burned up, and he had them hammered out to overlay the altar,
5 just as the LORD commanded him through Moses. This was to be a
reminder to the Israelites that no outsider who is not a descendant of
Aaron should approach to offer incense before the LORD, lest he become
like Korah and his followers.
6 The next day the whole congregation of Israel grumbled against Moses
and Aaron, saying, “You have killed the LORD’s people!”
7 But when the congregation gathered against them, Moses and Aaron
turned toward the Tent of Meeting, and suddenly the cloud covered it and
the glory of the LORD appeared.
8 Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the Tent of Meeting,
9 and the LORD said to Moses,
10 “Get away from this congregation so that I may consume them in an
instant.” And Moses and Aaron fell facedown.

11 Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, place fire from the altar in it,
and add incense. Go quickly to the congregation and make atonement for
them, because wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has begun.”
12 So Aaron took the censer as Moses had ordered and ran into the midst
of the assembly. And seeing that the plague had begun among the people,
he offered the incense and made atonement for the people.
13 He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague was halted.
14 But those who died from the plague numbered 14,700, in addition to
those who had died on account of Korah.
15 Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting,
since the plague had been halted.
16 And the LORD said to Moses,
17 “Speak to the Israelites and take from them twelve staffs, one from the
leader of each tribe. Write each man’s name on his staff,
18 and write Aaron’s name on the staff of Levi, because there must be
one staff for the head of each tribe.
19 Place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Testimony,*
where I meet with you.
20 The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid
myself of the constant grumbling of the Israelites against you.”
21 So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and each of their leaders gave him a
staff—one for each of the leaders of their tribes, twelve staffs in all. And
Aaron’s staff was among them.
22 Then Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the
Testimony.
23 The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Testimony and saw that
Aaron’s staff, representing the house of Levi, had sprouted, put forth buds,
blossomed, and produced almonds.
24 Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD’s presence to all
the Israelites. They saw them, and each man took his own staff.
25 The LORD said to Moses, “Put Aaron’s staff back in front of the
Testimony, to be kept as a sign for the rebellious, so that you may put an
end to their grumbling against me, lest they die.”
26 So Moses did as the LORD had commanded him.
27 Then the Israelites declared to Moses, “Look, we are perishing! We are
lost; we are all lost!
28 Anyone who comes near the tabernacle of the LORD will die. Are we
all going to perish?”

18

1 So the LORD said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your father’s house
must bear the iniquity involving the sanctuary. And you and your sons
alone must bear the iniquity involving your priesthood.
2 But bring with you also your brothers from the tribe of Levi, the tribe
of your father, that they may join you and assist you and your sons before
the Tent of the Testimony.
3 And they shall attend to your duties and to all the duties of the Tent;
but they must not come near to the furnishings of the sanctuary or the
altar, or both they and you will die.

* **17:19 17:19** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments; also in verse 25.

4 They are to join you and attend to the duties of the Tent of Meeting,
doing all the work at the Tent; but no outsider may come near you.
5 And you shall attend to the duties of the sanctuary and of the altar, so
that wrath may not fall on the Israelites again.
6 Behold, I myself have selected your fellow Levites from the Israelites
as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD to perform the service for the Tent
of Meeting.
7 But only you and your sons shall attend to your priesthood for
everything concerning the altar and what is inside the veil, and you are to
perform that service. I am giving you the work of the priesthood as a gift,
but any outsider who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death."
8 Then the LORD said to Aaron, "Behold, I have put you in charge of my
offerings. As for all the sacred offerings of the Israelites, I have given them
to you and your sons as a portion and a permanent statute.
9 A portion of the most holy offerings reserved from the fire will be
yours. From all the offerings they render to me as most holy offerings,
whether grain offerings or purification offerings or guilt offerings, that
part belongs to you and your sons.
10 You are to eat it as a most holy offering,* and every male may eat it.
You shall regard it as holy.
11 And this is yours as well: the offering of their gifts, along with all the
wave offerings of the Israelites. I have given this to you and your sons and
daughters as a permanent statute. Every ceremonially clean person in
your household may eat it.
12 I give you all the freshest olive oil and all the finest new wine and
grain that the Israelites give to the LORD as their firstfruits.
13 The firstfruits of everything in their land that they bring to the LORD
will belong to you. Every ceremonially clean person in your household
may eat them.
14 Every devoted thing in Israel belongs to you.
15 The firstborn of every womb, whether man or beast, that is offered to
the LORD belongs to you. But you must surely redeem every firstborn son
and every firstborn male of unclean animals.
16 You are to pay the redemption price for a month-old male according
to your valuation: five shekels of silver,† according to the sanctuary shekel,
which is twenty gerahs.‡
17 But you must not redeem the firstborn of an ox, a sheep, or a goat;
they are holy. You are to splatter their blood on the altar and burn their
fat as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
18 And their meat belongs to you, just as the breast and right thigh of the
wave offering belong to you.
19 All the holy offerings that the Israelites present to the LORD I give to
you and to your sons and daughters as a permanent statute. It is a
permanent covenant of salt§ before the LORD for you and your offspring."
20 Then the LORD said to Aaron, "You will have no inheritance in their
land, nor will you have any portion among them. I am your portion and
your inheritance among the Israelites.

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* **18:10 18:10** Or *you are to eat it in a most holy place* † **18:16 18:16** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams of silver. ‡ **18:16 18:16** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams). § **18:19 18:19** That is, a perpetual covenant

21 Behold, I have given to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as an
inheritance in return for the work they do, the service of the Tent of
Meeting.
22 No longer may the Israelites come near to the Tent of Meeting, or they
will incur guilt and die.
23 The Levites are to perform the work of the Tent of Meeting, and they
must bear their iniquity. This is a permanent statute for the generations to
come. The Levites will not receive an inheritance among the Israelites.
24 For I have given to the Levites as their inheritance the tithe that the
Israelites present to the LORD as a contribution. That is why I told them
that they would not receive an inheritance among the Israelites."
25 And the LORD instructed Moses,
26 "Speak to the Levites and tell them: 'When you receive from the
Israelites the tithe that I have given you as your inheritance, you must
present part of it as an offering to the LORD—a tithe of the tithe.
27 Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing
floor or juice from the winepress.
28 So you are to present an offering to the LORD from all the tithes you
receive from the Israelites, and from these you are to give the LORD's
offering to Aaron the priest.
29 You must present the offering due the LORD from all the best of every
gift, the holiest part of it.'
30 Therefore say to the Levites, 'When you have presented the best part,
it will be reckoned to you as the produce of the threshing floor or
winepress.
31 And you and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere; it is the
compensation for your work at the Tent of Meeting.
32 Once you have presented the best part of it, you will not incur guilt
because of it. But you must not defile the sacred offerings of the Israelites,
or else you will die.' "

19

1 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
2 "This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded: Instruct
the Israelites to bring you an unblemished red heifer that has no defect
and has never been placed under a yoke.
3 Give it to Eleazar the priest, and he will have it brought outside the
camp and slaughtered in his presence.
4 Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle
it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting.
5 Then the heifer must be burned in his sight. Its hide, its flesh, and its
blood are to be burned, along with its dung.
6 The priest is to take cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet wool and throw
them onto the burning heifer.
7 Then the priest must wash his clothes and bathe his body in water;
after that he may enter the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean
until evening.
8 The one who burned the heifer must also wash his clothes and bathe
his body in water, and he too will be ceremonially unclean until evening.
9 Then a man who is ceremonially clean is to gather up the ashes of the
heifer and store them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp.

They must be kept by the congregation of Israel for preparing the water of purification; this is for purification from sin.
10 The man who has gathered up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he will be ceremonially unclean until evening. This is a permanent statute for the Israelites and for the foreigner residing among them.
11 Whoever touches any dead body will be unclean for seven days.
12 He must purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third and seventh days, he will not be clean.
13 Anyone who touches a human corpse and fails to purify himself defiles the tabernacle of the LORD. That person must be cut off from Israel. He remains unclean, because the water of purification has not been sprinkled on him, and his uncleanness is still on him.
14 This is the law when a person dies in a tent: Everyone who enters the tent and everyone already in the tent will be unclean for seven days,
15 and any open container without a lid fastened on it is unclean.
16 Anyone in the open field who touches someone who has been killed by the sword or has died of natural causes, or anyone who touches a human bone or a grave, will be unclean for seven days.
17 For the purification of the unclean person, take some of the ashes of the burnt purification offering, put them in a jar, and pour fresh water* over them.
18 Then a man who is ceremonially clean is to take some hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle the tent, all the furnishings, and the people who were there. He is also to sprinkle the one who touched a bone, a grave, or a person who has died or been slain.
19 The man who is ceremonially clean is to sprinkle the unclean person on the third day and on the seventh day. After he purifies the unclean person on the seventh day, the one being cleansed must wash his clothes and bathe in water, and that evening he will be clean.
20 But if a person who is unclean does not purify himself, he will be cut off from the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water of purification has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean.
21 This is a permanent statute for the people: The one who sprinkles the water of purification must wash his clothes, and whoever touches the water of purification will be unclean until evening.
22 Anything the unclean person touches will become unclean, and anyone who touches it will be unclean until evening."

20

1 In the first month, the whole congregation of Israel entered the Wilderness of Zin and stayed in Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.
2 Now there was no water for the congregation, so they gathered against Moses and Aaron.
3 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had perished with our brothers before the LORD!
4 Why have you brought the LORD's assembly into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here?

* **19:17 19:17** Or *flowing water* or *living water*

5 Why have you led us up out of Egypt to bring us to this wretched
place? It is not a place of grain, figs, vines, or pomegranates—and there is
no water to drink!"
6 Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the
entrance to the Tent of Meeting. They fell facedown, and the glory of the
LORD appeared to them.
7 And the LORD said to Moses,
8 "Take the staff and assemble the congregation. You and your brother
Aaron are to speak to the rock while they watch, and it will pour out its
water. You will bring out water from the rock and provide drink for the
congregation and their livestock."
9 So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he had been
commanded.
10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly in front of the rock,
and Moses said to them, "Listen now, you rebels, must we bring you water
out of this rock?"
11 Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff, so
that a great amount of water gushed out, and the congregation and their
livestock were able to drink.
12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust me
to show my holiness in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this
assembly into the land that I have given them."
13 These were the waters of Meribah,* where the Israelites quarreled
with the LORD, and he showed his holiness among them.
14 From Kadesh, Moses sent messengers to tell the king of Edom, "This is
what your brother Israel says: You know all the hardship that has befallen
us,
15 how our fathers went down to Egypt, where we lived many years. The
Egyptians mistreated us and our fathers,
16 and when we cried out to the LORD, he heard our voice, sent an angel,
and brought us out of Egypt.
Now look, we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory.
17 Please let us pass through your land. We will not go through any field
or vineyard, or drink water from any well. We will stay on the King's
Highway; we will not turn to the right or to the left until we have passed
through your territory."
18 But Edom answered, "You may not travel through our land, or we will
come out and confront you with the sword."
19 "We will stay on the main road," the Israelites replied, "and if we or
our herds drink your water, we will pay for it. There will be no problem;
only let us pass through on foot."
20 But Edom insisted, "You may not pass through." And they came out to
confront the Israelites with a large army and a strong hand.
21 So Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through their territory, and
Israel turned away from them.
22 After they had set out from Kadesh, the whole congregation of Israel
came to Mount Hor.
23 And at Mount Hor, near the border of the land of Edom, the LORD said
to Moses and Aaron,

* **20:13 20:13** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; also in verse 24; see Exodus 17:7.

24 “Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will not enter the land that I
have given the Israelites, because both of you rebelled against my
command at the waters of Meribah.
25 Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up Mount Hor.
26 Remove Aaron’s priestly garments and put them on his son Eleazar.
Aaron will be gathered to his people and will die there.”
27 So Moses did as the LORD had commanded, and they climbed Mount
Hor in the sight of the whole congregation.
28 After Moses had removed Aaron’s garments and put them on his son
Eleazar, Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar
came down from the mountain.
29 When the whole congregation saw that Aaron had died, the entire
house of Israel mourned for him thirty days.

21

1 When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that
Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked Israel and
captured some prisoners.
2 So Israel made a vow to the LORD: “If you will deliver this people into
our hands, we will devote their cities to destruction.*”
3 And the LORD heard Israel’s plea and delivered up the Canaanites.
Israel devoted them and their cities to destruction; so they named the
place Hormah.†
4 Then they set out from Mount Hor along the route to the Sea of Reeds,‡
in order to bypass the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient on the
journey
5 and spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you led us up out
of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread or water, and we
detest this wretched food!”
6 So the LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and many of the
Israelites were bitten and died.
7 Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking
against the LORD and against you. Intercede with the LORD so he will take
the snakes away from us.” So Moses interceded for the people.
8 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and mount it on a
pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.”
9 So Moses made a bronze snake and mounted it on a pole. If anyone
who was bitten looked at the bronze snake, he would live.
10 Then the Israelites set out and camped at Oboth.
11 They journeyed from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim in the
wilderness opposite Moab to the east.
12 From there they set out and camped in the Valley of Zered.
13 From there they moved on and camped on the other side of the
Arnon, in the wilderness that extends into the Amorite territory.
Now the Arnon is the border between the Moabites and the Amorites.
14 Therefore it is stated in the Book of the Wars of the LORD:

“Waheb in Suphah
and the wadis of the Arnon,

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* **21:2 21:2** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verse 3. † **21:3 21:3** *Hormah* means *destruction.* ‡ **21:4 21:4** Or *the Red Sea*

15 even the slopes of the wadis
that extend to the site of Ar
and lie along the border of Moab."
16 From there they went on to Beer,§ the well where the LORD said to
Moses, "Gather the people so that I may give them water."
17 Then Israel sang this song:

"Spring up, O well,
all of you sing to it!
18 The princes dug the well;
the nobles of the people hollowed it out
with their scepters
and with their staffs."
From the wilderness the Israelites went on to Mattanah,
19 and from Mattanah to Nahaliel, and from Nahaliel to Bamoth,
20 and from Bamoth to the valley in Moab where the top of Pisgah
overlooks the wasteland.*
21 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,
22 "Let us pass through your land. We will not turn aside into any field
or vineyard, or drink water from any well. We will stay on the King's
Highway until we have passed through your territory."
23 But Sihon would not let Israel pass through his territory. Instead, he
gathered his whole army and went out to confront Israel in the
wilderness. When he came to Jahaz,† he fought against Israel.
24 And Israel put him to the sword and took possession of his land, from
the Arnon to the Jabbok—but only up to the border of the Ammonites,
because it was fortified.‡
25 Israel captured all the cities of the Amorites and occupied them,
including Heshbon and all its villages.
26 Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought
against the former king of Moab and taken all his land as far as the Arnon.
27 That is why the poets say:

"Come to Heshbon, let it be rebuilt;
let the city of Sihon be restored.
28 For a fire went out from Heshbon,
a blaze from the city of Sihon.
It consumed Ar of Moab,
the rulers of Arnon's heights.
29 Woe to you, O Moab!
You are destroyed, O people of Chemosh!
He gave up his sons as refugees,
and his daughters into captivity
to Sihon king of the Amorites.
30 But we have overthrown them;
Heshbon is destroyed as far as Dibon.
We demolished them as far as Nophah,
which reaches to Medeba.§"
31 So Israel lived in the land of the Amorites.

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§ **21:16 21:16** *Beer* means *well.* * **21:20 21:20** Or *Jeshimon* † **21:23 21:23** *Jahaz* is a variant of *Jahzah*; see 1 Chronicles 6:63. ‡ **21:24 21:24** Or *because the territory was rugged*; literally *because it was strong* § **21:30 21:30** Or *We demolished them until fire spread to Medeba*

32 After Moses had sent spies to Jazer, Israel captured its villages and
drove out the Amorites who were there.
33 Then they turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og king of
Bashan and his whole army came out to meet them in battle at Edrei.
34 But the LORD said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I have delivered him
into your hand, along with all his people and his land. Do to him as you
did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon.”
35 So they struck down Og, along with his sons and his whole army, until
no remnant was left. And they took possession of his land.

22

1 Then the Israelites traveled on and camped in the plains of Moab near
the Jordan, across from Jericho.
2 Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites,
3 and Moab was terrified of the people because they were numerous.
Indeed, Moab dreaded the Israelites.
4 So the Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “This horde will devour
everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.”
Since Balak son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time,
5 he sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is
by the Euphrates* in the land of his people.
“Behold, a people has come out of Egypt,” said Balak. “They cover the
face of the land and have settled next to me.
6 So please come now and put a curse on this people, because they are
too mighty for me. Perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them
out of the land; for I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you
curse are cursed.”
7 The elders of Moab and Midian departed with the fees for divination in
hand. They came to Balaam and relayed to him the words of Balak.
8 “Spend the night here,” Balaam replied, “and I will give you the answer
that the LORD speaks to me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.
9 Then God came to Balaam and asked, “Who are these men with you?”
10 And Balaam said to God, “Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me
this message:
11 ‘Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the
land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps I may be able to
fight against them and drive them away.’ ”
12 But God said to Balaam, “Do not go with them. You are not to curse
this people, for they are blessed.”
13 So Balaam got up the next morning and said to Balak’s princes, “Go
back to your homeland, because the LORD has refused to let me go with
you.”
14 And the princes of Moab arose, returned to Balak, and said, “Balaam
refused to come with us.”
15 Then Balak sent other princes, more numerous and more
distinguished than the first messengers.
16 They came to Balaam and said, “This is what Balak son of Zippor says:
‘Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me,
17 for I will honor you richly and do whatever you say. So please come
and put a curse on this people for me!’ ”

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* **22:5 22:5** Hebrew *the River*

18 But Balaam replied to the servants of Balak, “If Balak were to give me
his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything small or great to
go beyond the command of the LORD my God.
19 So now, please stay here overnight as the others did, that I may find
out what else the LORD has to tell me.”
20 That night God came to Balaam and said, “Since these men have come
to summon you, get up and go with them, but you must only do what I tell
you.”
21 So in the morning Balaam got up, saddled his donkey, and went with
the princes of Moab.
22 Then God’s anger was kindled because Balaam was going along, and
the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding
his donkey, and his two servants were with him.
23 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with
a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the path and went into a field.
So Balaam beat her to return her to the path.
24 Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow passage between two
vineyards, with walls on either side.
25 And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD and pressed herself against
the wall, crushing Balaam’s foot against it. So he beat her once again.
26 And the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow
place where there was no room to turn to the right or left.
27 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under
Balaam, and he became furious and beat her with his staff.
28 Then the LORD opened the donkey’s mouth, and she said to Balaam,
“What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?”
29 Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a fool of me! If I had a
sword in my hand, I would kill you right now!”
30 But the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not the donkey you have ridden
all your life until today? Have I ever treated you this way before?”
“No,” he replied.
31 Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the
LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. And Balaam
bowed low and fell facedown.
32 The angel of the LORD asked him, “Why have you beaten your donkey
these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you, because your
way is perverse† before me.
33 The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If
she had not turned away, then by now I would surely have killed you and
let her live.”
34 “I have sinned,” Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, “for I did not
realize that you were standing in the road to confront me. And now, if this
is displeasing in your sight, I will go back home.”
35 But the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but you
are to speak only what I tell you.” So Balaam went with the princes of
Balak.
36 When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him
at the Moabite city on the Arnon border, at the edge of his territory.
37 And he said to Balaam, “Did I not send you an urgent summons? Why
did you not come to me? Am I really not able to reward you richly?”

† **22:32 22:32** Or *reckless* or *contrary*

38 “See, I have come to you,” Balaam replied, “but can I say just anything?
I must speak only the word that God puts in my mouth.”
39 So Balaam accompanied Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth.
40 Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep, and he gave portions to Balaam and
the princes who were with him.
41 The next morning, Balak took Balaam and brought him up to
Bamoth-baal. From there he could see the outskirts of the camp of the
people.

23

1 Then Balaam said to Balak, “Build for me seven altars here, and
prepare for me seven bulls and seven rams.”
2 So Balak did as Balaam had instructed, and Balak and Balaam offered
a bull and a ram on each altar.
3 “Stay here by your burnt offering while I am gone,” Balaam said to
Balak. “Perhaps the LORD will meet with me. And whatever he reveals to
me, I will tell you.”
So Balaam went off to a barren height,
4 and God met with him. “I have set up seven altars,” Balaam said, “and
on each altar I have offered a bull and a ram.”
5 Then the LORD put a message in Balaam’s mouth, saying, “Return to
Balak and give him this message.”
6 So he returned to Balak, who was standing there beside his burnt
offering, with all the princes of Moab.
7 And Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying:

“Balak brought me from Aram,
the king of Moab from the mountains of the east.
‘Come,’ he said, ‘put a curse on Jacob for me;
come and denounce Israel!’
8 How can I curse those whom God has not cursed?
How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced?
9 For I see them from atop the rocky cliffs,
and I watch them from the hills.
Behold, a people dwelling apart,
not reckoning themselves among the nations.
10 Who can count the dust of Jacob
or number even a fourth of Israel?
Let me die the death of the righteous;
let my end be like theirs!”
11 Then Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I brought
you here to curse my enemies, and behold, you have only blessed them!”
12 But Balaam replied, “Should I not speak exactly what the LORD puts in
my mouth?”
13 Then Balak said to him, “Please come with me to another place where
you can see them. You will only see the outskirts of their camp—not all of
them. And from there, curse them for me.”
14 So Balak took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, where
he built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.
15 Balaam said to Balak, “Stay here beside your burnt offering while I
meet the LORD over there.”
16 And the LORD met with Balaam and put a message in his mouth,
saying, “Return to Balak and speak what I tell you.”

17 So he returned to Balak, who was standing there by his burnt offering
with the princes of Moab.
"What did the LORD say?" Balak asked.
18 Then Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying:

"Arise, O Balak, and listen;
give ear to me, O son of Zippor.
19 God is not a man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Does he speak and not act?
Does he promise and not fulfill?
20 I have indeed received a command to bless;
he has blessed, and I cannot change it.
21 He considers no disaster for Jacob;
he sees no trouble for Israel.
The LORD their God is with them,
and the shout of the King is among them.
22 God brought them out of Egypt
with strength like a wild ox.
23 For there is no spell against Jacob
and no divination against Israel.
It will now be said of Jacob and Israel,
'What great things God has done!'
24 Behold, the people rise like a lioness;
they rouse themselves like a lion,
not resting until they devour their prey
and drink the blood of the slain."
25 Now Balak said to Balaam, "Then neither curse them at all nor bless
them at all!"
26 But Balaam replied, "Did I not tell you that whatever the LORD says, I
must do?"
27 "Please come," said Balak, "I will take you to another place. Perhaps it
will please God that you curse them for me from there."
28 And Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, which overlooks the
wasteland.*
29 Then Balaam said, "Build for me seven altars here, and prepare for
me seven bulls and seven rams."
30 So Balak did as Balaam had instructed, and he offered a bull and a
ram on each altar.

24

1 And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did
not seek omens as on previous occasions, but he turned his face toward
the wilderness.
2 When Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the
spirit of God came upon him,
3 and he lifted up an oracle, saying:

"This is the prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of a man whose eyes are open,
4 the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,*

* **23:28 23:28** Or *Jeshimon* * **24:4 24:4** Hebrew *Shaddai*; also in verse 16

who bows down with eyes wide open:
5 How lovely are your tents, O Jacob,
your dwellings, O Israel!
6 They spread out like palm groves,†
like gardens beside a stream,
like aloes the LORD has planted,
like cedars beside the waters.
7 Water will flow from his buckets,
and his seed will have abundant water.
His king will be greater than Agag,
and his kingdom will be exalted.
8 God brought him out of Egypt
with strength like a wild ox,
to devour hostile nations and crush their bones,
to pierce them with arrows.
9 He crouches, he lies down like a lion,
like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?
Blessed are those who bless you
and cursed are those who curse you."
10 Then Balak's anger burned against Balaam, and he struck his hands together and said to Balaam, "I summoned you to curse my enemies, but behold, you have persisted in blessing them these three times.
11 Therefore, flee at once to your home! I said I would reward you richly, but instead the LORD has denied your reward."
12 Balaam answered Balak, "Did I not already tell the messengers you sent me
13 that even if Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything of my own accord, good or bad, to go beyond the command of the LORD? I must speak whatever the LORD says.
14 Now I am going back to my people, but come, let me warn you what this people will do to your people in the days to come."
15 Then Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying,

"This is the prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of a man whose eyes are open,
16 the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who bows down with eyes wide open:
17 I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come forth from Jacob,
and a scepter will arise from Israel.
He will crush the skulls‡ of Moab
and strike down all the sons of Sheth.
18 Edom will become a possession,
as will Seir, his enemy;
but Israel will perform with valor.
19 A ruler will come from Jacob
and destroy the survivors of the city."
20 Then Balaam saw Amalek and lifted up an oracle, saying:

† **24:6 24:6** Or *like valleys* ‡ **24:17 24:17** SP *foreheads*; Hebrew *corners (of the head)*; LXX *princes*

“Amalek was first among the nations,
but his end is destruction.”

21 Next he saw the Kenites and lifted up an oracle, saying:

“Your dwelling place is secure,
and your nest is set in a cliff.
22 Yet Kain will be destroyed
when Asshur§ takes you captive.”
23 Once more Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying:

“Ah, who can live
unless God has ordained it?
24 Ships will come from the coasts of Cyprus;*
they will subdue Asshur and Eber,
but they too will perish forever.”
25 Then Balaam arose and returned to his homeland, and Balak also went on his way.

25

1 While Israel was staying in Shittim,* the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with the daughters of Moab,
2 who also invited them to the sacrifices for their gods. And the people ate and bowed down to these gods.
3 So Israel joined in worshiping Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD burned against them.
4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that his fierce anger may turn away from Israel.”
5 So Moses told the judges of Israel, “Each of you must kill all of his men who have joined in worshiping Baal of Peor.”
6 Just then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and the whole congregation of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
7 On seeing this, Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, got up from the assembly, took a spear in his hand,
8 followed the Israelite into the tent, and drove the spear through both of them—through the Israelite and on through the belly of the woman.
So the plague against the Israelites was halted,
9 but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.
10 Then the LORD said to Moses,
11 “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned my wrath away from the Israelites; for he was zealous for my sake among them, so that I did not consume the Israelites in my zeal.
12 Declare, therefore, that I am granting him my covenant of peace.
13 It will be a covenant of permanent priesthood for him and his descendants, because he was zealous for his God and made atonement for the Israelites.”
14 The name of the Israelite who was slain with the Midianite woman was Zimri son of Salu, the leader of a Simeonite family.

§ **24:22 24:22** Or *Assyria*; also in verse 24 * **24:24 24:24** Hebrew *Kittim* * **25:1 25:1** Or *Acacia Grove*

15 And the name of the slain Midianite woman was Cozbi, the daughter
of Zur, a tribal chief of a Midianite family.
16 And the LORD said to Moses,
17 "Attack the Midianites and strike them dead.
18 For they assailed you deceitfully when they seduced you in the matter
of Peor and their sister Cozbi, the daughter of the Midianite leader, the
woman who was killed on the day the plague came because of Peor."
19 After the plague had ended,

26

1 the LORD said to Moses and Eleazar son of Aaron the priest,
2 "Take a census of the whole congregation of Israel by the houses of
their fathers—all those twenty years of age or older who can serve in the
army of Israel."
3 So on the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, Moses and
Eleazar the priest issued the instruction,
4 "Take a census of the men twenty years of age or older,* as the LORD
has commanded Moses."
And these were the Israelites who came out of the land of Egypt:
5 Reuben was the firstborn of Israel. These were the descendants of
Reuben:

The Hanochite clan from Hanoch,
the Palluite clan from Pallu,
6 the Hezronite clan from Hezron,
and the Carmite clan from Carmi.
7 These were the clans of Reuben, and their registration numbered
43,730.
8 Now the son of Pallu was Eliab,
9 and the sons of Eliab were Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram.
It was Dathan and Abiram, chosen by the congregation, who rebelled
against Moses and Aaron with the followers of Korah who rebelled against
the LORD.
10 And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them along with
Korah, whose followers died when the fire consumed 250 men. They serve
as a warning sign.
11 However, the line of Korah did not die out.
12 These were the descendants of Simeon by their clans:

The Nemuelite clan from Nemuel,†
the Jaminite clan from Jamin,
the Jachinite clan from Jachin,
13 the Zerahite clan from Zerah,‡
and the Shaulite clan from Shaul.
14 These were the clans of Simeon, and there were 22,200 men.
15 These were the descendants of Gad by their clans:

The Zephonite clan from Zephon,
the Haggite clan from Haggi,
the Shunite clan from Shuni,

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* **26:4 26:4** *Take a census of the men* is implied but not included in the Hebrew; see verse 2. † **26:12 26:12** *Nemuel* is another name for *Jemuel*; see Genesis 46:10. ‡ **26:13 26:13** *Zerah* is a variant of *Zohar*; see Genesis 46:10 and Exodus 6:15.

16 the Oznite clan from Ozni,
the Erite clan from Eri,
17 the Arodite clan from Arod,§
and the Arelite clan from Areli.
18 These were the clans of Gad, and their registration numbered 40,500.
19 The sons of Judah were Er and Onan, but they died in the land of Canaan.
20 These were the descendants of Judah by their clans:

The Shelanite clan from Shelah,
the Perezite clan from Perez,
and the Zerahite clan from Zerah.

21 And these were the descendants of Perez:
the Hezronite clan from Hezron
and the Hamulite clan from Hamul.
22 These were the clans of Judah, and their registration numbered 76,500.
23 These were the descendants of Issachar by their clans:

The Tolaite clan from Tola,
the Punite clan from Puvah,*
24 the Jashubite clan from Jashub,†
and the Shimronite clan from Shimron.
25 These were the clans of Issachar, and their registration numbered 64,300.
26 These were the descendants of Zebulun by their clans:

The Seredite clan from Sered,
the Elonite clan from Elon,
and the Jahleelite clan from Jahleel.
27 These were the clans of Zebulun, and their registration numbered 60,500.
28 The descendants of Joseph included the clans of Manasseh and Ephraim.
29 These were the descendants of Manasseh:

The Machirite clan from Machir, the father of Gilead,
and the Gileadite clan from Gilead.
30 These were the descendants of Gilead:
the Iezerite clan from Iezer,‡
the Helekite clan from Helek,
31 the Asrielite clan from Asriel,
the Shechemite clan from Shechem,
32 the Shemidaite clan from Shemida,
and the Hepherite clan from Hepher.
33 Now Zelophehad son of Hepher had no sons but only daughters.
The names of his daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah,
and Tirzah.
34 These were the clans of Manasseh, and their registration numbered 52,700.

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§ **26:17 26:17** SP and Syriac *Arodi*; see Genesis 46:16. * **26:23 26:23** SP, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *the Puite clan from Puah*; see 1 Chronicles 7:1. † **26:24 26:24** *Jashub* is a variant of *Job*; see Genesis 46:13. ‡ **26:30 26:30** *Iezer* is a variant of *Abiezer*; see Joshua 17:2.

35 These were the descendants of Ephraim by their clans:

The Shuthelahite clan from Shuthelah,
the Becherite clan from Becher,
and the Tahanite clan from Tahan.

36 And the descendants of Shuthelah were the Eranite clan from Eran.
37 These were the clans of Ephraim, and their registration numbered 32,500.
These clans were the descendants of Joseph.
38 These were the descendants of Benjamin by their clans:

The Belaite clan from Bela,
the Ashbelite clan from Ashbel,
the Ahiramite clan from Ahiram,
39 the Shuphamite clan from Shephupham,§
and the Huphamite clan from Hupham.

40 And the descendants of Bela from Ard and Naaman were the Ardite clan* and the Naamite clan from Naaman.
41 These were the clans of Benjamin, and their registration numbered 45,600.
42 These were the descendants of Dan by their clans:

The Shuhamite clan from Shuham.
These were the clans of Dan.
43 All of them were Shuhamite clans, and their registration numbered 64,400.
44 These were the descendants of Asher by their clans:

The Imnite clan from Imnah,
the Ishvite clan from Ishvi,
and the Beriite clan from Beriah.
45 And these were the descendants of Beriah:
the Heberite clan from Heber
and the Malchielite clan from Malchiel.
46 And the name of Asher's daughter was Serah.
47 These were the clans of Asher, and their registration numbered 53,400.
48 These were the descendants of Naphtali by their clans:

The Jahzeelite clan from Jahzeel,
the Gunite clan from Guni,
49 the Jezerite clan from Jezer,
and the Shillemite clan from Shillem.
50 These were the clans of Naphtali, and their registration numbered 45,400.
51 These men of Israel numbered 601,730 in all.
52 Then the LORD said to Moses,
53 "The land is to be divided among the tribes as an inheritance, according to the number of names.

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§ **26:39 26:39** Leningrad Codex and most MT manuscripts; a few MT manuscripts, SP, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also LXX) *Shupham* * **26:40 26:40** SP and Vulgate (see also LXX) add *from Ard*

54 Increase the inheritance for a large tribe and decrease it for a small
one; each tribe is to receive its inheritance according to the number of
those registered.
55 Indeed, the land must be divided by lot; they shall receive their
inheritance according to the names of the tribes of their fathers.
56 Each inheritance is to be divided by lot among the larger and smaller
tribes."
57 Now these were the Levites numbered by their clans:

The Gershonite clan from Gershon,
the Kohathite clan from Kohath,
and the Merarite clan from Merari.
58 These were the families of the Levites:

The Libnite clan,
the Hebronite clan,
the Mahlite clan,
the Mushite clan,
and the Korahite clan.
Now Kohath was the father of Amram,
59 and Amram's wife was named Jochebed. She was also a daughter of
Levi, born to Levi in Egypt. To Amram she bore Aaron, Moses, and their
sister Miriam.
60 Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar were born to Aaron,
61 but Nadab and Abihu died when they offered strange† fire before the
LORD.
62 The registration of the Levites totaled 23,000, every male a month old
or more; they were not numbered among the other Israelites, because no
inheritance was given to them among the Israelites.
63 These were the ones numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest when
they counted the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across
from Jericho.
64 Among all these, however, there was not one who had been numbered
by Moses and Aaron the priest when they counted the Israelites in the
Wilderness of Sinai.
65 For the LORD had told them that they would surely die in the
wilderness. Not one was left except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua
son of Nun.

27

1 Now the daughters of Zelophehad son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the
son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son
of Joseph. These were the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah,
Milcah, and Tirzah. They approached
2 the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, stood before Moses, Eleazar the
priest, the leaders, and the whole congregation, and said,
3 "Our father died in the wilderness, but he was not among the followers
of Korah who gathered together against the LORD. Instead, he died
because of his own sin, and he had no sons.
4 Why should the name of our father disappear from his clan because he
had no sons? Give us property among our father's brothers."
5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD,
6 and the LORD answered him,

† **26:61 26:61** Or *unauthorized*

7 “The daughters of Zelophehad speak correctly. You certainly must give
them property as an inheritance among their father's brothers and
transfer their father's inheritance to them.
8 Furthermore, you shall say to the Israelites, ‘If a man dies and leaves
no son, you are to transfer his inheritance to his daughter.
9 If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers.
10 If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers.
11 And if his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the next of
kin from his clan, that he may take possession of it. This is to be a statutory
ordinance for the Israelites, as the LORD has commanded Moses.’ ”
12 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go up this mountain of the Abarim
range* and see the land that I have given the Israelites.
13 After you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, as
your brother Aaron was;
14 for when the congregation contended in the Wilderness of Zin, both of
you rebelled against my command to show my holiness in their sight
regarding the waters.” Those were the waters of Meribah† in Kadesh, in
the Wilderness of Zin.
15 So Moses appealed to the LORD,
16 “May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over
the congregation
17 who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out
and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like
sheep without a shepherd.”
18 And the LORD replied to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man with
the spirit in him, and lay your hands on him.
19 Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation,
and commission him in their sight.
20 Confer on him some of your authority, so that the whole congregation
of Israel will obey him.
21 He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who will seek counsel for him
before the LORD by the judgment of the Urim.‡ At his command, he and all
the Israelites with him—the entire congregation—will go out and come in.”
22 Moses did as the LORD had commanded him. He took Joshua, had him
stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation,
23 and laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD had
instructed through Moses.

28

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Command the Israelites and say to them: See that you present to me at
its appointed time the food for my food offerings, as a pleasing aroma to
me.
3 And tell them that this is the food offering you are to present to the
LORD as a regular burnt offering each day: two unblemished year-old
male lambs.
4 Offer one lamb in the morning and the other at twilight,*

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* **27:12 27:12** LXX *Go up Mount Nebo beyond the Jordan* † **27:14 27:14** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7. ‡ **27:21 27:21** Literally *the Lights* * **28:4 28:4** Hebrew *between the two evenings*; also in verse 8

5 along with a tenth of an ephah of fine flour† as a grain offering, mixed
with a quarter hin of oil from pressed olives.‡
6 This is a regular burnt offering established at Mount Sinai as a pleasing
aroma, a food offering to the LORD.
7 The drink offering accompanying each lamb shall be a quarter hin.
Pour out the offering of fermented drink to the LORD in the sanctuary
area.
8 And offer the second lamb at twilight, with the same grain offering and
drink offering as in the morning. It is a food offering, a pleasing aroma to
the LORD.
9 On the Sabbath day, present two unblemished year-old male lambs,
accompanied by a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour§
mixed with oil, as well as a drink offering.
10 This is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular
burnt offering and its drink offering.
11 At the beginning of every month, you are to present to the LORD a
burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs a year
old, all unblemished,
12 along with three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour* mixed with oil as a
grain offering with each bull, two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed
with oil as a grain offering with the ram,
13 and a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering
with each lamb. This is a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering
to the LORD.
14 Their drink offerings shall be half a hin of wine† with each bull, a
third of a hin‡ with the ram, and a quarter hin with each lamb. This is the
monthly burnt offering to be made at each new moon throughout the year.
15 In addition to the regular burnt offering with its drink offering, one
male goat is to be presented to the LORD as a purification offering.
16 The fourteenth day of the first month is the LORD's Passover.
17 On the fifteenth day of this month, there shall be a feast; for seven
days unleavened bread is to be eaten.
18 On the first day there is to be a sacred assembly; you must not do any
regular work.
19 Present to the LORD a food offering, a burnt offering of two young
bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all unblemished.
20 The grain offering shall consist of fine flour mixed with oil; offer
three-tenths of an ephah with each bull, two-tenths of an ephah with the
ram,
21 and a tenth of an ephah with each of the seven lambs.
22 Include one male goat as a purification offering to make atonement
for you.
23 You are to present these in addition to the regular morning burnt
offering.

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† **28:5 28:5** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour); also in verses 13, 21, and 29. ‡ **28:5 28:5** Or *a quarter hin of pure olive oil*; Hebrew *a quarter hin of pressed oil*; that is, approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters; similarly in verses 7 and 14 § **28:9 28:9** *Two-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters (probably about 5.1 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of flour); also in verses 12, 20, and 28. * **28:12 28:12** *Three-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 6 dry quarts or 6.6 liters (probably about 7.6 pounds or 3.5 kilograms of flour); also in verses 20 and 28. † **28:14 28:14** *Half a hin* is approximately 1.9 quarts or 1.8 liters of wine. ‡ **28:14 28:14** *A third of a hin* is approximately 1.3 quarts or 1.2 liters of wine.

24 Offer the same food each day for seven days as a food offering, a
pleasing aroma to the LORD. It is to be offered with its drink offering and
the regular burnt offering.
25 On the seventh day you shall hold a sacred assembly; you must not do
any regular work.
26 On the day of firstfruits, when you present an offering of new grain to
the LORD during the Feast of Weeks,§ you are to hold a sacred assembly;
you must not do any regular work.
27 Present a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram, and seven male
lambs a year old as a pleasing aroma to the LORD,
28 together with their grain offerings of fine flour mixed with
oil—three-tenths of an ephah with each bull, two-tenths of an ephah with
the ram,
29 and a tenth of an ephah with each of the seven lambs.
30 Include one male goat to make atonement for you.
31 Offer them with their drink offerings in addition to the regular burnt
offering and its grain offering. The animals must be unblemished.

29

1 "On the first day of the seventh month, you are to hold a sacred
assembly, and you must not do any regular work. This will be a day for
you to sound the trumpets.
2 As a pleasing aroma to the LORD, you are to present a burnt offering of
one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all
unblemished,
3 together with their grain offerings of fine flour mixed with
oil—three-tenths of an ephah* with the bull, two-tenths of an ephah† with
the ram,
4 and a tenth of an ephah‡ with each of the seven male lambs.
5 Include one male goat as a purification offering to make atonement for
you.
6 These are in addition to the monthly and daily burnt offerings with
their prescribed grain offerings and drink offerings. They are a pleasing
aroma, a food offering to the LORD.
7 On the tenth day of this seventh month, you are to hold a sacred
assembly, and you shall deny yourselves;§ you must not do any work.
8 Present as a pleasing aroma to the LORD a burnt offering of one young
bull, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all unblemished,
9 together with their grain offerings of fine flour mixed with
oil—three-tenths of an ephah with the bull, two-tenths of an ephah with
the ram,
10 and a tenth of an ephah with each of the seven lambs.

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§ **28:26 28:26** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. * **29:3 29:3** *Three-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 6 dry quarts or 6.6 liters (probably about 7.6 pounds or 3.5 kilograms of flour); also in verses 9 and 14. † **29:3 29:3** *Two-tenths of an ephah* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters (probably about 5.1 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of flour); also in verses 9 and 14. ‡ **29:4 29:4** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour); also in verses 10 and 15. § **29:7 29:7** Or *afflict your souls* or *humble yourselves*

11 Include one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the
purification offering of atonement and the regular burnt offering with its
grain offering and drink offerings.
12 On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, you are to hold a sacred
assembly; you must not do any regular work, and you shall observe a feast
to the LORD for seven days.
13 As a pleasing aroma to the LORD, you are to present a food offering, a
burnt offering of thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs
a year old, all unblemished,
14 along with the grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour
mixed with oil with each of the thirteen bulls, two-tenths of an ephah with
each of the two rams,
15 and a tenth of an ephah with each of the fourteen lambs.
16 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.
17 On the second day you are to present twelve young bulls, two rams,
and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished,
18 along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and
lambs, according to the number prescribed.
19 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.
20 On the third day you are to present eleven bulls, two rams, and
fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished,
21 along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and
lambs, according to the number prescribed.
22 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.
23 On the fourth day you are to present ten bulls, two rams, and fourteen
male lambs a year old, all unblemished,
24 along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and
lambs, according to the number prescribed.
25 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.
26 On the fifth day you are to present nine bulls, two rams, and fourteen
male lambs a year old, all unblemished,
27 along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and
lambs, according to the number prescribed.
28 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.
29 On the sixth day you are to present eight bulls, two rams, and
fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished,
30 along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and
lambs, according to the number prescribed.
31 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.
32 On the seventh day you are to present seven bulls, two rams, and
fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished,
33 along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and
lambs, according to the number prescribed.
34 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.

35 On the eighth day you are to hold a solemn assembly; you must not do
any regular work.
36 As a pleasing aroma to the LORD, you are to present a food offering, a
burnt offering of one bull, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all
unblemished,
37 along with the grain and drink offerings for the bull, the ram, and the
lambs, according to the number prescribed.
38 Include one male goat as a purification offering, in addition to the
regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering.
39 You are to present these offerings to the LORD at your appointed
times, in addition to your vow and freewill offerings, whether burnt
offerings, grain offerings, drink offerings, or peace offerings.”

30

1 So Moses spoke all this to the Israelites just as the LORD had
commanded him.
2 Then Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel, “This is what the
LORD has commanded:
3 If a man makes a vow to the LORD or swears an oath to obligate
himself by a pledge, he must not break his word; he must do everything he
has promised.
4 And if a woman in her father's house during her youth makes a vow to
the LORD or obligates herself by a pledge,
5 and her father hears about her vow or pledge but says nothing to her,
then all the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand.
6 But if her father prohibits her on the day he hears about it, then none
of the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand. The
LORD will absolve her because her father has prohibited her.
7 If a woman marries while under a vow or rash promise by which she
has bound herself,
8 and her husband hears of it but says nothing to her on that day, then
the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand.
9 But if her husband prohibits her when he hears of it, he nullifies the
vow that binds her or the rash promise she has made, and the LORD will
absolve her.
10 Every vow a widow or divorced woman pledges to fulfill is binding on
her.
11 If a woman in her husband's house has made a vow or put herself
under an obligation with an oath,
12 and her husband hears of it but says nothing to her and does not
prohibit her, then all the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself
shall stand.
13 But if her husband nullifies them on the day he hears of them, then
nothing that came from her lips, whether her vows or pledges, shall stand.
Her husband has nullified them, and the LORD will absolve her.
14 Her husband may confirm or nullify any vow or any sworn pledge to
deny herself.*
15 But if her husband says nothing to her from day to day, then he
confirms all the vows and pledges that bind her. He has confirmed them,
because he said nothing to her on the day he heard about them.

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* **30:14 30:14** Or *to fast*

16 But if he nullifies them after he hears of them, then he will bear her
iniquity."
17 These are the statutes that the LORD commanded Moses concerning
the relationship between a man and his wife, and between a father and a
young daughter still in his home.

31

1 And the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you
will be gathered to your people."
3 So Moses told the people, "Arm some of your men for war, that they
may go against the Midianites and execute the LORD's vengeance on them.
4 Send into battle a thousand men from each tribe of Israel."
5 So a thousand men were recruited from each tribe of Israel—twelve
thousand armed for war.
6 And Moses sent the thousand from each tribe into battle, along with
Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest, who took with him the vessels of the
sanctuary and the trumpets for signaling.
7 Then they waged war against Midian, as the LORD had commanded
Moses, and they killed every male.
8 Among the slain were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba—the five kings of
Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.
9 The Israelites captured the Midianite women and their children, and
they plundered all their herds, flocks, and goods.
10 Then they burned all the cities where the Midianites had lived, as well
as all their encampments,
11 and carried away all the plunder and spoils, both people and animals.
12 They brought the captives, spoils, and plunder to Moses, to Eleazar the
priest, and to the congregation of Israel at the camp on the plains of Moab,
by the Jordan across from Jericho.
13 And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation
went to meet them outside the camp.
14 But Moses was angry with the officers of the army—the commanders
of thousands and commanders of hundreds—who were returning from
the battle.
15 "Have you spared all the women?" he asked them.
16 "Look, these women caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of
Balaam, to turn unfaithfully against the LORD at Peor, so that the plague
struck the congregation of the LORD.
17 So now, kill all the boys, as well as every woman who has had
relations with a man,
18 but spare for yourselves every girl who has never had relations with a
man.
19 All of you who have killed a person or touched the dead are to remain
outside the camp for seven days. On the third day and the seventh day
you are to purify both yourselves and your captives.
20 And purify every garment and leather good, everything made of
goat's hair, and every article of wood."
21 Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone into battle,
"This is the statute of the law which the LORD has commanded Moses:
22 Only the gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, and lead—
23 everything that can withstand the fire—must be put through the fire,
and it will be clean. But it must still be purified with the water of

purification. And everything that cannot withstand the fire must pass through the water.
24 On the seventh day you are to wash your clothes, and you will be clean. After that you may enter the camp."
25 The LORD said to Moses,
26 "You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the congregation are to take a count of what was captured, both of man and beast.
27 Then divide the captives between the troops who went out to battle and the rest of the congregation.
28 Set aside a tribute for the LORD from what belongs to the soldiers who went into battle: one out of every five hundred, whether persons, cattle, donkeys, or sheep.
29 Take it from their half and give it to Eleazar the priest as an offering to the LORD.
30 From the Israelites' half, take one out of every fifty, whether persons, cattle, donkeys, sheep, or other animals, and give them to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle of the LORD."
31 So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD had commanded Moses,
32 and this plunder remained from the spoils the soldiers had taken:
675,000 sheep,
33 72,000 cattle,
34 61,000 donkeys,
35 and 32,000 women who had not slept with a man.
36 This was the half portion for those who had gone to war:
337,500 sheep,
37 including a tribute to the LORD of 675,
38 36,000 cattle, including a tribute to the LORD of 72,
39 30,500 donkeys, including a tribute to the LORD of 61,
40 and 16,000 people, including a tribute to the LORD of 32.
41 Moses gave the tribute to Eleazar the priest as an offering for the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.
42 From the Israelites' half, which Moses had set apart from the men who had gone to war,
43 this half belonged to the congregation:
337,500 sheep,
44 36,000 cattle,
45 30,500 donkeys,
46 and 16,000 people.
47 From the Israelites' half, Moses took one out of every fifty persons and animals and gave them to the Levites who kept charge of the tabernacle of the LORD, as the LORD had commanded him.
48 Then the officers who were over the units of the army—the commanders of thousands and of hundreds—approached Moses
49 and said, "Your servants have counted the soldiers under our command, and not one of us is missing.
50 So we have brought to the LORD an offering of the gold articles each man acquired—armlets, bracelets, rings, earrings, and necklaces—to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD."
51 So Moses and Eleazar the priest received from them all the articles made out of gold.

52 All the gold that the commanders of thousands and of hundreds
presented as an offering to the LORD weighed 16,750 shekels.*
53 Each of the soldiers had taken plunder for himself.
54 And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the
commanders of thousands and of hundreds and brought it into the Tent of
Meeting as a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD.

32

1 Now the Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks,
surveyed the lands of Jazer and Gilead, and they saw that the region was
suitable for livestock.
2 So the Gadites and Reubenites came to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and
the leaders of the congregation, and said,
3 "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam,* Nebo, and
Beon,
4 which the LORD conquered before the congregation of Israel, are
suitable for livestock—and your servants have livestock."
5 "If we have found favor in your sight," they said, "let this land be given
to your servants as a possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan."
6 But Moses asked the Gadites and Reubenites, "Shall your brothers go to
war while you sit here?
7 Why are you discouraging the Israelites from crossing into the land
that the LORD has given them?
8 This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to
inspect the land.
9 For when your fathers went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the
land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land that the LORD
had given them.
10 So the anger of the LORD was kindled that day, and he swore an oath,
saying,
11 'Because they did not follow me wholeheartedly, not one of the men
twenty years of age or older who came out of Egypt will see the land that I
swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—
12 not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son
of Nun—because they did follow the LORD wholeheartedly.'
13 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he made them
wander in the wilderness forty years, until the whole generation who had
done evil in his sight was gone.
14 Now behold, you, a brood of sinners, have risen up in place of your
fathers to further stoke the burning anger of the LORD against Israel.
15 For if you turn away from following him, he will once again leave this
people in the wilderness, and you will be the cause of their destruction."
16 Then the Gadites and Reubenites approached Moses and said, "We
want to build sheepfolds here for our livestock and cities for our little
ones.
17 But we will arm ourselves and be ready† to go ahead of the Israelites
until we have brought them into their place. Meanwhile, our little ones
will remain in the fortified cities for protection from the inhabitants of the
land.

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* **31:52 31:52** *16,750 shekels* is approximately 420.8 pounds or 190.9 kilograms. * **32:3 32:3** See verse 38, and similarly in SP and LXX *Sibmah* † **32:17 32:17** LXX *we will arm ourselves for battle*

18 We will not return to our homes until every Israelite has taken
possession of his inheritance.
19 Yet we will not have an inheritance with them across the Jordan and
beyond, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the
Jordan."
20 Moses replied, "If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves before
the LORD for battle,
21 and if every one of your armed men crosses the Jordan before the
LORD, until he has driven his enemies out before him,
22 then when the land is subdued before the LORD, you may return and
be free of obligation to the LORD and to Israel. And this land will belong to
you as a possession before the LORD.
23 But if you do not do this, you will certainly sin against the LORD—and
be assured that your sin will find you out.
24 Build cities for your little ones and folds for your flocks, but do what
you have promised."
25 The Gadites and Reubenites said to Moses, "Your servants will do just
as our lord commands.
26 Our children, our wives, our livestock, and all our animals will
remain here in the cities of Gilead.
27 But your servants are equipped for war, and every man will cross
over to the battle before the LORD, just as our lord says."
28 So Moses gave orders about them to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua son
of Nun, and to the family leaders of the tribes of Israel.
29 And Moses said to them, "If the Gadites and Reubenites cross the
Jordan with you, with every man armed for battle before the LORD, and
the land is subdued before you, then you are to give them the land of
Gilead as a possession.
30 But if they do not arm themselves and go across with you, then they
must accept their possession among you in the land of Canaan."
31 The Gadites and Reubenites replied, "As the LORD has spoken to your
servants, so we will do.
32 We will cross over into the land of Canaan armed before the LORD,
that we may have our inheritance on this side of the Jordan."
33 So Moses gave to the Gadites, to the Reubenites, and to the half-tribe
of Manasseh son of Joseph the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and
the kingdom of Og king of Bashan—the land including its cities and the
territory surrounding them.
34 And the Gadites built up Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer,
35 Atroth-shophan, Jazer, Jogbehah,
36 Beth-nimrah, and Beth-haran as fortified cities, and they built folds
for their flocks.
37 The Reubenites built up Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim,
38 as well as Nebo and Baal-meon (whose names were changed), and
Sibmah. And they renamed the cities they rebuilt.
39 The descendants of Machir son of Manasseh went to Gilead, captured
it, and drove out the Amorites who were there.
40 So Moses gave Gilead to the clan of Machir son of Manasseh, and they
settled there.
41 Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, went and captured their villages and
called them Havvoth-jair.‡

‡ **32:41 32:41** *Havvoth-jair* means *the villages of Jair*.

42 And Nobah went and captured Kenath and its villages and called it
Nobah, after his own name.

33

1 These are the journeys of the Israelites when they came out of the land
of Egypt by their divisions under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.
2 At the LORD's command, Moses recorded the stages of their journey.
These are the stages listed by their starting points:

3 On the fifteenth day of the first month, on the day after the Passover,
the Israelites set out from Rameses. They marched out defiantly* in
full view of all the Egyptians,
4 who were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had struck down
among them; for the LORD had executed judgment against their gods.
5 The Israelites set out from Rameses and camped at Succoth.
6 They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham, on the edge of the
wilderness.
7 They set out from Etham and turned back to Pi-hahiroth, opposite
Baal-zephon, and they camped near Migdol.
8 They set out from before Hahiroth† and crossed through the sea, into
the wilderness, and they journeyed three days into the Wilderness of
Etham and camped at Marah.
9 They set out from Marah and came to Elim, where there were twelve
springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there.
10 They set out from Elim and camped by the Sea of Reeds.‡
11 They set out from the Sea of Reeds and camped in the Desert of Sin.§
12 They set out from the Desert of Sin and camped at Dophkah.
13 They set out from Dophkah and camped at Alush.
14 They set out from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was
no water for the people to drink.
15 They set out from Rephidim and camped in the Wilderness of Sinai.
16 They set out from the Wilderness of Sinai and camped at
Kibroth-hattaavah.
17 They set out from Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.
18 They set out from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

19 They set out from Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez.
20 They set out from Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah.
21 They set out from Libnah and camped at Rissah.
22 They set out from Rissah and camped at Kehelathah.
23 They set out from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher.
24 They set out from Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.
25 They set out from Haradah and camped at Makheloth.
26 They set out from Makheloth and camped at Tahath.
27 They set out from Tahath and camped at Terah.
28 They set out from Terah and camped at Mithkah.
29 They set out from Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah.

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* **33:3 33:3** Or *marched out boldly*; literally *marched out with an upraised hand* † **33:8 33:8** Leningrad Codex and most MT manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, SP, and Vulgate (see verse 7) *from Pi-hahiroth* ‡ **33:10 33:10** Or *the Red Sea*; also in verse 11 § **33:11 33:11** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*; also in verse 12.

30 They set out from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.
31 They set out from Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan.
32 They set out from Bene-jaakan and camped at Hor-haggidgad.

33 They set out from Hor-haggidgad and camped at Jotbathah.
34 They set out from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.
35 They set out from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber.
36 They set out from Ezion-geber and camped at Kadesh in the
Wilderness of Zin.
37 They set out from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, on the outskirts
of the land of Edom.
38 At the LORD's command, Aaron the priest climbed Mount Hor and
died there on the first day of the fifth month, in the fortieth year after the
Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt.
39 Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mount Hor.
40 Now the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev in the land of
Canaan, heard that the Israelites were coming.
41 And the Israelites set out from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.
42 They set out from Zalmonah and camped at Punon.
43 They set out from Punon and camped at Oboth.
44 They set out from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim on the border of
Moab.
45 They set out from Iyim* and camped at Dibon-gad.
46 They set out from Dibon-gad and camped at Almon-diblathaim.
47 They set out from Almon-diblathaim and camped in the mountains of
Abarim† facing Nebo.
48 They set out from the mountains of Abarim and camped on the plains
of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.
49 And there on the plains of Moab they camped by the Jordan, from
Beth-jeshimoth to Abel-shittim.‡
50 On the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, the LORD
said to Moses,
51 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you cross the Jordan into
the land of Canaan,
52 you must drive out before you all the inhabitants of the land, destroy
all their carved images and cast idols, and demolish all their high places.
53 You are to take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given
you the land to possess.
54 And you are to divide the land by lot according to your clans. Give a
larger inheritance to a larger clan and a smaller inheritance to a smaller
one. Whatever falls to each one by lot will be his. You will receive an
inheritance according to the tribes of your fathers.
55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land before you,
those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in
your sides; they will harass you in the land where you settle.
56 And then I will do to you what I had planned to do to them."

34

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,

* **33:45 33:45** *Iyim* is another name for *Iye-abarim*; see verse 44. † **33:47 33:47** Or *the mountains beyond the river*; also in verse 48 ‡ **33:49 33:49** Or *the Meadow of the Acacias*; that is, an area in the lowlands of Moab

2 “Command the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land of
Canaan, it will be allotted to you as an inheritance with these boundaries:
3 Your southern border will extend from the Wilderness of Zin along the
border of Edom. On the east, your southern border will run from the
end of the Salt Sea,*
4 cross south of the Ascent of Akrabbim,† continue to Zin, and go south of
Kadesh-barnea. Then it will go on to Hazar-addar and proceed to Azmon,
5 where it will turn from Azmon, join the Brook of Egypt, and end at the
Sea.‡
6 Your western border will be the coastline of the Great Sea; this will be
your boundary on the west.
7 Your northern border will run from the Great Sea directly to Mount
Hor,
8 and from Mount Hor to Lebo-hamath, then extend to Zedad,
9 continue to Ziphron, and end at Hazar-enan. This will be your
boundary on the north.
10 And your eastern border will run straight from Hazar-enan to
Shepham,
11 then go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain and
continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Chinnereth.§
12 Then the border will go down along the Jordan and end at the Salt Sea.
This will be your land, defined by its borders on all sides.”
13 So Moses commanded the Israelites, “Apportion this land by lot as an
inheritance. The LORD has commanded that it be given to the nine and a
half tribes.
14 For the tribes of the Reubenites and Gadites, along with the half-tribe
of Manasseh, have already received their inheritance.
15 These two and a half tribes have received their inheritance across the
Jordan from Jericho, toward the sunrise.”
16 Then the LORD said to Moses,
17 “These are the names of the men who are to assign the land as an
inheritance for you: Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun.
18 Appoint one leader from each tribe to distribute the land.
19 These are their names:

Caleb son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah;
20 Shemuel son of Ammihud from the tribe of Simeon;
21 Elidad son of Chislon from the tribe of Benjamin;
22 Bukki son of Jogli, a leader from the tribe of Dan;
23 Hanniel son of Ephod, a leader from the tribe of Manasseh son of
Joseph;
24 Kemuel son of Shiphtan, a leader from the tribe of Ephraim;
25 Eli-zaphan son of Parnach, a leader from the tribe of Zebulun;
26 Paltiel son of Azzan, a leader from the tribe of Issachar;
27 Ahihud son of Shelomi, a leader from the tribe of Asher;
28 and Pedahel son of Ammihud, a leader from the tribe of Naphtali.”
29 These are the ones whom the LORD commanded to apportion the
inheritance to the Israelites in the land of Canaan.

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* **34:3 34:3** That is, the Dead Sea; also in verse 12 † **34:4 34:4** Or *the Ascent of Scorpions* or *Scorpion Pass* ‡ **34:5 34:5** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 6 and 7
§ **34:11 34:11** That is, the Sea of Galilee

35

1 Again the LORD spoke to Moses on the plains of Moab by the Jordan
across from Jericho:
2 “Command the Israelites to give, from the inheritance they will possess,
cities for the Levites to live in and pasturelands around the cities.
3 The cities will be for them to live in, and the pasturelands will be for
their herds, their flocks, and all their other livestock.
4 The pasturelands around the cities you are to give the Levites will
extend a thousand cubits* from the wall on every side.
5 You are also to measure two thousand cubits† outside the city on the
east, two thousand on the south, two thousand on the west, and two
thousand on the north, with the city in the center. These areas will serve
as pasturelands for the cities.
6 Six of the cities you give the Levites are to be appointed as cities of
refuge, to which a manslayer may flee. In addition to these, give the
Levites forty-two other cities.
7 The total number of cities you give the Levites will be forty-eight, with
their corresponding pasturelands.
8 The cities that you apportion from the territory of the Israelites should
be given to the Levites in proportion to the inheritance of each tribe: more
from a larger tribe and less from a smaller one.”
9 Then the LORD said to Moses,
10 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you cross the Jordan into
the land of Canaan,
11 designate cities to serve as your cities of refuge, so that a person who
kills someone unintentionally may flee there.
12 You are to have these cities as a refuge from the avenger, so that the
manslayer will not die until he stands trial before the assembly.
13 The cities you select will be your six cities of refuge.
14 Select three cities across the Jordan and three in the land of Canaan as
cities of refuge.
15 These six cities will serve as a refuge for the Israelites and for the
foreigner or stranger among them, so that anyone who kills a person
unintentionally may flee there.
16 If, however, anyone strikes a person with an iron object and kills him,
he is a murderer; the murderer must surely be put to death.
17 Or if anyone has in his hand a stone of deadly size, and he strikes and
kills another, he is a murderer; the murderer must surely be put to death.
18 If anyone has in his hand a deadly object of wood, and he strikes and
kills another, he is a murderer; the murderer must surely be put to death.
19 The avenger of blood is to put the murderer to death; when he finds
him, he is to kill him.
20 Likewise, if anyone maliciously pushes another or intentionally
throws an object at him and kills him,
21 or if in hostility he strikes him with his hand and he dies, the one who
struck him must surely be put to death; he is a murderer. When the
avenger of blood finds the murderer, he is to kill him.
22 But if anyone pushes a person suddenly, without hostility, or throws
an object at him unintentionally,

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* **35:4 35:4** *1,000 cubits* is approximately 1,500 feet or 457.2 meters. † **35:5 35:5** *2,000 cubits* is approximately 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters.

23 or without looking drops a heavy stone that kills him, but he was not
an enemy and did not intend to harm him,
24 then the congregation must judge between the slayer and the avenger
of blood according to these ordinances.
25 The assembly is to protect the manslayer from the hand of the
avenger of blood. Then the assembly will return him to the city of refuge
to which he fled, and he must live there until the death of the high priest,
who was anointed with the holy oil.
26 But if the manslayer ever goes outside the limits of the city of refuge
to which he fled
27 and the avenger of blood finds him outside of his city of refuge and
kills him, then the avenger will not be guilty of bloodshed,
28 because the manslayer must remain in his city of refuge until the
death of the high priest. Only after the death of the high priest may he
return to the land he owns.
29 This will be a statutory ordinance for you for the generations to come,
wherever you live.
30 If anyone kills a person, the murderer is to be put to death on the
testimony of the witnesses. But no one is to be put to death based on the
testimony of a lone witness.
31 You are not to accept a ransom for the life of a murderer who
deserves to die; he must surely be put to death.
32 Nor should you accept a ransom for the person who flees to a city of
refuge and allow him to return and live on his own land before the death
of the high priest.
33 Do not pollute the land where you live, for bloodshed pollutes the
land, and no atonement can be made for the land on which the blood is
shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it.
34 Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell. For I, the
LORD, dwell among the Israelites."

36

1 Now the family heads of the clan of Gilead son of Machir son of
Manasseh, one of the clans of Joseph, approached Moses and the leaders
who were the heads of the Israelite families and addressed them,
2 saying, "When the LORD commanded my lord to give the land as an
inheritance to the Israelites by lot, he also commanded him to give the
inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.
3 But if they marry any of the men from the other tribes of Israel, their
inheritance will be withdrawn from the portion of our fathers and added
to the tribe into which they marry. So our allotted inheritance would be
taken away.
4 And when the Jubilee for the Israelites comes, their inheritance will be
added to the tribe into which they marry and taken away from the tribe of
our fathers."
5 So at the word of the LORD, Moses commanded the Israelites: "The
tribe of the sons of Joseph speaks correctly.
6 This is what the LORD has commanded concerning the daughters of
Zelophehad: They may marry anyone they please, provided they marry
within a clan of the tribe of their father.
7 No inheritance in Israel may be transferred from tribe to tribe, because
each of the Israelites is to retain the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

8 Every daughter who possesses an inheritance from any Israelite tribe
must marry within a clan of the tribe of her father, so that every Israelite
will possess the inheritance of his fathers.
9 No inheritance may be transferred from one tribe to another, for each
tribe of Israel must retain its inheritance."
10 So the daughters of Zelophehad did as the LORD had commanded
Moses.
11 Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of
Zelophehad, were married to cousins on their father's side.
12 They married within the clans of the descendants of Manasseh son of
Joseph, and their inheritance remained within the tribe of their father's
clan.
13 These are the commandments and ordinances that the LORD gave the
Israelites through Moses on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from
Jericho.

Deuteronomy

1 These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel in the wilderness
east of the Jordan—in the Arabah opposite Suph—between Paran and
Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab.
2 It is an eleven-day journey from Horeb* to Kadesh-barnea by way of
Mount Seir.
3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses
proclaimed to the Israelites all that the LORD had commanded him
concerning them.
4 This was after he had defeated Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived
in Heshbon, and then at Edrei had defeated Og king of Bashan, who lived
in Ashtaroth.
5 On the east side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to
explain this law, saying:†
6 The LORD our God said to us at Horeb: "You have stayed at this
mountain long enough.
7 Resume your journey and go to the hill country of the Amorites; go to
all the neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the hill country, in the
foothills,‡ in the Negev, and along the seacoast to the land of the
Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great River Euphrates.
8 See, I have placed the land before you. Enter and possess the land that
the LORD swore he would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and to their descendants after them."
9 At that time I said to you, "I cannot carry the burden for you alone.
10 The LORD your God has multiplied you, so that today you are as
numerous as the stars in the sky.
11 May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times
over and bless you as he has promised.
12 But how can I bear your troubles, burdens, and disputes all by myself?
13 Choose for yourselves wise, understanding, and respected men from
each of your tribes, and I will appoint them as your leaders."
14 And you answered me and said, "What you propose to do is good."
15 So I took the leaders of your tribes, wise and respected men, and
appointed them as leaders over you—as commanders of thousands, of
hundreds, of fifties, and of tens, and as officers for your tribes.
16 At that time I charged your judges: "Hear the disputes between your
brothers, and judge fairly between a man and his brother or a foreign
resident.
17 Show no partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not
be intimidated by anyone, for judgment belongs to God. And bring to me
any case too difficult for you, and I will hear it."
18 And at that time I commanded you all the things you were to do.
19 And just as the LORD our God had commanded us, we set out from
Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites, through all the

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* **1:2 1:2** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai; also in verses 6 and 19 † **1:5 1:5** Note that Deuteronomy 1:6 through Deuteronomy 4:40 may be presented as a continuous section of unbroken speech by Moses. In place of multiple levels of nested quotes, this section has been set apart with a double space. ‡ **1:7 1:7** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

vast and terrifying wilderness you have seen. When we reached
Kadesh-barnea,
20 I said: “You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the
LORD our God is giving us.
21 See, the LORD your God has placed the land before you. Go up and
take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do
not be afraid or discouraged.”
22 Then all of you approached me and said, “Let us send men ahead of us
to search out the land and bring us word of what route to follow and
which cities to enter.”
23 The plan seemed good to me, so I selected twelve men from among
you, one from each tribe.
24 They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of
Eshcol and spied out the land.
25 They took some of the fruit of the land in their hands, carried it down
to us, and brought us word: “It is a good land that the LORD our God is
giving us.”
26 But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of
the LORD your God.
27 You grumbled in your tents and said, “Because the LORD hates us, he
has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the
Amorites to be annihilated.
28 Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying:
‘The people are larger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with
walls up to the heavens. We even saw the descendants of the Anakim
there.’ ”
29 So I said to you: “Do not be terrified or afraid of them!
30 The LORD your God, who goes before you, will fight for you, just as
you saw him do for you in Egypt
31 and in the wilderness, where you saw how the LORD your God
carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way by which you traveled
until you reached this place.”
32 But in spite of all this, you did not trust the LORD your God,
33 who went before you on the journey, in the fire by night and in the
cloud by day, to seek out a place for you to camp and to show you the road
to travel.
34 When the LORD heard your words, he grew angry and swore an oath,
saying,
35 “Not one of the men of this evil generation shall see the good land I
swore to give your fathers,
36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and
his descendants the land on which he has set foot, because he followed the
LORD wholeheartedly.”
37 The LORD was also angry with me on your account, and he said, “Not
even you shall enter the land.
38 Joshua son of Nun, who stands before you, will enter it. Encourage
him, for he will enable Israel to inherit the land.
39 And the little ones you said would become captives—your children
who on that day did not know good from evil—will enter the land that I
will give them, and they will possess it.

40 But you are to turn back and head for the wilderness along the route
to the Sea of Reeds.§”
41 “We have sinned against the LORD,” you replied. “We will go up and
fight, as the LORD our God has commanded us.” Then each of you put on
his weapons of war, thinking it easy to go up into the hill country.
42 But the LORD said to me, “Tell them not to go up and fight, for I am not
with you to keep you from defeat by your enemies.”
43 So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. You rebelled against the
command of the LORD and presumptuously went up into the hill country.
44 Then the Amorites who lived in the hills came out against you and
chased you like a swarm of bees. They routed you in Seir* all the way to
Hormah.
45 And you returned and wept before the LORD, but he would not listen
to your voice or give ear to you.
46 For this reason you stayed in Kadesh for a long time—a very long time.

2

1 Then we turned back and headed for the wilderness by way of the Sea
of Reeds,* as the LORD had instructed me, and for many days we
wandered around Mount Seir.
2 At this time the LORD said to me,
3 “You have been wandering around this hill country long enough; turn
to the north
4 and command the people: ‘You will pass through the territory of your
brothers, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of
you, so you must be very careful.
5 Do not provoke them, for I will not give you any of their land, not even
a footprint, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as his possession.
6 You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you
drink.’ ”
7 Indeed, the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your
hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness.
The LORD your God has been with you these forty years, and you have
lacked nothing.
8 So we passed by our brothers, the descendants of Esau, who live in
Seir. We turned away from the Arabah road, which comes up from Elath
and Ezion-geber, and traveled along the road of the Wilderness of Moab.
9 Then the LORD said to me, “Do not harass the Moabites or provoke
them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, because I have given
Ar to the descendants of Lot as their possession.”
10 (The Emites used to live there, a people great and many, as tall as the
Anakites.
11 Like the Anakites, they were also regarded as Rephaim, though the
Moabites called them Emites.
12 The Horites used to live in Seir, but the descendants of Esau drove
them out. They destroyed the Horites from before them and settled in
their place, just as Israel did in the land that the LORD gave them as their
possession.)
13 “Now arise and cross over the Brook of Zered.”
So we crossed over the Brook of Zered.

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§ **1:40 1:40** Or *the Red Sea* * **1:44 1:44** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *from Seir* * **2:1 2:1** Or *the Red Sea*

14 The time we spent traveling from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed
over the Brook of Zered was thirty-eight years, until that entire generation
of fighting men had perished from the camp, as the LORD had sworn to
them.
15 Indeed, the LORD's hand was against them, to eliminate them from
the camp, until they had all perished.
16 Now when all the fighting men among the people had died,
17 the LORD said to me,
18 "Today you are going to cross the border of Moab at Ar.
19 But when you get close to the Ammonites, do not harass them or
provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the Ammonites. I
have given it to the descendants of Lot as their possession."
20 (That too was regarded as the land of the Rephaim, who used to live
there, though the Ammonites called them Zamzummites.
21 They were a people great and many, as tall as the Anakites. But the
LORD destroyed them from before the Ammonites, who drove them out
and settled in their place,
22 just as he had done for the descendants of Esau who lived in Seir,
when he destroyed the Horites from before them. They drove them out
and have lived in their place to this day.
23 And the Avvim, who lived in villages as far as Gaza, were destroyed by
the Caphtorites, who came out of Caphtor† and settled in their place.)
24 "Arise, set out, and cross the Arnon Valley. See, I have delivered into
your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take
possession of it and engage him in battle.
25 This very day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon all the
nations under heaven. They will hear the reports of you and tremble in
anguish because of you."
26 So from the Wilderness of Kedemoth I sent messengers with an offer
of peace to Sihon king of Heshbon, saying,
27 "Let us pass through your land; we will stay on the main road. We will
not turn to the right or to the left.
28 You can sell us food to eat and water to drink in exchange for silver.
Only let us pass through on foot,
29 just as the descendants of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who
live in Ar did for us, until we cross the Jordan into the land that the LORD
our God is giving us."
30 But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through, for the
LORD your God had made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate, that
he might deliver him into your hand, as is the case this day.
31 Then the LORD said to me, "See, I have begun to deliver Sihon and his
land over to you. Now begin to conquer and possess his land."
32 So Sihon and his whole army came out for battle against us at Jahaz.
33 And the LORD our God delivered him over to us, and we defeated him
and his sons‡ and his whole army.
34 At that time we captured all his cities and devoted to destruction§ the
people of every city, including women and children. We left no survivors.

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† **2:23 2:23** That is, Crete ‡ **2:33 2:33** Qere; Ketiv *his son* § **2:34 2:34** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

35 We carried off for ourselves only the livestock and the plunder from
the cities we captured.
36 From Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along with the city in the
valley, even as far as Gilead, not one city had walls too high for us. The
LORD our God gave us all of them.
37 But you did not go near the land of the Ammonites, or the land along
the banks of the Jabbok River, or the cities of the hill country, or any place
that the LORD our God had forbidden.

3

1 Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og king of
Bashan and his whole army came out to meet us in battle at Edrei.
2 But the LORD said to me, "Do not fear him, for I have delivered him
into your hand, along with all his people and his land. Do to him as you
did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon."
3 So the LORD our God also delivered Og king of Bashan and his whole
army into our hands. We struck them down until no survivor was left.
4 At that time we captured all sixty of his cities. There was not a single
city we failed to take—the entire region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in
Bashan.
5 All these cities were fortified with high walls and gates and bars, and
there were many more unwalled villages.
6 We devoted them to destruction,* as we had done to Sihon king of
Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city.
7 But all the livestock and plunder of the cities we carried off for
ourselves.
8 At that time we took from the two kings of the Amorites the land
across the Jordan, from the Arnon Valley as far as Mount Hermon—
9 which the Sidonians call Sirion but the Amorites call Senir—
10 all the cities of the plateau, all of Gilead, and all of Bashan as far as the
cities of Salecah and Edrei in the kingdom of Og.
11 (For only Og king of Bashan had remained of the remnant of the
Rephaim. His bed of iron, nine cubits long and four cubits wide by the
common cubit,† is still in Rabbah of the Ammonites.)
12 So at that time we took possession of this land. To the Reubenites and
Gadites I gave the land beyond Aroer along the Arnon Valley, and half the
hill country of Gilead, along with its cities.
13 To the half-tribe of Manasseh I gave the rest of Gilead and all of
Bashan, the kingdom of Og. (The entire region of Argob, the whole
territory of Bashan, used to be called the land of the Rephaim.)
14 Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, took the whole region of Argob as far
as the border of the Geshurites and Maacathites. He renamed Bashan
after himself, Havvoth-jair,‡ by which it is called to this day.
15 To Machir I gave Gilead,
16 and to the Reubenites and Gadites I gave the territory from Gilead to
the Arnon Valley (the middle of the valley was the border) and up to the
Jabbok River, the border of the Ammonites.

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* **3:6 3:6** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. † **3:11 3:11** Og's bed was approximately 14 feet long and 6 feet wide (4.3 meters long and 1.8 meters wide). ‡ **3:14 3:14** Or *the villages of Jair*

17 The Jordan River in the Arabah bordered it from Chinnereth to the
Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea§) with the slopes of Pisgah to the east.
18 At that time I commanded you: “The LORD your God has given you
this land to possess. All your men of valor are to cross over, armed for
battle, ahead of your brothers, the Israelites.
19 But your wives, your children, and your livestock—I know that you
have much livestock—may remain in the cities I have given you,
20 until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they
too have taken possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving
them across the Jordan. Then each of you may return to the possession I
have given you.”
21 And at that time I commanded Joshua: “Your own eyes have seen all
that the LORD your God has done to these two kings. The LORD will do the
same to all the kingdoms you are about to enter.
22 Do not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God himself will fight for
you.”
23 At that time I also pleaded with the LORD:
24 “O Lord GOD, you have begun to show your greatness and power to
your servant. For what god in heaven or on earth can perform such works
and mighty acts as yours?
25 Please let me cross over and see the good land beyond the
Jordan—that pleasant hill country as well as Lebanon!”
26 But the LORD was angry with me on account of you, and he would not
listen to me. “That is enough,” the LORD said to me. “Do not speak to me
again about this matter.
27 Go to the top of Pisgah and look to the west and north and south and
east. See the land with your own eyes, for you will not cross this Jordan.
28 But commission Joshua, encourage him, and strengthen him, for he
will cross over ahead of the people and enable them to inherit the land
that you will see.”
29 So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

4

1 Hear now, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances I am teaching you to
follow, so that you may live and may enter and take possession of the land
that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
2 You must not add to or subtract from what I command you, so that you
may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I am giving you.
3 Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD
your God destroyed from among you all who followed Baal of Peor.
4 But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive to this day, every
one of you.
5 See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances just as the LORD my
God has commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land that you
are about to enter and possess.
6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and
understanding in the sight of the peoples, who will hear of all these
statutes and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding
people.”

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§ **3:17 3:17** That is, the Dead Sea

7 For what nation is great enough to have a god as near to them as the
LORD our God is to us whenever we call on him?
8 And what nation is great enough to have righteous statutes and
ordinances like this entire law I set before you today?
9 Only be on your guard and diligently watch yourselves, so that you do
not forget the things your eyes have seen, and so that they do not slip from
your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and
grandchildren.
10 The day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb,* the LORD
said to me, “Gather the people before me to hear my words, so that they
may learn to fear me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may
teach them to their children.”
11 You came near and stood at the base of the mountain, a mountain
blazing with fire to the heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness.
12 And the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of the
words but saw no form; there was only a voice.
13 He declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to
follow—the Ten Commandments† that he wrote on two tablets of stone.
14 At that time the LORD commanded me to teach you the statutes and
ordinances you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan
to possess.
15 So since you saw no form of any kind on the day the LORD spoke to
you out of the fire at Horeb, be careful
16 that you do not act corruptly and make an idol for yourselves of any
form or shape, whether in the likeness of a male or female,
17 of any beast that is on the earth or bird that flies in the air,
18 or of any creature that crawls on the ground or fish that is in the
waters below the earth.
19 When you look to the heavens and see the sun and moon and
stars—all the host of heaven—do not be enticed to bow down and worship
what the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.
20 Yet the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace,
out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you are today.
21 The LORD, however, was angry with me on account of you, and he
swore that I would not cross the Jordan to enter the good land that the
LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.
22 For I will not be crossing the Jordan, because I must die in this land.
But you shall cross over and take possession of that good land.
23 Be careful that you do not forget the covenant of the LORD your God
that he made with you; do not make an idol for yourselves in the form of
anything he has forbidden you.
24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.
25 After you have children and grandchildren and you have been in the
land a long time, if you then act corruptly and make an idol of any
form—doing evil in the sight of the LORD your God and provoking him to
anger—
26 I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will
quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.
You will not live long upon it, but will be utterly destroyed.

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* **4:10 4:10** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai; also in verse 15 † **4:13 4:13** Hebrew *the Ten Words*

27 Then the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of
you will survive among the nations to which the LORD will drive you.
28 And there you will serve man-made gods of wood and stone, which
cannot see or hear or eat or smell.
29 But if from there you will seek the LORD your God, you will find him
if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.
30 When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you,
then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to his
voice.
31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or
destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers, which he swore to
them by oath.
32 Indeed, ask now from one end of the heavens to the other about the
days that long preceded you, from the day that God created man on earth:
Has anything as great as this ever happened or been reported?
33 Has a people ever heard the voice of a god‡ speaking out of the fire, as
you have, and lived?
34 Or has any god tried to take as his own a nation out of another
nation—by trials, signs, wonders, and war, by a strong hand and an
outstretched arm, and by great terrors—as the LORD your God did for you
in Egypt, before your eyes?
35 You were shown these things so that you would know that the LORD is
God; there is no other besides him.
36 He let you hear his voice from heaven to discipline you, and on earth
he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words out of the fire.
37 Because he loved your fathers, he chose his descendants after him§
and brought you out of Egypt by his presence and great power,
38 to drive out before you nations greater and mightier than you, and to
bring you into their land and give it to you for your inheritance, as it is
this day.
39 Know therefore this day and take to heart that the LORD is God in
heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.
40 Keep his statutes and commandments, which I am giving you today, so
that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may live
long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.
41 Then Moses set aside three cities across the Jordan to the east
42 to which a manslayer could flee after killing his neighbor
unintentionally without prior malice.
To save one's own life, he could flee to one of these cities:
43 Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau belonging to the Reubenites,
Ramoth in Gilead belonging to the Gadites, or Golan in Bashan belonging
to the Manassites.
44 This is the law that Moses set before the Israelites.
45 These are the testimonies, statutes, and ordinances that Moses
proclaimed to them after they had come out of Egypt,
46 while they were in the valley across the Jordan facing Beth-peor in the
land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon and was
defeated by Moses and the Israelites after they had come out of Egypt.
47 They took possession of the land belonging to Sihon and to Og king of
Bashan—the two Amorite kings across the Jordan to the east—

‡ **4:33 4:33** Or *of God* § **4:37 4:37** Samaritan Pentateuch, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *their descendants after them*

48 extending from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley as far as Mount
Siyon* (that is, Hermon),
49 including all the Arabah on the east side of the Jordan and as far as
the Sea of the Arabah,† below the slopes of Pisgah.

5

1 Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:*
Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I declare in your hearing
this day. Learn them and observe them carefully.
2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.†
3 He did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with all of us who
are alive here today.
4 The LORD spoke with you face to face out of the fire on the mountain.
5 At that time I was standing between the LORD and you to declare to
you the word of the LORD, because you were afraid of the fire and would
not go up the mountain. And he said:
6 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.
7 You shall have no other gods besides me.‡
8 You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in the
heavens above, on the earth below, or in the waters below the earth.
9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your
God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on their children
to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me,
10 but showing loving devotion to a thousand generations§ of those who
love me and keep my commandments.*
11 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the
LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who takes his name in vain.
12 Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has
commanded you.
13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God, on which you
must not do any work—neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your
male or female slave, nor your ox or donkey or any of your livestock, nor
the foreigner within your gates, so that your male and female slave may
rest as you do.
15 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that the
LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an
outstretched arm. That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to
keep the Sabbath day.
16 Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has
commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go
well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
17 You shall not murder.

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* **4:48 4:48** Or *Sion*; Syriac *Sirion* † **4:49 4:49** That is, the Dead Sea * **5:1 5:1** Note that Deuteronomy 5:1 through Deuteronomy 26:19 may be presented as a continuous section of unbroken speech by Moses. In place of multiple levels of nested quotes, this section has been set apart with a double space. † **5:2 5:2** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai ‡ **5:7 5:7** Or *before me* § **5:10 5:10** Hebrew *loving devotion to thousands*; forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. * **5:10 5:10** Qere; Ketiv *his commandments*

18 You shall not commit adultery.
19 You shall not steal.
20 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
21 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not covet your
neighbor's house or field, or his male or female slave, or his ox or
donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."
22 The LORD spoke these commandments in a loud voice to your whole
assembly out of the fire, the cloud, and the deep darkness on the
mountain; he added nothing more. And he wrote them on two tablets of
stone and gave them to me.
23 And when you heard the voice out of the darkness while the
mountain was blazing with fire, all the heads of your tribes and your
elders approached me,
24 and you said, "Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and
greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the fire. Today we have seen
that a man can live even if God speaks with him.
25 But now, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us, and
we will die, if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer.
26 For who of all flesh has heard the voice of the living God speaking out
of the fire, as we have, and survived?
27 Go near and listen to all that the LORD our God says. Then you can tell
us everything the LORD our God tells you; we will listen and obey."
28 And the LORD heard the words you spoke to me, and he said to me, "I
have heard the words that these people have spoken to you. They have
done well in all that they have spoken.
29 If only they had such a heart to fear me and keep all my
commandments always, so that it might be well with them and with their
children forever.
30 Go and tell them: 'Return to your tents.'
31 But you stand here with me, that I may speak to you all the
commandments and statutes and ordinances you are to teach them to
follow in the land that I am giving them to possess."
32 So be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you
are not to turn aside to the right or to the left.
33 You must walk in all the ways that the LORD your God has
commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days
in the land that you will possess.

6

1 These are the commandments and statutes and ordinances that the
LORD your God has instructed me to teach you to follow in the land that
you are about to enter and possess,
2 so that you and your children and grandchildren may fear the LORD
your God all the days of your lives by keeping all his statutes and
commandments that I give you, and so that your days may be prolonged.
3 Hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe them, so that you may prosper
and multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the
LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you.
4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.*

* **6:4 6:4** Or *The LORD our God is One LORD* or *The LORD is our God, the LORD is One* or *The LORD our God, the LORD is One*

5 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all
your soul and with all your strength.
6 These words I am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts.
7 And you shall teach them diligently to your children and speak of them
when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie
down and when you get up.
8 Tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your
foreheads.
9 Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.
10 And when the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to
your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that he would give you—a land
with great and splendid cities that you did not build,
11 with houses full of every good thing with which you did not fill them,
with wells that you did not dig, and with vineyards and olive groves that
you did not plant—and when you eat and are satisfied,
12 be careful not to forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of
Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
13 Fear the LORD your God, serve him only, and take your oaths in his
name.†
14 Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you.
15 For the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God.
Otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you,
and he will wipe you off the face of the earth.
16 Do not test the LORD your God as you tested him at Massah.‡
17 You are to diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God
and the testimonies and statutes he has given you.
18 Do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, so that it may be
well with you and that you may enter and possess the good land that the
LORD swore to give your fathers,
19 driving out all your enemies before you, as the LORD has said.
20 In the future, when your son asks, “What is the meaning of the decrees
and statutes and ordinances that the LORD our God has commanded you?”
21 then you are to tell him, “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the
LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.
22 Before our eyes the LORD inflicted great and devastating signs and
wonders on Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his household.
23 But he brought us out from there to lead us in and give us the land
that he had sworn to our fathers.
24 And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes and to fear
the LORD our God, that we may always be prosperous and preserved, as
we are to this day.
25 And if we are careful to observe every one of these commandments
before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, then that will be our
righteousness.”

7

1 When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are
entering to possess, and he drives out before you many nations—the
Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and
Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—

† **6:13 6:13** Or *serve him, and take your oaths only in his name* ‡ **6:16 6:16** *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7.

2 and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you to defeat
them, then you must devote them to complete destruction.* Make no
treaty† with them and show them no mercy.
3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons
or take their daughters for your sons,
4 because they will turn your sons away from following me to serve
other gods. Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and he will
swiftly destroy you.
5 Instead, this is what you are to do to them: tear down their altars,
smash their sacred pillars, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn their
idols in the fire.
6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God
has chosen you to be a people for his prized possession out of all peoples
on the face of the earth.
7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you
were more numerous than the other peoples, for you were the fewest of
all peoples.
8 But because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your
fathers, he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from
the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who
keeps his covenant of loving devotion for a thousand generations of those
who love him and keep his commandments.‡
10 But those who hate him he repays to their faces with destruction; he
will not hesitate to repay to his face the one who hates him.
11 So keep the commandments and statutes and ordinances that I am
giving you to follow this day.
12 If you listen to these ordinances and keep them carefully, then the
LORD your God will keep his covenant and the loving devotion that he
swore to your fathers.
13 He will love you and bless you and multiply you. He will bless the
fruit of your womb and the produce of your land—your grain, new wine,
and oil, the young of your herds and the lambs of your flocks—in the land
that he swore to your fathers to give you.
14 You will be blessed above all peoples; among you there will be no
barren man or woman or livestock.
15 And the LORD will remove from you all sickness. He will not lay upon
you any of the terrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them
on all who hate you.
16 You must destroy all the peoples the LORD your God will deliver to
you. Do not look on them with pity. Do not worship their gods, for that
will be a snare to you.
17 You may say in your heart, “These nations are greater than we are;
how can we drive them out?”
18 But do not be afraid of them. Be sure to remember what the LORD
your God did to Pharaoh and all Egypt:

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* **7:2 7:2** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also twice in verse 26. † **7:2 7:2** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*. ‡ **7:9 7:9** Qere; Ketiv *his commandment*

19 the great trials that you saw, the signs and wonders, and the mighty
hand and outstretched arm by which the LORD your God brought you out.
The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.
20 Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet against them until
even the survivors hiding from you have perished.
21 Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among
you, is a great and awesome God.
22 The LORD your God will drive out these nations before you little by
little. You will not be enabled to eliminate them all at once, or the wild
animals would multiply around you.
23 But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them
into great confusion, until they are destroyed.
24 He will hand their kings over to you, and you will wipe out their
names from under heaven. No one will be able to stand against you; you
will annihilate them.
25 You must burn up the images of their gods; do not covet the silver and
gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it;
for it is detestable to the LORD your God.
26 And you must not bring any detestable thing into your house, or you,
like it, will be set apart for destruction. You are to utterly detest and abhor
it, because it is set apart for destruction.

8

1 You must carefully follow every commandment I am giving you today,
so that you may live and multiply, and enter and possess the land that the
LORD swore to give your fathers.
2 Remember that these forty years the LORD your God led you all the
way in the wilderness, so that he might humble you and test you in order
to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his
commandments.*
3 He humbled you, and in your hunger he gave you manna to eat, which
neither you nor your fathers had known, so that you might understand
that man does not live on bread alone, but on everything that comes from
the mouth of the LORD.†
4 Your clothing did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these
forty years.
5 So know in your heart that just as a man disciplines his son, so the
LORD your God disciplines you.
6 Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God,
walking in his ways and fearing him.
7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of
brooks and fountains and springs that flow through the valleys and hills;
8 a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of
olive oil and honey;
9 a land where you will eat food without scarcity, where you will lack
nothing; a land whose rocks are iron and whose hills are ready to be
mined for copper.
10 When you eat and are satisfied, you are to bless the LORD your God
for the good land that he has given you.

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* **8:2 8:2** Qere; Ketiv *his commandment* † **8:3 8:3** LXX *every word*

11 Be careful not to forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his
commandments and ordinances and statutes, which I am giving you this
day.
12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine
houses in which to dwell,
13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold
increase and all that you have is multiplied,
14 then your heart will become proud, and you will forget the LORD your
God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
15 He led you through the vast and terrifying wilderness with its
venomous snakes and scorpions, a thirsty and waterless land. He brought
you water from the rock of flint.
16 He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers had not
known, in order to humble you and test you, so that in the end he might
cause you to prosper.
17 You might say in your heart, “The power and strength of my hands
have made this wealth for me.”
18 But remember that it is the LORD your God who gives you the power
to gain wealth, in order to confirm his covenant that he swore to your
fathers even to this day.
19 If you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods to
worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will
surely perish.
20 Like the nations that the LORD has destroyed before you, so you will
perish if you do not obey the LORD your God.

9

1 Hear, O Israel: Today you are about to cross the Jordan to go in and
dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities
fortified to the heavens.
2 The people are strong and tall, the descendants of the Anakim. You
know about them, and you have heard it said, “Who can stand up to the
sons of Anak?”
3 But understand that today the LORD your God goes across ahead of
you as a consuming fire; he will destroy them and subdue them before
you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them swiftly, as the LORD
has promised you.
4 When the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say
in your heart, “Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in
to possess this land.” Rather, the LORD is driving out these nations before
you because of their wickedness.
5 It is not because of your righteousness or uprightness of heart that you
are going in to possess their land, but it is because of their wickedness that
the LORD your God is driving out these nations before you, to keep the
promise he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
6 Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the
LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a
stiff-necked people.
7 Remember this, and never forget how you provoked the LORD your
God in the wilderness. From the day you left the land of Egypt until you
reached this place, you have been rebelling against the LORD.

8 At Horeb* you provoked the LORD, and he was angry enough to
destroy you.
9 When I went up on the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the
tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I stayed on the
mountain forty days and forty nights. I ate no bread and drank no water.
10 Then the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, inscribed by the finger
of God with the exact words that the LORD spoke to you out of the fire on
the mountain on the day of the assembly.
11 And at the end of forty days and forty nights, the LORD gave me the
two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant.
12 And the LORD said to me, "Get up and go down from here at once, for
your people, whom you brought out of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.
How quickly they have turned aside from the way that I commanded
them! They have made for themselves a molten image."
13 The LORD also said to me, "I have seen this people, and they are
indeed a stiff-necked people.
14 Leave me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name
from under heaven. Then I will make you into a nation mightier and
greater than they are."
15 So I went back down the mountain while it was blazing with fire, with
the two tablets of the covenant in my hands.
16 And I saw how you had sinned against the LORD your God; you had
made for yourselves a molten calf. You had turned aside quickly from the
way that the LORD had commanded you.
17 So I took the two tablets and threw them out of my hands, shattering
them before your eyes.
18 Then I fell down before the LORD for forty days and forty nights, as I
had done the first time. I did not eat bread or drink water because of all
the sin you had committed in doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD
and provoking him to anger.
19 For I was afraid† of the anger and wrath that the LORD had directed
against you, enough to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me this time
as well.
20 The LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that
time I also prayed for Aaron.
21 And I took that sinful thing, the calf you had made, and burned it in
the fire. Then I crushed it and ground it to powder as fine as dust, and I
cast it into the stream that came down from the mountain.
22 You continued to provoke the LORD at Taberah,‡ at Massah,§ and at
Kibroth-hattaavah.*
23 And when the LORD sent you out from Kadesh-barnea, he said, "Go up
and possess the land that I have given you."
But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. You
neither believed him nor obeyed him.
24 You have been rebelling against the LORD since the day I came to
know you.
25 So I fell down before the LORD for forty days and forty nights,
because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

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* **9:8 9:8** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai † **9:19 9:19** LXX *And I am greatly terrified* ‡ **9:22 9:22** *Taberah* means *burning*; see Numbers 11:3. § **9:22 9:22** *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7. * **9:22 9:22** *Kibroth-hattaavah* means *graves of craving*; see Numbers 11:34.

26 And I prayed to the LORD and said, “O Lord GOD, do not destroy your
people, your inheritance, whom you redeemed through your greatness
and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.
27 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Overlook the
stubbornness of this people and the wickedness of their sin.
28 Otherwise, those in the land from which you brought us out will say,
‘Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land he had
promised them, and because he hated them, he has brought them out to
kill them in the wilderness.’
29 But they are your people, your inheritance, whom you brought out by
your great power and outstretched arm.”

10

1 At that time the LORD said to me, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the
originals, come up to me on the mountain, and make an ark of wood.
2 And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets,
which you broke; and you are to place them in the ark.”
3 So I made an ark of acacia wood, chiseled out two stone tablets like the
originals, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hands.
4 And the LORD wrote on the tablets what had been written previously,
the Ten Commandments* that he had spoken to you on the mountain out
of the fire on the day of the assembly. The LORD gave them to me,
5 and I went back down the mountain and placed the tablets in the ark I
had made, as the LORD had commanded me; and there they have
remained.
6 The Israelites traveled from Beeroth Bene-jaakan† to Moserah, where
Aaron died and was buried, and Eleazar his son succeeded him as priest.
7 From there they traveled to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to
Jotbathah, a land with streams of water.
8 At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the
covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to serve him, and to
pronounce blessings in his name, as they do to this day.
9 That is why Levi has no portion or inheritance among his brothers; the
LORD is his inheritance, as the LORD your God promised him.
10 I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights, like the first
time, and that time the LORD again listened to me and agreed not to
destroy you.
11 Then the LORD said to me, “Get up. Continue your journey ahead of
the people, that they may enter and possess the land that I swore to their
fathers to give them.”
12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to
fear the LORD your God by walking in all his ways, to love him, to serve
the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD that I am
giving you this day for your own good?
14 Behold, to the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest
heavens, and the earth and everything in it.
15 Yet the LORD has set his affection on your fathers and loved them.
And he has chosen you, their descendants after them, above all the
peoples, even to this day.

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* **10:4 10:4** Hebrew *the Ten Words* † **10:6 10:6** Or *from the wells of the Bene-jaakan*

16 Circumcise your hearts,‡ therefore, and stiffen your necks no more.
17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great,
mighty, and awesome God, showing no partiality and accepting no bribe.
18 He executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and he loves the
foreigner, giving him food and clothing.
19 So you also must love the foreigner, since you yourselves were
foreigners in the land of Egypt.
20 You are to fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him
and take your oaths in his name.
21 He is your praise and he is your God, who has done for you these
great and awesome wonders that your eyes have seen.
22 Your fathers went down to Egypt, seventy in all, and now the LORD
your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

11

1 You shall therefore love the LORD your God and always keep his
charge, his statutes, his ordinances, and his commandments.
2 Know this day that it is not your children who have known and seen
the discipline of the LORD your God: His greatness, his mighty hand, and
his outstretched arm;
3 the signs and works he did in Egypt to Pharaoh king of Egypt and all
his land;
4 what he did to the Egyptian army and horses and chariots when he
made the waters of the Sea of Reeds* engulf them as they pursued you,
and how he destroyed them completely, even to this day;
5 what he did for you in the wilderness until you reached this place;
6 and what he did in the midst of all the Israelites to Dathan and Abiram,
the sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth and
swallowed them, their households, their tents, and every living thing that
belonged to them.
7 For it is your own eyes that have seen every great work that the LORD
has done.
8 You shall therefore keep every commandment I am giving you today,
so that you may have the strength to go in and possess the land that you
are crossing the Jordan to possess,
9 and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your
fathers to give them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and
honey.
10 For the land that you are entering to possess is not like the land of
Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and
irrigated on foot, like a vegetable garden.
11 But the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess is a land of
mountains and valleys that drinks in the rain from heaven.
12 It is a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD
your God are always on it, from the beginning to the end of the year.
13 So if you carefully obey the commandments I am giving you today, to
love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all
your soul,

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‡ **10:16 10:16** Literally *Circumcise the foreskin of your hearts* * **11:4 11:4** Or *the Red Sea*

14 then I will provide† rain for your land in season, the autumn and
spring rains, that you may gather your grain, new wine, and oil.
15 And I will provide grass in the fields for your livestock, and you will
eat and be satisfied.
16 But be careful that you are not enticed to turn aside to worship and
bow down to other gods,
17 or the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you. He will shut the
heavens so that there will be no rain, nor will the land yield its produce,
and you will soon perish from the good land that the LORD is giving you.

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as
reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
19 Teach them to your children, speaking about them when you sit at
home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when
you get up.
20 Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates,
21 so that as long as the heavens are above the earth, your days and
those of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore
to give your fathers.

22 For if you carefully keep all these commandments I am giving you to
follow—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to hold
fast to him—
23 then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will
dispossess nations greater and stronger than you.
24 Every place where the sole of your foot treads will be yours. Your
territory will extend from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the
Euphrates River to the Western Sea.‡
25 No man will be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put
the fear and dread of you upon all the land, wherever you set foot, as he
has promised you.

26 See, today I am setting before you a blessing and a curse—
27 a blessing if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I
am giving you today,
28 but a curse if you disobey the commandments of the LORD your God
and turn aside from the path I command you today by following other
gods, which you have not known.

29 When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to
possess, you are to proclaim the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse
on Mount Ebal.
30 Are not these mountains across the Jordan, west of the road toward
the sunset, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah opposite
Gilgal near the Terebinths§ of Moreh?

31 For you are about to cross the Jordan to enter and possess the land
that the LORD your God is giving you. When you take possession of it and
settle in it,
32 be careful to follow all the statutes and ordinances that I am setting
before you today.

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† **11:14 11:14** SP, LXX, and Vulgate *he will provide*; also in verse 15 ‡ **11:24 11:24** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea § **11:30 11:30** Or *Oaks* or *Great Trees*; SP, LXX, and Syriac (see Genesis 12:6) *Oak*

12

1 These are the statutes and ordinances you must be careful to follow all
the days you live in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has
given you to possess.
2 Destroy completely all the places where the nations you are
dispossessing have served their gods—atop the high mountains, on the
hills, and under every green tree.
3 Tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, burn up their
Asherah poles, cut down the idols of their gods, and wipe out their names
from that place.
4 You shall not worship the LORD your God in this way.
5 Instead, you must seek the place the LORD your God will choose from
among all your tribes to establish as a dwelling for his Name, and there
you must go.
6 To that place you are to bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your
tithes and heave offerings, your vow offerings and freewill offerings, as
well as the firstborn of your herds and flocks.
7 There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your households
shall eat and rejoice in all you do, because the LORD your God has blessed
you.
8 You are not to do as we are doing here today, where everyone does
what seems right in his own eyes.
9 For you have not yet come to the resting place and the inheritance that
the LORD your God is giving you.
10 When you cross the Jordan and live in the land that the LORD your
God is giving you as an inheritance, and he gives you rest from all the
enemies around you and you dwell securely,
11 then the LORD your God will choose a place as a dwelling for his
Name. And there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt
offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice
offerings you vow to the LORD.
12 And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God—you, your sons and
daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levite within your gates,
since he has no portion or inheritance among you.
13 Be careful not to offer your burnt offerings in just any place you see;
14 you must offer them only in the place the LORD will choose in one of
your tribal territories, and there you shall do all that I command you.
15 But whenever you want, you may slaughter and eat meat within any
of your gates, according to the blessing the LORD your God has given you.
Both the ceremonially clean and unclean may eat it as they would a
gazelle or deer,
16 but you must not eat the blood; pour it on the ground like water.
17 Within your gates you must not eat the tithe of your grain or new
wine or oil, the firstborn of your herds or flocks, any of the offerings that
you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts.
18 Instead, you must eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at
the place the LORD your God will choose—you, your sons and daughters,
your male and female slaves, and the Levite within your gates. Rejoice
before the LORD your God in all you do,
19 and be careful not to neglect the Levites as long as you live in your
land.

20 When the LORD your God expands your territory as he has promised,
and you crave meat and say, “I want to eat meat,” you may eat it whenever
you want.
21 If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put his Name is too
far from you, then you may slaughter any of the herd or flock he has given
you, as I have commanded you, and you may eat it within your gates
whenever you want.
22 Indeed, you may eat it as you would eat a gazelle or deer; both the
ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat it.
23 Only be sure not to eat the blood, because the blood is the life, and
you must not eat the life with the meat.
24 You must not eat the blood; pour it on the ground like water.
25 Do not eat it, so that it may go well with you and your children after
you, because you will be doing what is right in the eyes of the LORD.

26 But you are to take your holy things and your vow offerings and go to
the place the LORD will choose.
27 Present the meat and blood of your burnt offerings on the altar of the
LORD your God. The blood of your other sacrifices must be poured out
beside the altar of the LORD your God, but you may eat the meat.
28 Be careful to obey all these things I command you, so that it may
always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be
doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

29 When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations you are
entering to dispossess, and you drive them out and live in their land,
30 be careful not to be ensnared by their ways after they have been
destroyed before you. Do not inquire about their gods, asking, “How do
these nations serve their gods? I will do likewise.”

31 You must not worship the LORD your God in this way, because they
practice for their gods every abomination which the LORD hates. They
even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

13

1 See that you do everything I command you; do not add to it or subtract
from it.
2 If a prophet or dreamer of dreams arises among you and proclaims a
sign or wonder to you,
3 and if the sign or wonder he has spoken to you comes about, but he
says, “Let us follow other gods (which you have not known) and let us
worship them,”
4 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. For the
LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all
your heart and with all your soul.
5 You are to follow the LORD your God and fear him. Keep his
commandments and listen to his voice; serve him and hold fast to him.

6 Such a prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he has
advocated rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of
the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery; he has
tried to turn you from the way in which the LORD your God has
commanded you to walk. So you must purge the evil from among you.

7 If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you
embrace,* or your closest friend† secretly entices you, saying, “Let us go
and worship other gods” (which neither you nor your fathers have known,
8 the gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, whether from
one end of the earth or the other),
9 you must not yield to him or listen to him. Show him no pity, and do
not spare him or shield him.
10 Instead, you must surely kill him. Your hand must be the first against
him to put him to death, and then the hands of all the people.
11 Stone him to death for trying to turn you away from the LORD your
God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
12 Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a
wicked thing among you.
13 If, regarding one of the cities the LORD your God is giving you to
inhabit, you hear it said
14 that wicked men have arisen from among you and have led the
people of their city astray, saying, “Let us go and serve other gods” (which
you have not known),
15 then you must inquire, investigate, and interrogate thoroughly. And if
it is established with certainty that this abomination has been committed
among you,
16 you must surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword. Devote
to destruction‡ all its people and livestock.
17 And you are to gather all its plunder in the middle of the public
square, and completely burn the city and all its plunder as a whole burnt
offering to the LORD your God. The city must remain a mound of ruins
forever, never to be rebuilt.
18 Nothing devoted to destruction shall cling to your hands, so that the
LORD will turn from his fierce anger, grant you mercy, show you
compassion, and multiply you as he swore to your fathers,
19 because you obey the LORD your God, keeping all his commandments
I am giving you today and doing what is right in the eyes of the LORD your
God.

14

1 You are sons of the LORD your God; do not cut yourselves or shave
your foreheads on behalf of the dead,
2 for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD has chosen
you to be a people for his prized possession out of all the peoples on the
face of the earth.
3 You must not eat any detestable thing.
4 These are the animals that you may eat:*
The ox, the sheep, the goat,
5 the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer,
the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope,
and the mountain sheep.

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* **13:7 13:7** Hebrew *the wife of your bosom* † **13:7 13:7** Hebrew *your friend who is like your own soul* ‡ **13:16 13:16** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; similarly in verse 18. * **14:4 14:4** The precise identification of some of the birds and animals in this chapter is uncertain.

6 You may eat any animal that has a split hoof divided in two and that
chews the cud.
7 But of those that chew the cud or have a completely divided hoof, you
are not to eat the following:

the camel,
the rabbit,
or the rock badger.†
Although they chew the cud, they do not have a divided hoof. They are
unclean for you,
8 as well as the pig; though it has a divided hoof, it does not chew the
cud. It is unclean for you. You must not eat its meat or touch its carcass.
9 Of all the creatures that live in the water, you may eat anything with
fins and scales,
10 but you may not eat anything that does not have fins and scales; it is
unclean for you.
11 You may eat any clean bird,
12 but these you may not eat:

the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,
13 the red kite, the falcon, any kind of kite,
14 any kind of raven,
15 the ostrich,‡ the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,
16 the little owl, the great owl, the white owl,
17 the desert owl, the osprey, the cormorant,
18 the stork, any kind of heron,
the hoopoe, or the bat.
19 All flying insects are unclean for you; they may not be eaten.
20 But you may eat any clean bird.
21 You are not to eat any carcass; you may give it to the foreigner
residing within your gates, and he may eat it, or you may sell it to a
foreigner. For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God.
You must not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.
22 You must be sure to set aside a tenth of all the produce brought forth
each year from your fields.
23 And you are to eat a tenth of your grain, new wine, and oil, and the
firstborn of your herds and flocks, in the presence of the LORD your God
at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may
learn to fear the LORD your God always.
24 But if the distance is too great for you to carry that with which the
LORD your God has blessed you, because the place where the LORD your
God will choose to put his Name is too far away,
25 then exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to
the place the LORD your God will choose.
26 Then you may spend the money on anything you desire: cattle, sheep,
wine, strong drink, or anything you wish. You are to feast there in the
presence of the LORD your God and rejoice with your household.
27 And do not neglect the Levite within your gates, since he has no
portion or inheritance among you.

† **14:7 14:7** Or *the coney* or *the hyrax* ‡ **14:15 14:15** Literally *the daughter of the ostrich* or *the daughter of the owl*

28 At the end of every three years, bring a tenth of all your produce for
that year and lay it up within your gates.
29 Then the Levite (because he has no portion or inheritance among
you), the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow within your gates may
come and eat and be satisfied. And the LORD your God will bless you in all
the work of your hands.

15

1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.
2 This is the manner of remission: Every creditor shall cancel what he
has loaned to his neighbor. He is not to collect anything from his neighbor
or brother, because the LORD's time of release has been proclaimed.
3 You may collect something from a foreigner, but you must forgive
whatever your brother owes you.
4 There will be no poor among you, however, because the LORD will
surely bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to
possess as an inheritance,
5 if only you obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these
commandments I am giving you today.
6 When the LORD your God blesses you as he has promised, you will
lend to many nations but borrow from none; you will rule over many
nations but be ruled by none.
7 If there is a poor man among your brothers within any of the gates in
the land that the LORD your God is giving you, then you are not to
harden* your heart or shut your hand from your poor brother.
8 Instead, you are to open your hand to him and freely loan him
whatever he needs.
9 Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought in your heart: "The
seventh year, the year of release, is near," so that you look upon your poor
brother begrudgingly and give him nothing. He will cry out to the LORD
against you, and you will be guilty of sin.
10 Give generously to him, and do not let your heart be grieved when
you do so. And because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all
your work and in everything to which you put your hand.
11 For there will never cease to be poor in the land; that is why I am
commanding you to open wide your hand to your brother and to the poor
and needy in your land.
12 If a fellow Hebrew, a man or a woman, is sold† to you and serves you
six years, then in the seventh year you must set him free.
13 And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed.
14 You are to furnish him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor,
and your winepress. You shall give to him as the LORD your God has
blessed you.
15 Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt, and the LORD
your God redeemed you; that is why I am giving you this command today.
16 But if your servant says to you, 'I do not want to leave you,' because
he loves you and your household and is well off with you,
17 then take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he
will become your slave for life. And treat your female slave the same way.

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* **15:7 15:7** Or *make strong* or *make courageous* † **15:12 15:12** Or *sells himself*

18 Do not regard it as a hardship to set your servant free, because his six
years of service were worth twice the wages of a hired hand. And the
LORD your God will bless you in all you do.
19 You must set apart to the LORD your God every firstborn male
produced by your herds and flocks. You are not to put the firstborn of
your oxen to work, nor are you to shear the firstborn of your flock.
20 Each year you and your household are to eat it before the LORD your
God in the place the LORD will choose.
21 But if an animal has a defect, is lame or blind, or has any serious flaw,
you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.
22 Eat it within your gates; both the ceremonially unclean and clean may
eat it as they would a gazelle or a deer.
23 But you must not eat the blood; pour it on the ground like water.

16

1 Observe the month of Abib* and celebrate the Passover to the LORD
your God, because in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you
out of Egypt by night.
2 You are to offer to the LORD your God the Passover sacrifice from the
herd or flock in the place the LORD will choose as a dwelling for his Name.
3 You must not eat leavened bread with it; for seven days you are to eat
with it unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left the land
of Egypt in haste—so that you may remember for the rest of your life the
day you left the land of Egypt.
4 No leaven is to be found in all your land for seven days, and none of
the meat you sacrifice in the evening of the first day shall remain until
morning.
5 You are not to sacrifice the Passover animal in any of the towns that
the LORD your God is giving you.
6 You must only offer the Passover sacrifice at the place the LORD your
God will choose as a dwelling for his Name. Do this in the evening as the
sun sets, at the same time you departed from Egypt.
7 And you shall roast it and eat it in the place the LORD your God will
choose, and in the morning you shall return to your tents.
8 For six days you must eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day
you shall hold a solemn assembly to the LORD your God, and you must not
do any work.
9 You are to count off seven weeks from the time you first put the sickle
to the standing grain.
10 And you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks† to the LORD your God
with a freewill offering that you give in proportion to how the LORD your
God has blessed you,
11 and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in the place he will
choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your
male and female slaves, and the Levite within your gates, as well as the
foreigner, the fatherless, and the widows among you.
12 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and carefully follow these
statutes.

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* **16:1 16:1** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April; twice in this verse. † **16:10 16:10** That is, Shavuot; see footnotes for verse 16.

13 You are to celebrate the Feast of Booths‡ for seven days after you have
gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress.
14 And you shall rejoice in your feast—you, your sons and daughters,
your male and female slaves, and the Levite, as well as the foreigner, the
fatherless, and the widows among you.
15 For seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the LORD your God in the
place he will choose, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your
produce and in all the work of your hands, so that your joy will be
complete.
16 Three times a year all your men are to appear before the LORD your
God in the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread,§ the
Feast of Weeks,* and the Feast of Booths.† No one should appear before
the LORD empty-handed.
17 Everyone must appear with a gift as he is able, according to the
blessing the LORD your God has given you.
18 You are to appoint judges and officials for your tribes in every town
that the LORD your God is giving you. They are to judge the people with
righteous judgment.
19 Do not deny justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a
bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.
20 Pursue justice, and justice alone, so that you may live, and you may
possess the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
21 Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole next to the altar you will
build for the LORD your God,
22 and do not set up for yourselves a sacred pillar, which the LORD your
God hates.

17

1 You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God an ox or a sheep with any
defect or serious flaw, for that is detestable to the LORD your God.
2 If a man or woman among you in one of the towns that the LORD your
God gives you is found doing evil in the sight of the LORD your God by
transgressing his covenant
3 and going to worship other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or
moon or any of the host of heaven—which I have forbidden—
4 and if it is reported and you hear about it, you must investigate it
thoroughly.
If the report is true and such an abomination has happened in Israel,
5 you must bring out to your gates the man or woman who has done this
evil thing, and you must stone that person to death.
6 On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death,
but he shall not be executed on the testimony of a lone witness.
7 The hands of the witnesses shall be the first in putting him to death,
and after that, the hands of all the people. So you must purge the evil from
among you.

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‡ **16:13 16:13** Or *Tabernacles* or *Shelters*; see footnotes for verse 16. § **16:16 16:16** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20. * **16:16 16:16** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. † **16:16 16:16** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

8 If a case is too difficult for you to judge, whether the controversy
within your gates is regarding bloodshed, lawsuits, or assaults, you must
go up to the place the LORD your God will choose.
9 You are to go to the Levitical priests and to the judge who presides at
that time. Inquire of them, and they will give you a verdict in the case.
10 You must abide by the verdict they give you at the place the LORD will
choose. Be careful to do everything they instruct you,
11 according to the terms of law they give and the verdict they proclaim.
Do not turn aside to the right or to the left from the decision they declare
to you.
12 But the man who acts presumptuously, refusing to listen either to the
priest who stands there to serve the LORD your God, or to the judge, must
be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel.
13 Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and will no longer behave
arrogantly.
14 When you enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you and
have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king
over us like all the nations around us,”
15 you are to appoint over yourselves the king whom the LORD your God
shall choose. Appoint a king from among your brothers; you are not to set
over yourselves a foreigner who is not one of your brothers.
16 But the king must not acquire many horses for himself or send the
people back to Egypt to acquire more horses, for the LORD has said, ‘You
are never to go back that way again.’
17 He must not take many wives for himself, lest his heart go astray. He
must not accumulate for himself large amounts of silver and gold.
18 When he is seated on his royal throne, he must write for himself a
copy of this instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests.
19 It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his
life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by carefully observing
all the words of this instruction and these statutes.
20 Then his heart will not be exalted above his countrymen, and he will
not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or to the left, in order
that he and his sons may reign many years over his kingdom in Israel.

18

1 The Levitical priests—indeed the whole tribe of Levi—shall have no
portion or inheritance with Israel. They are to eat the food offerings to the
LORD; that is their inheritance.
2 Although they have no inheritance among their brothers, the LORD is
their inheritance, as he promised them.
3 This shall be the priests’ share from the people who offer a sacrifice,
whether a bull or a sheep: the priests are to be given the shoulder, the
jowls, and the stomach.
4 You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine, and oil,
and the first wool sheared from your flock.
5 For the LORD your God has chosen Levi and his sons out of all your
tribes to stand and minister in his name for all time.
6 Now if a Levite moves from any town of residence throughout Israel
and comes in all earnestness to the place the LORD will choose,
7 then he shall serve in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow
Levites who stand there before the LORD.

8 They shall eat equal portions, even though he has received money
from the sale of his father's estate.
9 When you enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not
imitate the detestable ways of the nations there.
10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in
the fire,* practices divination or conjury, interprets omens, practices
sorcery,
11 casts spells, consults a medium or spiritist, or inquires of the dead.
12 For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD. And because
of these detestable things, the LORD your God is driving out the nations
before you.
13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God.
14 Though these nations, which you will dispossess, listen to conjurers
and diviners, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so.
15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from
among your brothers. You must listen to him.
16 This is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb† on the day of
the assembly, when you said, "Let me not hear the voice of the LORD my
God or see this great fire anymore, so that I will not die!"‡
17 Then the LORD said to me, "They have spoken well.
18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers.
I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I
command him.
19 And I will hold accountable anyone who does not listen to my words
that the prophet speaks in my name.
20 But if any prophet dares to speak a message in my name that I have
not commanded him to speak, or to speak in the name of other gods, that
prophet must be put to death."
21 You may ask in your heart, "How can we recognize a message that the
LORD has not spoken?"
22 When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD and the message
does not come to pass or come true, that is a message the LORD has not
spoken. The prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

19

1 When the LORD your God has cut off the nations whose land he is
giving you, and when you have driven them out and settled in their cities
and houses,
2 then you are to set apart for yourselves three cities within the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.
3 You are to survey the way* and divide into three regions the land that
the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, so that any manslayer
can flee to these cities.
4 Now this is the situation regarding the manslayer who flees to one of
these cities to save his life, having killed his neighbor accidentally, without
having hated him previously:

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* **18:10 18:10** Literally *makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire* † **18:16 18:16** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai ‡ **18:16 18:16** LXX *Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God … so that we will not die* * **19:3 19:3** Or *you are to build roads for yourselves*

5 If he goes into the forest with his neighbor to cut timber and swings his
axe to chop down a tree, but the blade flies off the handle and strikes and
kills his neighbor, he may flee to one of these cities to save his life.
6 Otherwise, the avenger of blood might pursue the manslayer in a rage,
overtake him if the distance is great, and strike him dead though he did
not deserve to die, since he had not hated him previously.
7 This is why I am commanding you to set apart for yourselves three
cities.
8 And if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he swore to your
fathers, and gives you all the land he promised them,
9 and if you carefully keep all these commandments I am giving you
today, loving the LORD your God and walking in his ways at all times, then
you are to add three more cities to these three.
10 Thus innocent blood will not be shed in the land that the LORD your
God is giving you as an inheritance, so that you will not be guilty of
bloodshed.
11 If, however, a man hates his neighbor and lies in wait, attacks him
and kills him, and then flees to one of these cities,
12 the elders of his city must send for him, bring him back, and hand
him over to the avenger of blood to die.
13 You must show him no pity. You are to purge from Israel the guilt of
shedding innocent blood, that it may go well with you.
14 You must not move your neighbor's boundary marker, which was set
up by your ancestors to mark the inheritance you shall receive in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.
15 A lone witness is not sufficient to establish any wrongdoing or sin
against a man, regardless of what offense he may have committed. A
matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.
16 If a false witness testifies against someone, accusing him of a crime,
17 both parties to the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD,
before the priests and judges who are in office at that time.
18 The judges shall investigate thoroughly, and if the witness is proven to
be a liar who has falsely accused his brother,
19 you must do to him as he intended to do to his brother. So you must
purge the evil from among you.
20 Then the rest of the people will hear and be afraid, and they will
never again do anything so evil among you.
21 You must show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand
for hand, and foot for foot.

20

1 When you go out to war against your enemies and see horses, chariots,
and an army larger than yours, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD
your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you.
2 When you are about to go into battle, the priest is to come forward and
address the army,
3 saying to them, “Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle with
your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be alarmed or
terrified because of them.
4 For the LORD your God goes with you to fight for you against your
enemies, to give you the victory.”

5 Furthermore, the officers are to address the army, saying, “Has any
man built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him return home, or he
may die in battle and another man dedicate it.
6 Has any man planted a vineyard and not begun to enjoy its fruit? Let
him return home, or he may die in battle and another man enjoy its fruit.
7 Has any man become pledged to a woman and not married her? Let
him return home, or he may die in battle and another man marry her.”
8 Then the officers shall speak further to the army, saying, “Is any man
afraid or fainthearted? Let him return home, so that the hearts of his
brothers will not melt like his own.”
9 When the officers have finished addressing the army, they are to
appoint commanders to lead it.
10 When you approach a city to fight against it, you are to make an offer
of peace.
11 If they accept your offer of peace and open their gates, all the people
there will become forced laborers to serve you.
12 But if they refuse to make peace with you and wage war against you,
lay siege to that city.
13 When the LORD your God has delivered it into your hand, you must
put every male to the sword.
14 But the women, children, livestock, and whatever else is in the
city—all its spoil—you may take as plunder, and you shall use the spoil of
your enemies that the LORD your God gives you.
15 This is how you are to treat all the cities that are far away from you
and do not belong to the nations nearby.
16 However, in the cities of the nations that the LORD your God is giving
you as an inheritance, you must not leave alive anything that breathes.
17 For you must devote them to complete destruction*—the Hittites,
Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites—as the LORD your
God has commanded you,
18 so that they cannot teach you to do all the detestable things they do
for their gods, and so cause you to sin against the LORD your God.
19 When you lay siege to a city for an extended time while fighting
against it to capture it, you must not destroy its trees by putting an axe to
them, because you can eat their fruit. You must not cut them down. Are
the trees of the field human, that you should besiege them?
20 But you may destroy the trees that you know do not produce fruit. Cut
them down and use them to build siege works against the city that is
waging war against you, until it falls.

21

1 If one is found slain, lying in a field in the land that the LORD your God
is giving you to possess, and it is not known who killed him,
2 your elders and judges must come out and measure the distance from
the victim to the neighboring cities.
3 Then the elders of the city nearest the victim shall take a heifer that
has never been yoked or used for work,
4 bring the heifer to a valley with running water that has not been
plowed or sown, and break its neck there by the stream.

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* **20:17 20:17** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

5 And the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, for the LORD
your God has chosen them to serve him and pronounce blessings in his
name and to give a ruling in every dispute and case of assault.
6 Then all the elders of the city nearest the victim shall wash their hands
by the stream over the heifer whose neck has been broken,
7 and they shall declare, “Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our
eyes see it.
8 Accept this atonement, O LORD, for your people Israel whom you have
redeemed, and do not hold the shedding of innocent blood against them.”
And the bloodshed will be atoned for.
9 So you shall purge from among you the guilt of shedding innocent
blood, since you have done what is right in the eyes of the LORD.
10 When you go to war against your enemies and the LORD your God
delivers them into your hand and you take them captive,
11 if you see a beautiful woman among them, and you desire her and
want to take her as your wife,
12 then you shall bring her into your house. She must shave her head,
trim her nails,
13 and put aside the clothing of her captivity.
After she has lived in your house a full month and mourned her father
and mother, you may have relations with her and be her husband, and she
shall be your wife.
14 And if you are not pleased with her, you are to let her go wherever she
wishes. But you must not sell her for money or treat her as a slave, since
you have dishonored her.
15 If a man has two wives, one beloved and the other unloved, and both
bear him sons, but the unloved wife has the firstborn son,
16 when that man assigns his inheritance to his sons he must not appoint
the son of the beloved wife as the firstborn over the son of the unloved
wife.
17 Instead, he must acknowledge the firstborn, the son of his unloved
wife, by giving him a double portion of all that he has. For that son is the
firstfruits of his father’s strength; the right of the firstborn belongs to him.
18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his
father and mother and does not listen to them when disciplined,
19 his father and mother are to lay hold of him and bring him to the
elders of his city, to the gate of his hometown,
20 and say to the elders of his city, “This son of ours is stubborn and
rebellious; he does not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard.”
21 Then all the men of his city will stone him to death. So you must
purge the evil from among you, and all Israel will hear and be afraid.
22 If a man has committed a sin worthy of death, and he is executed, and
you impale his body on a pole,*
23 you must not leave the body on the pole overnight, but you must be
sure to bury him that day, because anyone who is impaled is under God’s
curse.† You must not defile the land that the LORD your God is giving you
as an inheritance.

22

1 If you see your brother’s ox or sheep straying, you must not ignore it;*

* **21:22 21:22** Or *hang his body on a tree*; similarly in verse 23 † **21:23 21:23** LXX *anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse* * **22:1 22:1** Or *you must not hide yourself*

be sure to return it to your brother.
2 If your brother does not live near you, or if you do not know who he is,
you are to take the animal home to remain with you until your brother
comes seeking it; then you can return it to him.
3 And you shall do the same for his donkey, his cloak, or anything your
brother has lost and you have found. You must not ignore it.
4 If you see your brother's donkey or ox fallen on the road, you must not
ignore it; you must help him lift it up.
5 A woman must not wear men's clothing, and a man must not wear
women's clothing, for whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD
your God.
6 If you come across a bird's nest with chicks or eggs, either in a tree or
on the ground along the road, and the mother is sitting on the chicks or
eggs, you must not take the mother along with the young.
7 You may take the young, but be sure to let the mother go, so that it may
be well with you and that you may prolong your days.
8 If you build a new house, you are to construct a railing around your
roof, so that you do not bring bloodguilt on your house if someone falls
from it.
9 Do not plant your vineyard with two types of seed; if you do, the entire
harvest will be forfeited to the sanctuary†—both the crop you plant and
the fruit of your vineyard.
10 Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.
11 Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together.
12 You are to make tassels on the four corners of the cloak you wear.
13 Suppose a man marries a woman, has relations with her, and comes
to hate her,
14 and he then accuses her of shameful conduct and gives her a bad
name, saying, "I married this woman and had relations with her, but I
discovered she was not a virgin."
15 Then the young woman's father and mother shall bring the proof of
her virginity to the city elders at the gate
16 and her father shall say to the elders, "I gave my daughter in marriage
to this man, but he has come to hate her.
17 And now he has accused her of shameful conduct, saying, 'I
discovered that your daughter was not a virgin.' But here is the proof of
her virginity." And they shall spread out the cloth before the city elders.
18 Then the elders of that city shall take the man and punish him.
19 They are also to fine him a hundred shekels of silver‡ and give them to
the young woman's father, because this man has given a virgin of Israel a
bad name. And she shall remain his wife; he must not divorce her as long
as he lives.
20 If, however, this accusation is true, and no proof of the young
woman's virginity can be found,
21 she shall be brought to the door of her father's house, and there the
men of her city will stone her to death. For she has committed an outrage
in Israel by being promiscuous in her father's house. So you must purge
the evil from among you.

† **22:9 22:9** Or *will be defiled* ‡ **22:19 22:19** *100 shekels* is approximately 2.5 pounds or 1.1 kilograms of silver.

22 If a man is found lying with another man's wife, both the man who
slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from
Israel.
23 If there is a virgin pledged in marriage to a man, and another man
encounters her in the city and sleeps with her,
24 you must take both of them out to the gate of that city and stone them
to death—the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and
the man because he has violated his neighbor's wife. So you must purge
the evil from among you.
25 But if the man encounters a betrothed woman in the open country,
and he overpowers her and lies with her, only the man who has done this
must die.
26 Do nothing to the young woman, because she has committed no sin
worthy of death. This case is just like one in which a man attacks his
neighbor and murders him.
27 When he found her in the field, the betrothed woman cried out, but
there was no one to save her.
28 If a man encounters a virgin who is not pledged in marriage, and he
seizes her and lies with her, and they are discovered,
29 then the man who lay with her must pay the young woman's father
fifty shekels of silver,§ and she must become his wife because he has
violated her. He must not divorce her as long as he lives.

23

1 A man is not to marry his father's wife, so that he will not uncover his
father's skirt.*
2 No man with crushed or severed genitals may enter the assembly of
the LORD.
3 No one of illegitimate birth may enter the assembly of the LORD, nor
may any of his descendants, even to the tenth generation.
4 No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may ever enter
the assembly of the LORD, even to the tenth generation.
5 For they did not meet you with food and water on your way out of
Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram-naharaim†
to curse you.
6 Yet the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, and the LORD your
God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God
loves you.
7 You are not to seek peace or prosperity from them as long as you live.
8 Do not despise an Edomite, for he is your brother. Do not despise an
Egyptian, because you lived as a foreigner in his land.
9 The third generation of children born to them may enter the assembly
of the LORD.
10 When you are encamped against your enemies, then you shall keep
yourself from every wicked thing.
11 If any man among you becomes unclean because of a nocturnal
emission, he must leave the camp and stay outside.
12 When evening approaches, he must wash with water, and when the
sun sets he may return to the camp.

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§ **22:29 22:29** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver. * **23:1 23:1** Or *dishonor his father's marriage bed* † **23:5 23:5** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia.

13 You must have a place outside the camp to go and relieve yourself.
14 And you must have a digging tool in your equipment so that when you
relieve yourself you can dig a hole and cover up your excrement.
15 For the LORD your God walks throughout your camp to protect you
and deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, lest he see
anything unclean among you and turn away from you.
16 Do not return a slave to his master if he has taken refuge with you.
17 Let him live among you wherever he chooses, in the town of his
pleasing. Do not oppress him.
18 No daughter or son of Israel is to be a shrine prostitute.
19 You must not bring the wages of a prostitute, whether female or
male,‡ into the house of the LORD your God to fulfill any vow, because
both are detestable to the LORD your God.
20 Do not charge your brother interest on money, food, or any other type
of loan.
21 You may charge a foreigner interest, but not your brother, so that the
LORD your God may bless you in everything to which you put your hand
in the land that you are entering to possess.
22 If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to keep it,
because he will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.
23 But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty of sin.
24 Be careful to follow through on what comes from your lips, because
you have freely vowed to the LORD your God with your own mouth.
25 When you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of
grapes, but you must not put any in your basket.
26 When you enter your neighbor's grainfield, you may pluck the heads
of grain with your hand, but you must not put a sickle to your neighbor's
grain.

24

1 If a man marries a woman, but she becomes displeasing to him
because he finds some indecency in her, he may write her a certificate of
divorce, hand it to her, and send her away from his house.
2 If, after leaving his house, she goes and becomes another man's wife,
3 and the second man hates her, writes her a certificate of divorce, hands
it to her, and sends her away from his house, or if he dies,
4 then the husband who divorced her first may not remarry her after
she has been defiled, for that is an abomination to the LORD. You must not
bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an
inheritance.
5 If a man is newly married, he must not be sent to war or be pressed
into any duty. For one year he is free to stay at home and bring joy to the
wife he has married.
6 Do not take a pair of millstones or even an upper millstone as security
for a debt, because that would be taking one's livelihood as security.
7 If a man is caught kidnapping one of his Israelite brothers, whether he
treats him as a slave or sells him, the kidnapper must die. So you must
purge the evil from among you.

‡ **23:19 23:19** Hebrew *or a dog*

8 In cases of infectious skin diseases,* be careful to diligently follow
everything the Levitical priests instruct you. Be careful to do as I have
commanded them.
9 Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the journey
after you came out of Egypt.
10 When you lend anything to your neighbor, do not enter his house to
collect security.
11 You are to stand outside while the man to whom you are lending
brings the security out to you.
12 If he is a poor man, you must not go to sleep with the security in your
possession;
13 be sure to return it to him by sunset, so that he may sleep in his own
cloak and bless you, and this will be credited to you as righteousness
before the LORD your God.
14 Do not oppress a hired hand who is poor and needy, whether he is a
brother or a foreigner residing in one of your towns.
15 You are to pay his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor
and depends on them.† Otherwise he may cry out to the LORD against you,
and you will be guilty of sin.
16 Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children for
their fathers; each is to die for his own sin.‡
17 Do not deny justice to the foreigner or the fatherless, and do not take
a widow's cloak as security.
18 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and the LORD your God
redeemed you from that place. Therefore I am commanding you to do this.
19 If you are harvesting in your field and forget a sheaf there, do not go
back to get it. It is to be left for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow,
so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.
20 When you beat the olives from your trees, you must not go over the
branches again. What remains will be for the foreigner, the fatherless, and
the widow.
21 When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you must not go over
the vines again. What remains will be for the foreigner, the fatherless, and
the widow.
22 Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt. Therefore I am
commanding you to do this.

25

1 If there is a dispute between men, they are to go to court to be judged,
so that the innocent may be acquitted and the guilty condemned.
2 If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall have him lie
down and be flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime
warrants.
3 He may receive no more than forty lashes, lest your brother be beaten
any more than that and be degraded in your sight.
4 Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.
5 When brothers dwell together and one of them dies without a son, the
widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother is to
take her as his wife and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law for her.

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* **24:8 24:8** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy*, were used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13. † **24:15 24:15** Hebrew *he lifts up his soul to them* ‡ **24:16 24:16** Cited in 2 Kings 14:6 and 2 Chronicles 25:4

6 The first son she bears will carry on the name of the dead brother, so
that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.
7 But if the man does not want to marry his brother's widow, she is to go
to the elders at the city gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to
preserve his brother's name in Israel. He is not willing to perform the
duty of a brother-in-law for me."
8 Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak with him. If he
persists and says, "I do not want to marry her,"
9 his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders,
remove his sandal, spit in his face, and declare, "This is what is done to the
man who will not maintain his brother's line."
10 And his family name in Israel will be called "The House of the
Unsandaled."
11 If two men are fighting, and the wife of one comes to rescue her
husband from the one striking him, and she reaches out her hand and
grabs his genitals,
12 you are to cut off her hand. You must show her no pity.
13 You shall not have two differing weights in your bag, one heavy and
one light.
14 You shall not have two differing measures in your house, one large
and one small.
15 You must maintain accurate and honest weights and measures, so that
you may live long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
16 For everyone who behaves dishonestly in regard to these things is
detestable to the LORD your God.
17 Remember what the Amalekites did to you along your way from
Egypt,
18 how they met you on your journey when you were tired and weary,
and they attacked all your stragglers; they had no fear of God.
19 When the LORD your God gives you rest from the enemies around
you in the land that he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you are
to blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

26

1 When you enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an
inheritance, and you take possession of it and settle in it,
2 you are to take some of the firstfruits of all your produce from the soil
of the land that the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket.
Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his
Name,
3 to the priest who is serving at that time, and say to him, "I declare
today to the LORD your God that I have entered the land that the LORD
swore to our fathers to give us."
4 Then the priest shall take the basket from your hands and place it
before the altar of the LORD your God,
5 and you are to declare before the LORD your God, "My father was a
wandering Aramean, and he went down to Egypt few in number and lived
there and became a great nation, mighty and numerous.
6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and afflicted us, putting us to hard
labor.
7 So we called out to the LORD, the God of our fathers; and the LORD
heard our voice and saw our affliction, toil, and oppression.

8 Then the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an
outstretched arm, with great terror, signs, and wonders.
9 And he brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing
with milk and honey.
10 And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land that you, O
LORD, have given me."
Then you are to place the basket before the LORD your God and bow
down before him.
11 So you shall rejoice—you, the Levite, and the foreigner dwelling
among you—in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you
and your household.
12 When you have finished laying aside a tenth of all your produce in the
third year, the year of the tithe, you are to give it to the Levite, the
foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat and be filled
within your gates.
13 Then you shall declare in the presence of the LORD your God, "I have
removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the
Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all the
commandments you have given me. I have not transgressed or forgotten
your commandments.
14 I have not eaten any of the sacred portion while in mourning, or
removed any of it while unclean, or offered any of it for the dead. I have
obeyed the LORD my God; I have done everything you commanded me.
15 Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless your
people Israel and the land you have given us as you swore to our
fathers—a land flowing with milk and honey."
16 The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these statutes
and ordinances. You must be careful to follow them with all your heart
and with all your soul.
17 Today you have proclaimed that the LORD is your God and that you
will walk in his ways, keep his statutes and commandments and
ordinances, and listen to his voice.
18 And today the LORD has proclaimed that you are his people and
treasured possession as he promised, that you are to keep all his
commandments,
19 that he will set you high in praise and name and honor above all the
nations he has made, and that you will be a holy people to the LORD your
God, as he has promised.

27

1 Then Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people: "Keep all
the commandments I am giving you today.
2 And on the day you cross the Jordan into the land that the LORD your
God is giving you, set up large stones and coat them with plaster.
3 Write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over to
enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with
milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised
you.
4 And when you have crossed the Jordan, you are to set up these stones
on Mount Ebal, as I am commanding you today, and you are to coat them
with plaster.

5 Moreover, you are to build there an altar to the LORD your God, an
altar of stones. You must not use any iron tool on them.
6 You shall build the altar of the LORD your God with uncut stones and
offer upon it burnt offerings to the LORD your God.
7 There you are to sacrifice your peace offerings, eating them and
rejoicing in the presence of the LORD your God.
8 And you shall write distinctly upon these stones all the words of this
law."
9 Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel: "Be silent, O
Israel, and listen! This day you have become the people of the LORD your
God.
10 You shall therefore obey the voice of the LORD your God and follow
his commandments and statutes I am giving you today."
11 On that day Moses commanded the people:
12 "When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount
Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and
Benjamin.
13 And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to deliver the curse:
Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.
14 Then the Levites shall proclaim in a loud voice to every Israelite:
15 'Cursed is the man who makes a carved idol or molten image—an
abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of a craftsman—and
sets it up in secret.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
16 'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
17 'Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary stone.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
18 'Cursed is he who lets a blind man wander in the road.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
19 'Cursed is he who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless,
or the widow.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
20 'Cursed is he who sleeps with his father's wife, for he has uncovered
his father's skirt.'*
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
21 'Cursed is he who lies with any animal.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
22 'Cursed is he who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or
the daughter of his mother.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
23 'Cursed is he who sleeps with his mother-in-law.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
24 'Cursed is he who strikes down his neighbor in secret.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
25 'Cursed is he who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.'
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'
26 'Cursed is he who does not put the words of this law into practice.'†
And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

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* **27:20 27:20** Or *violated his father's marriage bed* † **27:26 27:26** LXX *Cursed is every man who does not continue in all the words of this law*

28

1 “Now if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God and are
careful to follow all his commandments I am giving you today, the LORD
your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.
2 And all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you, if you
will obey the voice of the LORD your God:

3 You will be blessed in the city
and blessed in the country.

4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed,
as well as the produce of your land
and the offspring of your livestock—
the calves of your herds
and the lambs of your flocks.

5 Your basket and kneading bowl will be blessed.

6 You will be blessed when you come in
and blessed when you go out.
7 The LORD will cause the enemies who rise up against you to be
defeated before you. They will march out against you in one direction but
flee from you in seven.
8 The LORD will decree a blessing on your barns and on everything to
which you put your hand; the LORD your God will bless you in the land he
is giving you.
9 The LORD will establish you as his holy people, just as he has sworn to
you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his
ways.
10 Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the
name of the LORD, and they will stand in awe of you.
11 The LORD will make you prosper abundantly—in the fruit of your
womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your land—in
the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.
12 The LORD will open the heavens, his abundant storehouse, to send
rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You
will lend to many nations, but borrow from none.
13 The LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you will only move
upward and never downward, if you hear and carefully follow the
commandments of the LORD your God, which I am giving you today.
14 Do not turn aside to the right or to the left from any of the words I
command you today, and do not go after other gods to serve them.
15 If, however, you do not obey the LORD your God by carefully
following all his commandments and statutes I am giving you today, all
these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

16 You will be cursed in the city
and cursed in the country.

17 Your basket and kneading bowl will be cursed.

18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed,

as well as the produce of your land,
the calves of your herds,
and the lambs of your flocks.

19 You will be cursed when you come in
and cursed when you go out.
20 The LORD will send curses upon you, confusion and reproof in all to which you put your hand, until you are destroyed and quickly perish because of the wickedness you have committed in forsaking me.
21 The LORD will make the plague cling to you until he has exterminated you from the land that you are entering to possess.
22 The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and sword,* and with blight and mildew; these will pursue you until you perish.
23 The sky over your head will be bronze, and the earth beneath you iron.
24 The LORD will turn the rain of your land into dust and powder; it will descend on you from the sky until you are destroyed.
25 The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will march out against them in one direction but flee from them in seven. You will be an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.
26 Your corpses will be food for all the birds of the air and beasts of the earth, with no one to scare them away.
27 The LORD will afflict you with the boils of Egypt, with hemorrhoids† and scabs and itch from which you cannot be cured.
28 The LORD will afflict you with madness, blindness, and confusion of mind,
29 and at noon you will grope about like a blind man in the darkness. You will not prosper in your ways. Day after day you will be oppressed and plundered, with no one to save you.
30 You will be pledged in marriage to a woman, but another man will sleep with her.‡ You will build a house but will not live in it. You will plant a vineyard but will not enjoy its fruit.
31 Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat any of it. Your donkey will be taken away and not returned to you. Your flock will be given to your enemies, and no one will save you.
32 Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, while your eyes grow weary looking for them day after day, with no power in your hand.
33 A people you do not know will eat the produce of your land and of all your toil. All your days you will be oppressed and crushed.
34 You will be driven mad by the sights you see.
35 The LORD will afflict you with painful, incurable boils on your knees and thighs, from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.
36 The LORD will bring you and the king you appoint to a nation neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone.
37 You will become an object of horror, scorn, and ridicule among all the nations to which the LORD will drive you.

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* **28:22 28:22** Or, with different vowels, *drought* † **28:27 28:27** Qere; Ketiv *tumors* ‡ **28:30 28:30** Qere; Ketiv *will ravish her*

38 You will sow much seed in the field but harvest little, because the
locusts will consume it.
39 You will plant and cultivate vineyards, but will neither drink the wine
nor gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.
40 You will have olive trees throughout your territory but will never
anoint yourself with oil, because the olives will drop off.
41 You will father sons and daughters, but they will not remain yours,
because they will go into captivity.
42 Swarms of locusts will consume all your trees and the produce of your
land.
43 The foreigner living among you will rise higher and higher above you,
while you sink down lower and lower.
44 He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head,
and you will be the tail.
45 All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and
overtake you until you are destroyed, since you did not obey the LORD
your God and keep the commandments and statutes he gave you.
46 These curses will be a sign and a wonder upon you and your
descendants forever.
47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness
of heart in all your abundance,
48 you will serve your enemies the LORD will send against you in
famine, thirst, nakedness, and destitution. He will place an iron yoke on
your neck until he has destroyed you.
49 The LORD will bring a nation from afar, from the ends of the earth, to
swoop down upon you like an eagle—a nation whose language you will
not understand,
50 a ruthless nation with no respect for the old and no pity for the young.
51 They will eat the offspring of your livestock and the produce of your
land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain or new wine or
oil, no calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks, until they have caused
you to perish.
52 They will besiege all the cities throughout your land, until the high
and fortified walls in which you trust have fallen. They will besiege all
your cities throughout the land that the LORD your God has given you.
53 Then you will eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of the sons and
daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and
distress that your enemy will inflict on you.
54 The most gentle and refined man among you will begrudge his
brother, the wife he embraces,§ and the rest of his children who have
survived,
55 refusing to share with any of them the flesh of his children he will eat
because he has nothing left in the siege and distress that your enemy will
inflict on you within all your cities.*
56 The most gentle and refined woman among you, so gentle and refined
she would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground, will
begrudge the husband she embraces† and her son and daughter
57 the afterbirth that comes from between her legs and the children she
bears, because she will secretly eat them for lack of anything else in the
siege and distress that your enemy will inflict on you within your cities.

§ **28:54 28:54** Hebrew *the wife of his bosom* * **28:55 28:55** Or *within all your gates*; similarly in verse 57 † **28:56 28:56** Hebrew *the husband of her bosom*

58 If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are
written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome
name—the LORD your God—
59 he will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary disasters,
severe and lasting plagues, and terrible and chronic sicknesses.
60 He will afflict you again with all the diseases you dreaded in Egypt,
and they will cling to you.
61 The LORD will also bring upon you every sickness and plague not
recorded in this Book of the Teaching, until you are destroyed.
62 You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left few in
number, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.
63 Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and multiply, so also
it will please him to annihilate you and destroy you. And you will be
uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.
64 Then the LORD will scatter you among all the nations, from one end
of the earth to the other, and there you will worship other gods, gods of
wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.
65 Among those nations you will find no repose, not even a resting place
for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you a trembling heart,
failing eyes, and a despairing soul.
66 So your life will hang in doubt before you, and you will be afraid
night and day, never certain of survival.
67 In the morning you will say, 'If only it were evening!' and in the
evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!'—because of the dread in
your hearts of the terrifying sights you will see.
68 The LORD will return you to Egypt in ships by a route that I said you
should never see again. There you will sell yourselves to your enemies as
male and female slaves, but no one will buy you."
69 These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded
Moses to make with the Israelites in the land of Moab, in addition to the
covenant he had made with them at Horeb.‡

29

1 Moses summoned all Israel and proclaimed to them, "You have seen
with your own eyes everything the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all
his officials, and to all his land.
2 You saw with your own eyes the great trials, and those miraculous
signs and wonders.
3 Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a mind to understand, eyes
to see, or ears to hear.

4 For forty years I led you in the wilderness,
yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out.
5 You ate no bread and drank no wine or strong drink,
so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.
6 When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of
Bashan came out against us in battle, but we defeated them.
7 We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the
Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

‡ **28:69 28:69** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

8 So keep and follow the words of this covenant, that you may prosper in
all you do.
9 All of you are standing today before the LORD your God—your leaders,
your tribes,* elders, officials, and all the men of Israel,
10 your children and wives, and the foreigners in your camps who cut
your wood and draw your water—
11 so that you may enter into the covenant of the LORD your God, which
he is making with you today, and into his oath,
12 and so that he may establish you today as his people, and he may be
your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, to
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
13 I am making this covenant and this oath not only with you,
14 but also with those who are standing here with us today in the
presence of the LORD our God, as well as with those who are not here
today.
15 For you yourselves know how we lived in the land of Egypt and how
we passed through the nations on the way here.
16 You saw the abominations and idols among them made of wood and
stone, of silver and gold.
17 Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today
whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the
gods of those nations. Make sure there is no root among you that bears
such poisonous and bitter fruit,
18 because when such a person hears the words of this curse,† he
invokes a blessing on himself, saying, 'I will have peace, even though I
walk in the stubbornness of my own heart.'
This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.
19 The LORD will never be willing to forgive him. Instead, his anger and
jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse written in this book
will fall upon him. The LORD will blot out his name from under heaven
20 and single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according
to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Teaching.
21 Then the generation to come—your sons who follow you and the
foreigner who comes from a distant land—will see the plagues of the land
and the sicknesses the LORD has inflicted on it.
22 All its soil will be a burning waste of sulfur and salt, unsown and
unproductive, with no plant growing on it, just like the destruction of
Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in
his fierce anger.
23 So all the nations will ask, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to
this land? Why this great outburst of anger?'
24 And the people will answer, 'It is because they abandoned the
covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them
when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.
25 They went and served other gods, and they worshiped gods they had
not known—gods that the LORD had not given to them.
26 Therefore the anger of the LORD burned against this land, and he
brought upon it every curse written in this book.
27 The LORD uprooted them from their land in his anger, rage, and great
wrath, and he cast them into another land, where they are today.'

* **29:9 29:9** LXX and Syriac *leaders of your tribes* † **29:18 29:18** Or *oath*

28 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed
belong to us and to our children forever, so that we may follow all the
words of this law.

30

1 "When all these things come upon you—the blessings and curses I have
set before you—and you call them to mind in all the nations to which the
LORD your God has banished you,
2 and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and
obey his voice with all your heart and all your soul according to
everything I am giving you today,
3 then he will restore your fortunes* and have compassion on you and
gather you from all the nations to which the LORD your God has scattered
you.
4 Even if you have been banished to the farthest horizon,† he will gather
you and return you from there.‡
5 And the LORD your God will bring you into the land your fathers
possessed, and you will take possession of it. He will cause you to prosper
and multiply more than your fathers.
6 The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your
descendants, and you will love him with all your heart and with all your
soul, so that you may live.
7 Then the LORD your God will put all these curses upon your enemies
who hate you and persecute you.
8 And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and follow all his
commandments I am giving you today.
9 So the LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your
hands and in the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and
the produce of your land. Indeed, the LORD will again delight in your
prosperity, as he delighted in that of your fathers,
10 if you obey the LORD your God by keeping his commandments and
statutes that are written in this Book of the Teaching, and if you turn to
him with all your heart and with all your soul.
11 For this commandment I give you today is not too difficult for you or
beyond your reach.
12 It is not in heaven, that you should need to ask, 'Who will ascend into
heaven to get it for us and proclaim it, that we may obey it?'
13 And it is not beyond the sea, that you should need to ask, 'Who will
cross the sea to get it for us and proclaim it, that we may obey it?'
14 But the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,
so that you may obey it.
15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, as well as death
and disaster.
16 For I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk
in his ways, and to keep his commandments, statutes, and ordinances, so
that you may live and increase, and the LORD your God may bless you in
the land that you are entering to possess.
17 But if your heart turns away and you do not listen, but are drawn
away to bow down to other gods and worship them,

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* **30:3 30:3** Or *restore you from captivity* † **30:4 30:4** Or *to the extremity of the heavens* ‡ **30:4 30:4** Cited in Nehemiah 1:8–9

18 I declare to you today that you will surely perish; you shall not
prolong your days in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.
19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set
before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, so
that you and your descendants may live,
20 and that you may love the LORD your God, obey him, and hold fast to
him. For he is your life, and he will prolong your life in the land that the
LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

31

1 When Moses went out and spoke* these words to all Israel,
2 he said to them, "I am now a hundred and twenty years old; I am no
longer able to come and go, and the LORD has said to me, 'You shall not
cross the Jordan.'
3 The LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will
destroy these nations before you, and you will dispossess them. Joshua
will cross ahead of you, as the LORD has said.
4 And the LORD will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of
the Amorites, when he destroyed them along with their land.
5 The LORD will deliver them over to you, and you must do to them
exactly as I have commanded you.
6 Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or terrified of them, for it is
the LORD your God who goes with you; he will never leave you nor
forsake you."
7 Then Moses called for Joshua and said to him in the presence of all
Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the
land that the LORD swore to their fathers to give them, and you shall give
it to them as an inheritance.
8 The LORD himself goes before you; he will be with you. He will never
leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."
9 So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of
Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the
elders of Israel.
10 Then Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the
appointed time in the year of remission of debt, during the Feast of
Booths,†
11 when all Israel comes before the LORD your God at the place he will
choose, you are to read this law in the hearing of all Israel.
12 Assemble the people—men, women, children, and the foreigners
within your gates—so that they may listen and learn to fear the LORD
your God and to follow carefully all the words of this law.
13 Then their children who do not know the law will listen and learn to
fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are
crossing the Jordan to possess."
14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the time of your death is near.
Call Joshua and present yourselves at the Tent of Meeting, so that I may
commission him."
So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the Tent of
Meeting.

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* **31:1 31:1** DSS and LXX *When Moses had finished speaking* † **31:10 31:10** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

15 Then the LORD appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud
stood over the entrance to the tent.
16 And the LORD said to Moses, “You will soon rest with your fathers,
and these people will rise up and prostitute themselves with the foreign
gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the
covenant I have made with them.
17 On that day my anger will burn against them, and I will abandon
them and hide my face from them, so that they will be consumed, and
many troubles and afflictions will befall them.
On that day they will say, ‘Have not these disasters come upon us
because our God is no longer with us?’
18 And on that day I will surely hide my face because of all the evil they
have done by turning to other gods.
19 Now therefore, write down for yourselves this song and teach it to the
Israelites; have them recite it, so that it may be a witness for me against
them.
20 When I have brought them into the land that I swore to give their
fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey, they will eat their fill and
prosper. Then they will turn to other gods and worship them, and they
will reject me and break my covenant.
21 And when many troubles and afflictions have come upon them, this
song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten from the lips
of their descendants. For I know the inclination they are forming today,
even before I bring them into the land that I swore to give them.”
22 So that very day Moses wrote down this song and taught it to the
Israelites.
23 Then the LORD commissioned Joshua son of Nun and said, “Be strong
and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land that I swore
to give them, and I will be with you.”
24 When Moses had finished writing in a book the words of this law
from beginning to end,
25 he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the
covenant of the LORD:
26 “Take this Book of the Teaching and place it beside the ark of the
covenant of the LORD your God, so that it may remain there as a witness
against you.
27 For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you are already
rebelling against the LORD while I am still alive, how much more will you
rebel after my death!
28 Assemble before me all the elders of your tribes and all your officers
so that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and
earth to witness against them.
29 For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt and
turn from the path I have commanded you. And in the days to come,
disaster will befall you because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD to
provoke him to anger by the work of your hands.”
30 Then Moses recited aloud to the whole assembly of Israel the words of
this song from beginning to end:

32

1 Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;
hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

2 Let my teaching fall like rain
and my speech settle like dew,
like gentle rain on new grass,
like showers on tender plants.
3 For I will proclaim the name of the LORD.
Ascribe greatness to our God!
4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect;
all his ways are just.
A God of faithfulness without injustice,
righteous and upright is he.

5 His people have acted corruptly toward him;
the blemish on them is not that of his children,
but of a perverse and crooked generation.
6 Is this how you repay the LORD,
O foolish and senseless people?
Is he not your Father and Creator?
Has he not made you and established you?
7 Remember the days of old;
consider the years long past.
Ask your father, and he will tell you,
your elders, and they will inform you.
8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
when he divided the sons of man,
he set the boundaries of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of Israel.*
9 But the LORD's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted inheritance.

10 He found him in a desert land,
in a barren, howling wilderness;
he surrounded him, he instructed him,
he guarded him as the apple† of his eye.
11 As an eagle stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
he spread his wings to catch them
and carried them on his pinions.‡
12 The LORD alone led him,
and no foreign god was with him.
13 He made him ride on the heights of the land
and fed him the produce of the field.
He nourished him with honey from the rock
and oil from the flinty crag,
14 with curds from the herd and milk from the flock,
with the fat of lambs,
with rams from Bashan, and goats,
with the choicest grains of wheat.
From the juice of the finest grapes
you drank the wine.

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* **32:8 32:8** DSS *according to the number of the sons of God*; LXX *according to the number of the angels of God* † **32:10 32:10** Literally *the pupil* ‡ **32:11 32:11** *Pinions* are the outer parts of a bird's wings, including the flight feathers.

15 But Jeshurun§ grew fat and kicked—
you grew fat, bloated, and gorged.*
He abandoned the God who made him
and scorned the Rock of his deliverance.
16 They provoked his jealousy with foreign gods;
they enraged him with abominations.
17 They sacrificed to demons, not to God,
to gods they had not known,
to newly arrived gods,
which your fathers did not fear.
18 You ignored the Rock who brought you forth;
you forgot the God who gave you birth.

19 When the LORD saw this, he rejected them,
provoked to anger by his sons and daughters.
20 He said: “I will hide my face from them;
I will see what will be their end.
For they are a perverse generation—
children of unfaithfulness.
21 They have provoked my jealousy by that which is not God;
they have enraged me with their worthless idols.
So I will make them jealous by those who are not a people;†
I will make them angry by a nation without understanding.
22 For a fire has been kindled by my anger,
and it burns to the depths of Sheol;
it consumes the earth and its produce,
and scorches the foundations of the mountains.

23 I will heap disasters upon them;
I will spend my arrows against them.
24 They will be wasted from hunger
and ravaged by pestilence and bitter plague;
I will send the fangs of wild beasts against them,
with the venom of vipers that slither in the dust.
25 Outside, the sword will take their children,
and inside, terror will strike
the young man and the young woman,
the infant and the gray-haired man.
26 I would have said that I would cut them to pieces
and blot out their memory from mankind,
27 if I had not dreaded the taunt of the enemy,
lest their adversaries misunderstand and say:
‘Our own hand has prevailed;
it was not the LORD who did all this.’ ”

28 Israel is a nation devoid of counsel,
with no understanding among them.
29 If only they were wise, they would understand it;
they would comprehend their fate.
30 How could one man pursue a thousand,

§ **32:15 32:15** *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, a term of endearment for Israel. * **32:15 32:15** LXX *he grew fat, bloated, and gorged* † **32:21 32:21** Or *not a nation*; see also LXX.

or two put ten thousand to flight,
unless their Rock had sold them,
unless the LORD had given them up?
31 For their rock is not like our Rock,
even our enemies concede.‡
32 But their vine is from the vine of Sodom
and from the fields of Gomorrah.
Their grapes are poisonous;
their clusters are bitter.
33 Their wine is the venom of serpents,
the deadly poison of cobras.

34 "Have I not stored up these things,
sealed up within my vaults?
35 Vengeance is mine, and recompense.§
In due time their foot will slip;
for their day of disaster is near,
and their doom is coming quickly."

36 For the LORD will vindicate his people*
and have compassion on his servants
when he sees that their strength is gone
and no one remains, slave or free.
37 He will say: "Where are their gods,
the rock in which they took refuge,
38 which ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offerings?
Let them rise up and help you;
let them give you shelter!

39 See now that I am he;
there is no God besides me.
I bring death and I give life;
I wound and I heal,
and there is no one
who can deliver from my hand.
40 For I lift up my hand to heaven and declare:
As surely as I live forever,
41 when I sharpen my flashing sword,
and my hand grasps it in judgment,
I will take vengeance on my adversaries
and repay those who hate me.
42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood,
while my sword devours flesh—
the blood of the slain and captives,
the heads of the enemy leaders."

43 Rejoice, O nations,† with his people;
for he will avenge the blood of his servants.‡

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‡ **32:31 32:31** LXX *but our enemies are void of understanding* § **32:35 32:35** LXX *Vengeance is mine; I will repay* * **32:36 32:36** Or *will judge his people*; see also LXX † **32:43 32:43** DSS and LXX begin the verse with *Rejoice, O heavens, with him, and let all God's angels worship him* ‡ **32:43 32:43** DSS and LXX *children*

He will take vengeance on his adversaries;§
he will cleanse his land and his people.
44 Then Moses came with Hoshea* son of Nun and recited all the words
of this song in the hearing of the people.
45 When Moses had finished reciting all these words to all Israel,
46 he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared
to you this day, so that you may command your children to carefully
follow all the words of this law.
47 For they are not idle words to you, because they are your life, and by
them you will live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to
possess.”
48 On that same day the LORD said to Moses,
49 “Go up into the Abarim Range to Mount Nebo, in the land of Moab
across from Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the
Israelites as their own possession.
50 And there on the mountain that you climb, you will die and be
gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor
and was gathered to his people.
51 For at the waters of Meribah-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin, both of
you broke faith with me among the Israelites by failing to treat me as holy
in their presence.
52 Although you shall see from a distance the land that I am giving the
Israelites, you shall not enter it.”

33

1 This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced upon the
Israelites before his death.
2 He said:

“The LORD came from Sinai
and dawned upon them* from Seir;
he shone forth from Mount Paran
and came with myriads of holy ones,
with flaming fire at his right hand.†
3 Surely you love the people;
all the holy ones are in your hand,
and they follow in your steps;‡
each receives your words—
4 the law that Moses gave us,
the possession of the assembly of Jacob.
5 So the LORD became King in Jeshurun§
when the leaders of the people gathered,
when the tribes of Israel came together.

6 Let Reuben live and not die,
but let* his men be few.”
7 And concerning Judah he said:

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§ **32:43 32:43** LXX and Vulgate add *and repay those who hate him* * **32:44 32:44** A variant of *Joshua*; LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Joshua* * **33:2 33:2** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *upon us* † **33:2 33:2** Qere; Ketiv (one word) *from his mountain slopes*; or *with myriads of holy ones from the south, from his mountain slopes* ‡ **33:3 33:3** Or *they sit down at your feet* § **33:5 33:5** *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, a term of endearment for Israel; also in verse 26. * **33:6 33:6** Or *nor*

“O LORD, hear the cry of Judah
and bring him to his people.
With his own hands he defends his cause,
but may you be a help against his foes.”
8 Concerning Levi he said:

“Give your Thummim
and your Urim to your godly one,†
whom you tested at Massah‡
and contested at the waters of Meribah.§
9 He said of his father and mother,
‘I do not consider them.’
He disregarded his brothers
and did not know his own sons,*
for he kept† your word
and maintained your covenant.
10 He will teach your ordinances to Jacob
and your law to Israel;
he will set incense before you
and whole burnt offerings on your altar.
11 Bless his substance, O LORD,
and accept the work of his hands.
Smash the loins of those who rise against him,
and of his foes so they can rise no more.”
12 Concerning Benjamin he said:

“May the beloved of the LORD
rest secure in him;
he shields‡ him all day long,
and upon his shoulders he rests.”
13 Concerning Joseph he said:

“May his land be blessed by the LORD
with the precious dew from heaven above
and the deep waters that lie beneath,
14 with the bountiful harvest from the sun
and the abundant yield of the seasons,
15 with the best of the ancient mountains
and the bounty of the everlasting hills,
16 with the choice gifts of the land and everything in it,
and with the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush.
May these rest on the head of Joseph
and crown the brow of the prince of his brothers.
17 His majesty is like a firstborn bull,
and his horns are like those of a wild ox.
With them he will gore the nations,
even to the ends of the earth.
Such are the myriads of Ephraim,
and such are the thousands of Manasseh.”

† **33:8 33:8** DSS and LXX add *to Levi* ‡ **33:8 33:8** *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7. § **33:8 33:8** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7. * **33:9 33:9** Qere; Ketiv *his own son* † **33:9 33:9** Hebrew *they kept*, most likely referring to Levi in the plural; similarly twice in verse 10 ‡ **33:12 33:12** LXX *God shields*

18 Concerning Zebulun he said:

“Rejoice, Zebulun, in your journeys,
and Issachar, in your tents.
19 They will call the peoples to a mountain;
there they will offer sacrifices of righteousness.
For they will feast on the abundance of the seas
and the hidden treasures of the sand.”
20 Concerning Gad he said:

“Blessed is he who enlarges
the domain of Gad!
He lies down like a lion
and tears off an arm or a head.
21 He chose the best land for himself,
because a ruler’s portion was reserved for him there.
He came with the leaders of the people;
he administered the LORD’s justice
and his ordinances for Israel.”
22 Concerning Dan he said:

“Dan is a lion’s cub,
leaping out of Bashan.”
23 Concerning Naphtali he said:

“Naphtali is abounding with favor,
full of the blessing of the LORD;
he shall take possession
of the west§ and the south.”
24 And concerning Asher he said:

“May Asher be the most blessed of sons;
may he be the most favored among his brothers
and dip his foot in oil.
25 May the bolts of your gate be iron and bronze,
and may your strength match your days.”

26 “There is none like the God of Jeshurun,
who rides the heavens to your aid,
and the clouds in his majesty.
27 The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
He drives out the enemy before you,
giving the command, ‘Destroy him!’
28 So Israel dwells securely;
the fountain of Jacob lives untroubled
in a land of grain and new wine,
where even the heavens drip with dew.
29 Blessed are you, O Israel!
Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD?
He is the shield that protects you,
the sword in which you boast.

§ **33:23 33:23** Or *the sea*

Your enemies will cower before you,
and you shall trample their high places.”

34

1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top
of Pisgah, which faces Jericho. And the LORD showed him the whole
land—from Gilead as far as Dan,
2 all of Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of
Judah as far as the Western Sea,*
3 the Negev, and the region from the Valley of Jericho (the City of Palms)
all the way to Zoar.
4 And the LORD said to him, “This is the land that I swore to give
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’
I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not cross into it.”
5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, as
the LORD had said.
6 And he buried him† in a valley in the land of Moab facing Beth-peor,
and no one to this day knows the location of his grave.
7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes
were not weak, and his vitality had not diminished.
8 The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until
the time of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end.
9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because
Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites obeyed him and did as
the LORD had commanded Moses.
10 Since that time, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the
LORD knew face to face—
11 no prophet who did all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent
Moses to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his officials and all
his land,
12 and no prophet who performed all the mighty acts of power and
awesome deeds‡ that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

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* **34:2 34:2** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea † **34:6 34:6** SP and some LXX manuscripts *they buried him* ‡ **34:12 34:12** Or *terrifying deeds*

Joshua

1 Now after the death of his servant Moses, the LORD spoke to Joshua
son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying,
2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, you and all these
people, and cross over the Jordan into the land that I am giving to the
children of Israel.
3 I have given you every place where the sole of your foot will tread, just
as I promised to Moses.
4 Your territory shall extend from the wilderness and Lebanon to the
great River Euphrates—all the land of the Hittites—and west as far as the
Great Sea.*
5 No one shall stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with
Moses, so will I be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.
6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall give these people the
inheritance of the land that I swore to their fathers I would give them.
7 Above all, be strong and very courageous. Be careful to observe all the
law that my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the
right or to the left, so that you may prosper wherever you go.
8 This Book of the Teaching must not depart from your mouth; meditate
on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in
it. For then you will prosper and succeed in all you do.
9 Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be
afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go."
10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people:
11 "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Prepare your provisions,
for within three days you will cross the Jordan to go in and take
possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.' "
12 But to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh,
Joshua said,
13 "Remember what Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you
when he said, 'The LORD your God will give you rest, and he will give you
this land.'
14 Your wives, your young children, and your livestock may remain in
the land that Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But all your
mighty men of valor must be armed for battle to cross over ahead of your
brothers and help them,
15 until the LORD gives them rest as he has done for you, and your
brothers also possess the land that the LORD your God is giving them.
Then you may return to the land of your inheritance and take possession
of that which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the east side of
the Jordan."
16 So they answered Joshua, "Everything you have commanded us we
will do, and everywhere you send us we will go.
17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. And may
the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses.

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* **1:4 1:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea

18 Anyone who rebels against your order and does not obey your words,
all that you command him, will be put to death. Above all, be strong and
courageous!"

2

1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim,* saying,
"Go, inspect the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the
house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.
2 And it was reported to the king of Jericho: "Behold, some men of Israel
have come here tonight to spy out the land."
3 So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab and said, "Bring out the men who
came to you and entered your house, for they have come to spy out the
whole land."
4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. So she said,
"Yes, the men did come to me, but I did not know where they had come
from.
5 At dusk, when the gate was about to close, the men went out, and I do
not know which way they went. Pursue them quickly, and you may catch
them!"
6 (But Rahab had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among the
stalks of flax that she had laid out there.)
7 So the king's men set out in pursuit of the spies along the road to the
fords of the Jordan, and as soon as they had gone out, the gate was shut.
8 Before the spies lay down for the night, Rahab went up on the roof
9 and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and
that the fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who dwell in the land are
melting in fear of you.
10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the waters of the Sea of
Reeds† before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon
and Og, the two kings of the Amorites across the Jordan, whom you
devoted to destruction.‡
11 When we heard this, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed
because of you, for the LORD your God is God in the heavens above and
on the earth below.
12 Now therefore, please swear to me by the LORD that you will indeed
show kindness to my family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a
sure sign
13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and
sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will deliver us from
death."
14 "Our lives for your lives!" the men agreed. "If you do not report our
mission, we will show you kindness and faithfulness when the LORD gives
us the land."
15 Then Rahab let them down by a rope through the window, since the
house where she lived was built into the wall of the city.
16 "Go to the hill country," she said, "so that your pursuers will not find
you. Hide yourselves there for three days until they have returned; then
go on your way."
17 The men said to her, "We will not be bound by this oath you made us
swear

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* **2:1 2:1** Or *Acacia Grove* † **2:10 2:10** Or *the Red Sea* ‡ **2:10 2:10** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

18 unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the
window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought
your father and mother and brothers and all your family into your house.
19 If anyone goes out the door of your house into the street, his blood
will be on his own head, and we will be innocent. But if a hand is laid on
anyone with you in the house, his blood will be on our heads.
20 And if you report our mission, we will be released from the oath you
made us swear."
21 "Let it be as you say," she replied, and she sent them away. And when
they had gone, she tied the scarlet cord in the window.
22 So the spies went out into the hill country and stayed there three days,
until their pursuers had returned without finding them, having searched
all along the road.
23 Then the two men started back, came down from the hill country, and
crossed the river. So they came to Joshua son of Nun and reported all that
had happened to them.
24 "The LORD has surely delivered the entire land into our hands," they
said to Joshua. "Indeed, all who dwell in the land are melting in fear of us."

3

1 Early the next morning Joshua got up and left Shittim* with all the
Israelites. They went as far as the Jordan, where they camped before
crossing over.
2 After three days the officers went through the camp
3 and commanded the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of
the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, you are to set
out from your positions and follow it.
4 But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits† between yourselves
and the ark. Do not go near it, so that you can see the way to go, since you
have never traveled this way before."
5 Then Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the
LORD will do wonders among you."
6 And he said to the priests, "Take the ark of the covenant and go on
ahead of the people." So they carried the ark of the covenant and went
ahead of them.
7 Now the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the
sight of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you just as I was with
Moses.
8 Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant: 'When you
reach the edge of the waters, stand in the Jordan.' "
9 So Joshua told the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the
LORD your God."
10 He continued, "This is how you will know that the living God is among
you and that he will surely drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites,
Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites.
11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go
ahead of you into the Jordan.
12 Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe.

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* **3:1 3:1** Or *Acacia Grove* † **3:4 3:4** *2,000 cubits* is approximately 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters.

13 When the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord
of all the earth—touch down in the waters of the Jordan, its flowing
waters will be cut off and will stand up in a heap."
14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests
carried the ark of the covenant ahead of them.
15 Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season.
But as soon as the priests carrying the ark reached the Jordan and their
feet touched the water's edge,
16 the flowing water stood still. It backed up as far upstream as Adam,‡ a
city in the area of Zarethan, while the water flowing toward the Sea of the
Arabah (the Salt Sea§) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over
opposite Jericho.
17 The priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm
on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed over
the dry ground, until the entire nation had crossed the Jordan.

4

1 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD
said to Joshua,
2 "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe,
3 and command them: 'Take up for yourselves twelve stones from the
middle of the Jordan where the priests were standing, carry them with
you, and set them down in the place where you spend the night.' "
4 So Joshua summoned the twelve men he had appointed from the
Israelites, one from each tribe,
5 and said to them, "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into
the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take a stone upon his shoulder,
according to the number of the tribes of Israel,
6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask,
'What do these stones mean to you?'
7 you are to tell them, 'The waters of the Jordan were cut off before the
ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters
were cut off.' Therefore these stones will be a memorial to the Israelites
forever."
8 Thus the Israelites did as Joshua had commanded them. They took up
twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, one for each tribe of Israel,
just as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them to the camp,
where they set them down.
9 Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan,* in the
place where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant stood. And
the stones are there to this day.
10 Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle
of the Jordan until the people had completed everything the LORD had
commanded Joshua to tell them, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The
people hurried across,
11 and after everyone had finished crossing, the priests with the ark of
the LORD crossed in the sight of the people.
12 The Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed
over before the Israelites, armed for battle as Moses had instructed them.

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‡ **3:16 3:16** Ketiv; Qere *from Adam* § **3:16 3:16** That is, the Dead Sea * **4:9 4:9** Some translators *And Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan*

13 About 40,000 troops armed for battle crossed over before the LORD
into the plains of Jericho.
14 On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they
revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses.
15 Then the LORD said to Joshua,
16 "Command the priests who carry the ark of the Testimony† to come up
from the Jordan."
17 So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up from the Jordan."
18 When the priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD came
up out of the Jordan and their feet touched the dry land, the waters of the
Jordan returned to their course and overflowed all the banks as before.
19 On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the
Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.
20 And there at Gilgal Joshua set up the twelve stones they had taken
from the Jordan.
21 Then Joshua said to the Israelites, "In the future, when your children
ask their fathers, 'What is the meaning of these stones?'
22 you are to tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'
23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you
until you had crossed over, just as he did to the Sea of Reeds,‡ which he
dried up before us until we had crossed over.
24 He did this so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand
of the LORD is mighty, and so that you may always fear the LORD your
God."

5

1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the
Canaanite kings along the coast* heard how the LORD had dried up the
waters of the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over,†
their hearts melted and their spirits failed for fear of the Israelites.
2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise
the sons of Israel once again.‡"
3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at
Gibeath-haaraloth.§
4 Now this is why Joshua circumcised them: All the males who came out
of Egypt—all the men of war—had died on the journey in the wilderness
after they had left Egypt.
5 Though all who had come out were circumcised, none of those born in
the wilderness on the journey from Egypt had been circumcised.
6 For the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness forty years, until all
the nation's men of war who had come out of Egypt had died, since they
did not obey the LORD. So the LORD vowed never to let them see the land
he had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and
honey.
7 And he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones
Joshua circumcised. Until this time they were still uncircumcised, since
they had not been circumcised along the way.

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† **4:16 4:16** That is, *the ark of the covenant* ‡ **4:23 4:23** Or *the Red Sea* * **5:1 5:1** That is, along the Mediterranean coast; literally *along the sea* † **5:1 5:1** Qere; Ketiv *until we had crossed over* ‡ **5:2 5:2** Literally *again the second time* § **5:3 5:3** *Gibeath-haaraloth* means *the hill of the foreskins.*

8 And after all the nation had been circumcised, they stayed there in the
camp until they were healed.
9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach
of Egypt from you.” So that place has been called Gilgal* to this day.
10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while the Israelites
were camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they kept the Passover.
11 The day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate unleavened
bread and roasted grain from the produce of the land.
12 And the day after they had eaten from the produce of the land, the
manna ceased. There was no more manna for the Israelites, so that year
they began to eat the crops of the land of Canaan.
13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man
standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua
approached him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”
14 “Neither,” he replied. “I have now come as commander of the LORD’s
army.”
Then Joshua fell facedown in reverence† and asked him, “What does my
lord have to say to his servant?”
15 The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals,
for the place where you are standing is holy.”
And Joshua did so.

6

1 Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went
out and no one came in.
2 And the LORD said to Joshua, “Behold, I have delivered Jericho into
your hand, along with its king and its mighty men of valor.
3 March around the city with all the men of war, circling the city one
time. Do this for six days.
4 Have seven priests carry seven rams’ horns in front of the ark. Then
on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests
blow the horns.
5 And when there is a long blast of the ram’s horn and you hear its
sound, have all the people give a mighty shout. Then the wall of the city
will collapse* and the people will go up, every man straight ahead.†”
6 So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said, “Take up the ark
of the covenant and have seven priests carry seven rams’ horns in front of
the ark of the LORD.”
7 And he told‡ the people, “Advance and march around the city, with the
armed troops going ahead of the ark of the LORD.”
8 After Joshua had spoken to the people, seven priests carrying seven
rams’ horns before the LORD advanced and blew the horns, and the ark of
the covenant of the LORD followed them.
9 While the horns continued to sound, the armed troops marched ahead
of the priests who blew the horns, and the rear guard followed the ark.
10 But Joshua had commanded the people: “Do not give a battle cry or let
your voice be heard; do not let one word come out of your mouth until the
day I tell you to shout. Then you are to shout!”

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* **5:9 5:9** *Gilgal* sounds like the Hebrew for *roll.* † **5:14 5:14** Or *and paid homage* or *and worshiped*
* **6:5 6:5** Or *fall under itself* or *fall flat*; similarly in verse 20 † **6:5 6:5** Or *and all your people will charge straight into the city*; similarly in verse 20 ‡ **6:7 6:7** Qere; Ketiv *they told*

11 So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once.
And the people returned to the camp and spent the night there.
12 Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests took the ark of
the LORD.
13 And the seven priests carrying seven rams' horns kept marching
ahead of the ark of the LORD and blowing the horns. The armed troops
went in front of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD,
while the horns kept sounding.
14 So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned
to the camp. They did this for six days.
15 Then on the seventh day, they got up at dawn and marched around
the city seven times in the same manner. That was the only day they
circled the city seven times.
16 After the seventh time around, the priests blew the horns, and Joshua
commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!
17 Now the city and everything in it must be devoted to the LORD for
destruction.§ Only Rahab the prostitute and all those with her in her
house will live, because she hid the spies we sent.
18 But keep away from the things devoted to destruction, lest you
yourself be set apart for destruction. If you take any of these, you will set
apart the camp of Israel for destruction and bring disaster upon it.
19 For all the silver and gold and all the articles of bronze and iron are
holy to the LORD; they must go into his treasury."
20 So when the rams' horns sounded, the people shouted. When they
heard the blast of the horn, the people gave a great shout, and the wall
collapsed. Then all the people charged straight into the city and captured
it.
21 With the edge of the sword they devoted to destruction everything in
the city—man and woman, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys.
22 Meanwhile, Joshua told the two men who had spied out the land, "Go
into the house of the prostitute and bring out the woman and all who are
with her, just as you promised her."
23 So the young spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father and
mother and brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her
whole family and settled them outside the camp of Israel.
24 Then the Israelites burned up the city and everything in it. However,
they put the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron into the
treasury of the LORD's house.
25 And Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her father's household
and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent to
spy out Jericho. So she has lived among the Israelites to this day.
26 At that time Joshua invoked this solemn oath:

"Cursed before the LORD is the man who rises up
and rebuilds this city, Jericho;
at the cost of his firstborn
he will lay its foundations;
at the cost of his youngest
he will set up its gates."*

§ **6:17 6:17** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verses 18 and 21. * **6:26 6:26** See 1 Kings 16:34.

27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

7

1 The Israelites, however, acted unfaithfully regarding the things devoted to destruction.* Achan† son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi,‡ the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of what was set apart. So the anger of the LORD burned against the Israelites.

2 Meanwhile, Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the land.” So the men went up and spied out Ai.

3 On returning to Joshua, they reported, “There is no need to send all the people; two or three thousand men are enough to go up and attack Ai. Since the people of Ai are so few, you need not wear out all our people there.”

4 So about three thousand men went up, but they fled before the men of Ai.

5 And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of them, chasing them from the gate as far as Shebarim§ and striking them down on the slopes. So the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown before the ark of the LORD until evening, as did the elders of Israel; and they all sprinkled dust on their heads.

7 “O, Lord GOD,” Joshua said, “why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to be destroyed? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!

8 O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has turned its back and run from its enemies?

9 When the Canaanites and all who live in the land hear about this, they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. Then what will you do for your great name?”

10 But the LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! Why have you fallen on your face?

11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them, and they have taken some of what was devoted to destruction. Indeed, they have stolen and lied, and they have put these things with their own possessions.

12 This is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies. They will turn their backs and run from their enemies, because they themselves have been set apart for destruction. I will no longer be with you unless you remove from among you whatever is devoted to destruction.

13 Get up and consecrate the people, saying, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Among you, O Israel, there are things devoted to destruction. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.

14 In the morning you must present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the LORD selects shall come forward clan by clan, and the clan that

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* **7:1 7:1** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verses 11, 12, 13, and 15. † **7:1 7:1** *Achan* means *troubler*; also called *Achar* in 1 Chronicles 2:7. ‡ **7:1 7:1** *Zabdi* is a variant of *Zimri*; also in verses 17 and 18; see LXX and 1 Chronicles 2:6. § **7:5 7:5** Or *the quarries*

the LORD selects shall come forward family by family, and the family that the LORD selects shall come forward man by man.
15 The one who is caught with the things devoted to destruction must be burned, along with all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD and committed an outrage in Israel.' "
16 So Joshua arose early the next morning and had Israel come forward tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was selected.
17 He had the clans of Judah come forward, and the clan of the Zerahites was selected. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward, and the family of Zabdi was selected.
18 And he had the family of Zabdi come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected.
19 So Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and make a confession to him. I urge you to tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."
20 "It is true," Achan replied, "I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I did:
21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful cloak from Shinar,* two hundred shekels of silver,† and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels,‡ I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."
22 So Joshua sent messengers who ran to the tent, and there it all was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.
23 They took the things from inside the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and spread them out before the LORD.
24 Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the cloak, the bar of gold, his sons and daughters, his oxen and donkeys and sheep, his tent, and everything else he owned, and brought them to the Valley of Achor.
25 "Why have you brought this trouble upon us?" said Joshua. "Today the LORD will bring trouble upon you!" And all Israel stoned him to death. Then they stoned the others and burned their bodies.
26 And they heaped over Achan a large pile of rocks that remains to this day. So the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore that place is called the Valley of Achor§ to this day.

8

1 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. See, I have delivered into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.
2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves. Set up an ambush behind the city."
3 So Joshua and the whole army set out to attack Ai. Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out at night
4 with these orders: "Pay attention. You are to lie in ambush behind the city, not too far from it. All of you must be ready.

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* **7:21 7:21** That is, Babylonia † **7:21 7:21** *200 shekels* is approximately 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of silver. ‡ **7:21 7:21** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of gold. § **7:26 7:26** *Achor* means *trouble*.

5 Then I and all the troops with me will advance on the city. When they
come out against us as they did the first time, we will flee from them.
6 They will pursue us until we have drawn them away from the city, for
they will say, 'The Israelites are running away from us as they did before.'
So as we flee from them,
7 you are to rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your
God will deliver it into your hand.
8 And when you have taken the city, set it on fire. Do as the LORD has
commanded! See, I have given you orders."
9 So Joshua sent them out, and they went to the place of ambush and lay
in wait between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai. But Joshua spent that
night among the people.
10 Joshua got up early the next morning and mobilized his men, and he
and the elders of Israel marched before them up to Ai.
11 Then all the troops who were with him marched up and approached
the city. They arrived in front of Ai and camped to the north of it, with the
valley between them and the city.
12 Now Joshua had taken about five thousand men and set up an
ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city.
13 So the forces were stationed with the main camp to the north of the
city and the rear guard to the west of the city. And that night Joshua went
into the valley.
14 When the king of Ai saw the Israelites, he hurried out early in the
morning with the men of the city to engage them in battle at an appointed
place overlooking the Arabah. But he did not know that an ambush had
been set up against him behind the city.
15 Joshua and all Israel let themselves be beaten back before them, and
they fled toward the wilderness.
16 Then all the people in the city* were summoned to pursue them, and
they followed Joshua and were drawn away from the city.
17 Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel,
leaving the city wide open while they pursued Israel.
18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Hold out your javelin† toward Ai, for
into your hand I will deliver the city." So Joshua held out his javelin
toward Ai,
19 and as soon as he did so, the men in ambush rose quickly from their
position. They rushed forward, entered the city, captured it, and
immediately set it on fire.
20 When the men of Ai turned and looked back, the smoke of the city
was rising into the sky. They could not escape in any direction, and the
troops who had fled to the wilderness now turned against their pursuers.
21 When Joshua and all Israel saw that the men in ambush had captured
the city and that smoke was rising from it, they turned around and struck
down the men of Ai.
22 Meanwhile, those in the ambush came out of the city against them,
and the men of Ai were trapped between the Israelite forces on both sides.
So Israel struck them down until no survivor or fugitive remained.
23 But they took the king of Ai alive and brought him to Joshua.
24 When Israel had finished killing all the men of Ai who had pursued
them into the field and wilderness, and when every last one of them had

* **8:16 8:16** Ketiv; Qere *in Ai* † **8:18 8:18** Or *battle lance*; twice in this verse, and also in verse 26

fallen by the sword, all the Israelites returned to Ai and put it to the sword as well.
25 A total of twelve thousand men and women fell that day—all the people of Ai.
26 Joshua did not draw back the hand that held his javelin until he had devoted to destruction‡ all who lived in Ai.
27 Israel took for themselves only the cattle and plunder of that city, as the LORD had commanded Joshua.
28 So Joshua burned Ai§ and made it a permanent heap of ruins, a desolation to this day.
29 He impaled the king of Ai on a pole* until evening, and at sunset Joshua commanded that they take down the body from the pole and throw it down at the entrance of the city gate. And over it they raised a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day.
30 At that time Joshua built an altar on Mount Ebal to the LORD, the God of Israel,
31 just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Teaching of Moses: "an altar of uncut stones on which no iron tool has been used."† And on it they offered burnt offerings to the LORD, and they sacrificed peace offerings.
32 And there in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua inscribed on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.
33 All Israel, foreigners and citizens alike, with their elders, officers, and judges, stood on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the LORD facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded earlier, to bless the people of Israel.
34 Afterward, Joshua read aloud all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—according to all that is written in the Book of the Teaching.
35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua failed to read before the whole assembly of Israel, including the women, the little ones, and the foreigners who lived among them.

9

1 Now when news of this reached all the kings west of the Jordan—those in the hill country, the foothills,* and all along the coast of the Great Sea† toward Lebanon (the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites)—
2 they came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel.
3 But the people of Gibeon, having heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,
4 acted deceptively and set out as envoys,‡ carrying on their donkeys worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended.
5 They put worn, patched sandals on their feet and threadbare clothing on their bodies, and their whole supply of bread was dry and moldy.

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‡ **8:26 8:26** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. § **8:28 8:28** *Ai* means *ruin*. * **8:29 8:29** Or *he hung the king of Ai on a tree* † **8:31 8:31** Exodus 20:25; Deuteronomy 27:5 * **9:1 9:1** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **9:1 9:1** That is, the Mediterranean Sea ‡ **9:4 9:4** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *set out with provisions*

6 They went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men
of Israel, “We have come from a distant land; please make a treaty§ with
us.”
7 But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, “Perhaps you dwell near us.
How can we make a treaty with you?”
8 “We are your servants,” they said to Joshua.
Then Joshua asked them, “Who are you and where have you come
from?”
9 “Your servants have come from a very distant land,” they replied,
“because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard the reports
about him: all that he did in Egypt,
10 and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites beyond the
Jordan—Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in
Ashtaroth.
11 So the elders and inhabitants of our land told us, ‘Take provisions for
your journey; go to meet them and say to them: We are your servants.
Please make a treaty with us.’
12 This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day
we left to come to you. But look, it is now dry and moldy.
13 These wineskins were new when we filled them, but look, they are
cracked. And these clothes and sandals are worn out from our very long
journey.”
14 Then the men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not seek the
counsel of the LORD.
15 And Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the
leaders of the congregation swore an oath to them.
16 Three days after they had made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the
Israelites learned that they were neighbors, living among them.
17 So the Israelites set out and on the third day arrived at their
cities—Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.
18 But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the
congregation had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel.
And the whole congregation grumbled against the leaders.
19 All the leaders answered, “We have sworn an oath to them by the
LORD, the God of Israel, and now we cannot touch them.
20 This is how we will treat them: We will let them live, so that no wrath
will fall on us because of the oath we swore to them.”
21 They continued, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water
carriers for the whole congregation.” So the leaders kept their promise.
22 Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, “Why did you
deceive us by telling us you live far away from us, when in fact you live
among us?
23 Now therefore you are under a curse and will perpetually serve as
woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”
24 The Gibeonites answered, “Your servants were told clearly that the
LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land
and wipe out all its inhabitants before you. So we greatly feared for our
lives because of you, and that is why we have done this.
25 Now we are in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to
you.”

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§ **9:6 9:6** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; also in verses 7, 11, 15, and 16.

26 So Joshua did this and delivered them from the hands of the Israelites,
and they did not kill the Gibeonites.
27 On that day he made them woodcutters and water carriers, as they
are to this day for the congregation of the LORD and for the altar at the
place he would choose.

10

1 Now Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai
and devoted it to destruction*—doing to Ai and its king as he had done to
Jericho and its king—and that the people of Gibeon had made peace with
Israel and were living near them.
2 So Adoni-zedek and his people were greatly alarmed, because Gibeon
was a great city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its
men were mighty.
3 Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of
Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of
Eglon, saying,
4 "Come up and help me. We will attack Gibeon, because they have made
peace with Joshua and the Israelites."
5 So the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron,
Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon—joined forces and advanced with all their
armies. They camped before Gibeon and made war against it.
6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Do
not abandon your servants. Come quickly and save us! Help us, because
all the kings of the Amorites from the hill country have joined forces
against us."
7 So Joshua and his whole army, including all the mighty men of valor,
came from Gilgal.
8 The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for I have
delivered them into your hand. Not one of them shall stand against you."
9 After marching all night from Gilgal, Joshua caught them by surprise.
10 And the LORD threw them into confusion before Israel, who defeated
them in a great slaughter at Gibeon, pursued them along the ascent to
Beth-horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.
11 As they fled before Israel along the descent from Beth-horon to
Azekah, the LORD cast down on them large hailstones from the sky, and
more of them were killed by the hailstones than by the swords of the
Israelites.
12 On the day that the LORD gave the Amorites over to the Israelites,
Joshua spoke to the LORD in the presence of Israel:

"O sun, stand still over Gibeon,
O moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."

13 So the sun stood still
and the moon stopped
until the nation took vengeance
upon its enemies.†
Is this not written in the Book of Jashar?‡

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* **10:1 10:1** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verses 28, 35, 37, 39, and 40.
† **10:13 10:13** Or *triumphed over its enemies* ‡ **10:13 10:13** Or *the Book of the Upright One*

“So the sun stopped
in the middle of the sky
and delayed going down
about a full day.”
14 There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD listened
to the voice of a man, because the LORD fought for Israel.
15 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.
16 Now the five kings had fled and hidden in the cave at Makkedah.
17 And Joshua was informed: “The five kings have been found; they are
hiding in the cave at Makkedah.”
18 So Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and
post men there to guard them.
19 But you, do not stop there. Pursue your enemies and attack them
from behind. Do not let them reach their cities, for the LORD your God has
delivered them into your hand.”
20 So Joshua and the Israelites continued to inflict a terrible slaughter
until they had finished them off, and the remaining survivors retreated to
the fortified cities.
21 The whole army returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah,
and no one dared to utter a word against the Israelites.
22 Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five
kings out to me.”
23 So they brought the five kings out of the cave—the kings of Jerusalem,
Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon.
24 When they had brought the kings to Joshua, he summoned all the
men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had accompanied
him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.”
So the commanders came forward and put their feet on their necks.
25 “Do not be afraid or discouraged,” Joshua said. “Be strong and
courageous, for the LORD will do this to all the enemies you fight.”
26 After this, Joshua struck down and killed the kings, and he impaled
their bodies on five poles§ and left them there until evening.
27 At sunset Joshua ordered that they be taken down from the poles and
thrown into the cave in which they had hidden. Then large stones were
placed against the mouth of the cave, and the stones are there to this day.
28 On that day Joshua captured Makkedah and put it to the sword, along
with its king. He devoted to destruction everyone in the city, leaving no
survivors. So he did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of
Jericho.
29 Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Makkedah to
Libnah and fought against Libnah.
30 And the LORD also delivered that city and its king into the hand of
Israel, and Joshua put all the people to the sword, leaving no survivors.
And he did to the king of Libnah as he had done to the king of Jericho.
31 And Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Libnah to Lachish.
They laid siege to it and fought against it.
32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, and Joshua
captured it on the second day. He put all the people to the sword, just as
he had done to Libnah.

§ **10:26 10:26** Or *hung their bodies on five trees*; similarly in verse 27

33 At that time Horam king of Gezer went to help Lachish, but Joshua
struck him down along with his people, leaving no survivors.
34 So Joshua moved on from Lachish to Eglon, and all Israel with him.
They laid siege to it and fought against it.
35 That day they captured Eglon and put it to the sword, and Joshua
devoted to destruction everyone in the city, just as he had done to Lachish.
36 Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron
and fought against it.
37 They captured it and put to the sword its king, all its villages, and all
the people. Joshua left no survivors, just as he had done at Eglon; he
devoted to destruction Hebron and everyone in it.
38 Finally Joshua and all Israel with him turned toward Debir and fought
against it.
39 And they captured Debir, its king, and all its villages. They put them to
the sword and devoted to destruction everyone in the city, leaving no
survivors. Joshua did to Debir and its king as he had done to Hebron and
as he had done to Libnah and its king.
40 So Joshua conquered the whole region—the hill country, the Negev,
the foothills,* and the slopes, together with all their kings—leaving no
survivors. He devoted to destruction everything that breathed, just as the
LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded.
41 Joshua conquered the area from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, and the
whole region of Goshen as far as Gibeon.
42 And because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel, Joshua
captured all these kings and their land in one campaign.
43 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

11

1 Now when Jabin king of Hazor heard about these things, he sent word
to Jobab king of Madon; to the kings of Shimron and Achshaph;
2 to the kings of the north in the mountains, in the Arabah south of
Chinnereth, in the foothills,* and in Naphoth-dor† to the west;
3 to the Canaanites in the east and west; to the Amorites, Hittites,
Perizzites, and Jebusites in the hill country; and to the Hivites at the foot
of Hermon in the land of Mizpah.
4 So these kings came out with all their armies, a multitude as numerous
as the sand on the seashore, along with a great number of horses and
chariots.
5 All these kings joined forces and encamped at the waters of Merom to
fight against Israel.
6 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for by this
time tomorrow I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You are to
hamstring their horses and burn up their chariots.”
7 So by the waters of Merom, Joshua and his whole army came upon
them suddenly and attacked them,
8 and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who struck them
down and pursued them all the way to Greater Sidon and

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* **10:40 10:40** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea
* **11:2 11:2** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea; also in verse 16
† **11:2 11:2** Or *in the heights of Dor*; *Naphoth-dor* is a variant of *Naphath-dor*; see Joshua 12:23.

Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the Valley of Mizpeh. They struck them down, leaving no survivors.
9 Joshua treated them as the LORD had told him; he hamstrung their horses and burned up their chariots.
10 At that time Joshua turned back and captured Hazor and put its king to the sword, because Hazor was formerly the head of all these kingdoms.
11 The Israelites put everyone in Hazor to the sword, devoting them to destruction.‡ Nothing that breathed remained, and Joshua burned down Hazor itself.
12 Joshua captured all these kings and their cities and put them to the sword. He devoted them to destruction, as Moses the LORD's servant had commanded.
13 Yet Israel did not burn any of the cities built on their mounds, except Hazor, which Joshua burned.
14 The Israelites took for themselves all the plunder and livestock of these cities, but they put all the people to the sword until they had completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone who breathed.
15 As the LORD had commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua. That is what Joshua did, leaving nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.
16 So Joshua took this entire region: the hill country, all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah, and the mountains of Israel and their foothills,
17 from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon at the foot of Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and struck them down, putting them to death.
18 Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long period of time.
19 No city made peace with the Israelites except the Hivites living in Gibeon; all others were taken in battle.
20 For it was of the LORD to stiffen§ their hearts to engage Israel in battle, so that they would be set apart for destruction and would receive no mercy, being annihilated as the LORD had commanded Moses.
21 At that time Joshua proceeded to eliminate the Anakim from the hill country of Hebron, Debir, and Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah and of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction, along with their cities.
22 No Anakim were left in the land of the Israelites; only in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod did any survive.
23 So Joshua took the entire land, in keeping with all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to the allotments to their tribes. Then the land had rest from war.

12

1 Now these are the kings of the land whom the Israelites struck down and whose lands they took beyond the Jordan to the east, from the Arnon Valley to Mount Hermon, including all the Arabah eastward:

2 Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon. He ruled from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along the middle of the valley, up to the Jabbok River (the border of the Ammonites), that is, half of Gilead,

‡ **11:11 11:11** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verses 12, 20, and 21. § **11:20 11:20** Or *harden* or *strengthen*

3 as well as the Arabah east of the Sea of Chinnereth* to the Sea of the
Arabah (the Salt Sea†), eastward through Beth-jeshimoth, and southward
below the slopes of Pisgah.
4 And the territory of Og king of Bashan,‡ one of the remnant of the
Rephaim, who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei.
5 He ruled over Mount Hermon, Salecah, all of Bashan up to the border
of the Geshurites and Maacathites, and half of Gilead to the border of
Sihon king of Heshbon.
6 Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the Israelites had struck them
down and given their land as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the
Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.
7 And these are the kings of the land that Joshua and the Israelites
conquered beyond the Jordan to the west, from Baal-gad in the Valley of
Lebanon to Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir (according to the
allotments to the tribes of Israel, Joshua gave them as an inheritance
8 the hill country, the foothills,§ the Arabah, the slopes, the wilderness,
and the Negev—the lands of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites,
Hivites, and Jebusites):

9 the king of Jericho, one;
the king of Ai, which is near Bethel, one;
10 the king of Jerusalem, one;
the king of Hebron, one;
11 the king of Jarmuth, one;
the king of Lachish, one;
12 the king of Eglon, one;
the king of Gezer, one;
13 the king of Debir, one;
the king of Geder, one;
14 the king of Hormah, one;
the king of Arad, one;
15 the king of Libnah, one;
the king of Adullam, one;
16 the king of Makkedah, one;
the king of Bethel, one;
17 the king of Tappuah, one;
the king of Hepher, one;
18 the king of Aphek, one;
the king of Lasharon, one;
19 the king of Madon, one;
the king of Hazor, one;
20 the king of Shimron-meron, one;
the king of Achshaph, one;
21 the king of Taanach, one;
the king of Megiddo, one;
22 the king of Kedesh, one;
the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one;
23 the king of Dor in Naphath-dor,* one;

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* **12:3 12:3** That is, the Sea of Galilee † **12:3 12:3** That is, the Dead Sea ‡ **12:4 12:4** LXX *And Og king of Bashan* § **12:8 12:8** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea
* **12:23 12:23** Or *in the heights of Dor*; *Naphath-dor* is a variant of *Naphoth-dor*; see Joshua 11:2.

the king of Goiim in Gilgal,† one;
24 and the king of Tirzah, one.
So there were thirty-one kings in all.

13

1 Now Joshua was old and well along in years, and the LORD said to him,
“You are old and well along in years, but very much of the land remains to
be possessed.
2 This is the land that remains:

All the territory of the Philistines and the Geshurites,
3 from the Shihor east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north
(considered to be Canaanite territory)—that of the five Philistine rulers of
Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron, as well as that of the Avvites;
4 to the south, all the land of the Canaanites, from Mearah* of the
Sidonians to Aphek, as far as the border of the Amorites;
5 the land of the Gebalites;†
and all Lebanon to the east, from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon to
Lebo-hamath.
6 All the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon to
Misrephoth-maim—all the Sidonians—I myself will drive out before the
Israelites. Be sure to divide it by lot as an inheritance to Israel, as I have
commanded you.
7 Now therefore divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and
the half-tribe of Manasseh.”
8 The other half of Manasseh, along with the Reubenites and Gadites,
had received the inheritance Moses had given them beyond the Jordan to
the east, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had assigned to them:

9 The area from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along with the city
in the middle of the valley, the whole plateau of Medeba as far as
Dibon,
10 and all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites who reigned in
Heshbon, as far as the border of the Ammonites;
11 also Gilead and the territory of the Geshurites and Maacathites, all of
Mount Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salecah—
12 the whole kingdom of Og in Bashan, who had reigned in Ashtaroth
and Edrei and had remained as a remnant of the Rephaim.
Moses had struck them down and dispossessed them,
13 but the Israelites did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites.
So Geshur and Maacath dwell among the Israelites to this day.
14 To the tribe of Levi, however, Moses had given no inheritance. The
food offerings to the LORD, the God of Israel, are their inheritance, just as
he had promised them.
15 This is what Moses had given to the clans of the tribe of Reuben:

16 The territory from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along with
the city in the middle of the valley, to the whole plateau beyond
Medeba,
17 to Heshbon and all its cities on the plateau, including Dibon,
Bamoth-baal, Beth-baal-meon,

† **12:23 12:23** LXX *Goyim in Galilee* * **13:4 13:4** Or *Arah* † **13:5 13:5** Or *the area of Byblos*

18 Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath,
19 Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth-shahar on the hill in the valley,
20 Beth-peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth—
21 all the cities of the plateau and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon until Moses killed him and the chiefs of Midian (Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba), the princes of Sihon who lived in the land.
22 The Israelites also killed the diviner Balaam son of Beor along with the others they put to the sword.
23 And the border of the Reubenites was the bank of the Jordan.
This was the inheritance of the clans of the Reubenites, including the cities and villages.
24 This is what Moses had given to the clans of the tribe of Gad:

25 The territory of Jazer, all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites as far as Aroer, near Rabbah;
26 the territory from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the border of Lidebir;‡
27 and in the valley, Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, with the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon (the territory on the east side of the Jordan up to the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth§).
28 This was the inheritance of the clans of the Gadites, including the cities and villages.
29 This is what Moses had given to the clans of the half-tribe of Manasseh, that is, to half the tribe of the descendants of Manasseh:
30 The territory from Mahanaim through all Bashan—all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, including all the towns of Jair that are in Bashan, sixty cities;
31 half of Gilead; and Ashtaroth and Edrei, the royal cities of Og in Bashan.
All this was for the clans of the descendants of Machir son of Manasseh, that is, half of the descendants of Machir.
32 These were the portions Moses had given them on the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan, east of Jericho.
33 To the tribe of Levi, however, Moses had given no inheritance. The LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, just as he had promised them.

14

1 Now these are the portions that the Israelites inherited in the land of Canaan, as distributed by Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the families of the tribes of Israel.
2 Their inheritance was assigned by lot for the nine and a half tribes, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.
3 For Moses had given the inheritance east of the Jordan to the other two and a half tribes. But he granted no inheritance among them to the Levites.
4 The descendants of Joseph became two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. And no portion of the land was given to the Levites, except for cities in which to live, along with pasturelands for their flocks and herds.

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‡ **13:26 13:26** A variant of *Lo-debar* (see 2 Samuel 9:4, 2 Samuel 17:27, and Amos 6:13); LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Debir* § **13:27 13:27** That is, the Sea of Galilee

5 So the Israelites did as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they
divided the land.
6 Then the sons of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of
Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the LORD said to
Moses the man of God at Kadesh-barnea about you and me.
7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me
from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back to him an
honest report.
8 Although my brothers who went with me made the hearts of the
people melt with fear, I remained loyal to the LORD my God.
9 On that day Moses swore to me, saying, ‘Surely the land on which you
have set foot will be an inheritance to you and your children forever,
because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’
10 Now behold, as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive these
forty-five years since he spoke this word to Moses, while Israel wandered
in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old,
11 still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out. As my
strength was then, so it is now for war, for going out, and for coming in.
12 Now therefore give me this hill country that the LORD promised me
on that day, for you yourself heard then that the Anakim were there, with
great and fortified cities. Perhaps with the LORD’s help I will drive them
out, as the LORD has spoken.”
13 Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as
his inheritance.
14 Therefore Hebron belongs to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite as
an inheritance to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD, the God
of Israel.
15 (Hebron used to be called Kiriath-arba, after Arba, the greatest man
among the Anakim.)
Then the land had rest from war.

15

1 Now the allotment for the clans of the tribe of Judah extended to the
border of Edom, to the Wilderness of Zin at the extreme southern
boundary:

2 Their southern border started at the bay on the southern tip of the Salt
Sea,*
3 proceeded south of the Ascent of Akrabbim,† continued on to Zin, went
over to the south of Kadesh-barnea, ran past Hezron up to Addar, and
curved toward Karka.
4 It proceeded to Azmon, joined the Brook of Egypt, and ended at the
Sea.‡ This was your§ southern border.
5 The eastern border was the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan.
The northern border started from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the
Jordan,
6 went up to Beth-hoglah, proceeded north of Beth-arabah, and went up
to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben.

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* **15:2 15:2** That is, the Dead Sea; also in verse 5 † **15:3 15:3** Or *the Ascent of Scorpions* or *Scorpion Pass* ‡ **15:4 15:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 11, 12, and 47 § **15:4 15:4** LXX *their*

7 Then the border went up to Debir from the Valley of Achor, turning
north to Gilgal, which faces the Ascent of Adummim south of the ravine. It
continued along the waters of En-shemesh and came out at En-rogel.
8 From there the border went up the Valley of Ben-hinnom along the
southern slope of the Jebusites (that is, Jerusalem) and ascended to the top
of the hill that faces the Valley of Hinnom on the west, at the northern end
of the Valley of Rephaim.
9 From the hilltop the border curved to the spring of the Waters of
Nephtoah, proceeded to the cities of Mount Ephron, and then bent around
toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim).
10 The border curled westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, ran along the
northern slope of Mount Jearim (that is, Chesalon), went down to
Beth-shemesh, and crossed to Timnah.
11 Then it went out to the northern slope of Ekron, curved toward
Shikkeron, proceeded to Mount Baalah, went on to Jabneel, and ended at
the Sea.
12 And the western border was the coastline of the Great Sea.
These are the boundaries around the clans of the descendants of Judah.
13 According to the LORD's command to him, Joshua gave Caleb son of
Jephunneh a portion among the sons of Judah—Kiriath-arba, that is,
Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.)
14 And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak—the
descendants of Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.
15 From there he marched against the inhabitants of Debir (formerly
known as Kiriath-sepher).
16 And Caleb said, "To the man who strikes down Kiriath-sepher and
captures it, I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage."
17 So Othniel son of Caleb's brother Kenaz captured the city, and Caleb
gave his daughter Acsah to him in marriage.
18 One day Acsah came to Othniel and urged him* to ask her father for a
field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you desire?"
19 "Give me a blessing," she answered. "Since you have given me land in
the Negev, give me springs of water as well."
So Caleb gave her both the upper and lower springs.
20 This is the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Judah.
21 These were the southernmost cities of the tribe of Judah in the Negev
toward the border of Edom:

Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,
22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,
23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,
24 Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,
25 Hazor-hadattah, Kerioth-hezron (that is, Hazor),
26 Amam, Shema, Moladah,
27 Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet,
28 Hazar-shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah,
29 Baalah, Iim, Ezem,
30 Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,
31 Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,
32 Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon—twenty-nine cities in all, along
with their villages.

* **15:18 15:18** Hebrew and some LXX manuscripts; other LXX manuscripts *and he urged her*; see Judges 1:14.

33 These were in the foothills:†

Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,
34 Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam,
35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,
36 Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim‡—fourteen cities, along with their villages.
37 Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad,
38 Dilan, Mizpeh, Joktheel,
39 Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,
40 Cabbon, Lahmas, Chitlish,
41 Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah—sixteen cities, along with their villages.
42 Libnah, Ether, Ashan,
43 Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,
44 Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah—nine cities, along with their villages.
45 Ekron, with its towns and villages;
46 from Ekron to the sea, all the cities near Ashdod, along with their villages;
47 Ashdod, with its towns and villages; Gaza, with its towns and villages, as far as the Brook of Egypt and the coastline of the Great Sea.§
48 These were in the hill country:

Shamir, Jattir, Socoh,
49 Dannah, Kiriath-sannah (that is, Debir),
50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,
51 Goshen, Holon, and Giloh—eleven cities, along with their villages.
52 Arab, Dumah, Eshan,
53 Janum,* Beth-tappuah, Aphekah,
54 Humtah, Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior—nine cities, along with their villages.
55 Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,
56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,
57 Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah—ten cities, along with their villages.
58 Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor,
59 Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon—six cities, along with their villages.
60 Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), and Rabbah—two cities, along with their villages.
61 These were in the wilderness:

Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah,
62 Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En-gedi—six cities, along with their villages.
63 But the descendants of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites living in Jerusalem. So to this day the Jebusites live there among the descendants of Judah.

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† **15:33 15:33** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea ‡ **15:36 15:36** Or *Gederah, that is, Gederothaim* § **15:47 15:47** Qere; Ketiv *the sea, the border* * **15:53 15:53** Qere; Ketiv *Janim*

16

1 The allotment for the descendants of Joseph extended from the Jordan
at Jericho to the waters of Jericho on the east, through the wilderness that
goes up from Jericho into the hill country of Bethel.
2 It went on from Bethel to Luz* and proceeded to the border of the
Archites in Ataroth.
3 Then it descended westward to the border of the Japhletites as far as
the border of Lower Beth-horon and on to Gezer, and it ended at the Sea.†
4 So Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, received their
inheritance.
5 This was the territory of the descendants of Ephraim by their clans:
The border of their inheritance went from Ataroth-addar in the east to
Upper Beth-horon
6 and out toward the Sea. From Michmethath on the north it turned
eastward toward Taanath-shiloh and passed by it to Janoah on the east.
7 From Janoah it went down to Ataroth and Naarah, and then reached
Jericho and came out at the Jordan.
8 From Tappuah the border went westward to the Brook of Kanah and
ended at the Sea.
This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Ephraim,
9 along with all the cities and villages set apart for the descendants of
Ephraim within the inheritance of Manasseh.
10 But they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer. So the
Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day, but they are forced
laborers.

17

1 Now this was the allotment for the tribe of Manasseh as Joseph's
firstborn son, namely for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh and father of
the Gileadites, who had received Gilead and Bashan because Machir was a
man of war.
2 So this allotment was for the rest of the descendants of Manasseh—the
clans of Abiezer,* Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hepher, and Shemida. These are
the other male descendants of the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph.
3 But Zelophehad son of Hepher (the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the
son of Manasseh) had no sons but only daughters. These are the names of
his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.
4 They approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the
leaders, and said, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance
among our brothers."
So Joshua gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers, in
keeping with the command of the LORD.
5 Thus ten shares fell to Manasseh, in addition to the land of Gilead and
Bashan beyond the Jordan,
6 because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his
sons. And the land of Gilead belonged to the rest of the sons of Manasseh.

7 Now the border of Manasseh went from Asher to Michmethath near
Shechem, then southward to include the inhabitants of En-tappuah.

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* **16:2 16:2** LXX (see also Joshua 18:13) *from Bethel (that is, Luz)* † **16:3 16:3** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 6 and 8 * **17:2 17:2** *Abiezer* is a variant of *Iezer*; see Numbers 26:30.

8 The region of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but Tappuah itself, on
the border of Manasseh, belonged to Ephraim.
9 From there the border continued southward to the Brook of Kanah.
There were cities belonging to Ephraim among the cities of Manasseh, but
the border of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook and ended at
the Sea.†
10 Ephraim's territory was to the south, and Manasseh's was to the
north, having the Sea as its border and adjoining Asher on the north and
Issachar on the east.
11 Within Issachar and Asher, Manasseh was assigned Beth-shean,
Ibleam, Dor (that is, Naphath), Endor, Taanach, and Megiddo, each
with their surrounding settlements.
12 But the descendants of Manasseh were unable to occupy these cities,
because the Canaanites were determined to stay in this land.
13 However, when the Israelites grew stronger, they put the Canaanites
to forced labor; but they failed to drive them out completely.
14 Then the sons of Joseph said to Joshua, "Why have you given us only
one allotment and one portion as an inheritance? We have many people,
because the LORD has blessed us abundantly."
15 Joshua answered them, "If you have so many people that the hill
country of Ephraim is too small for you, go to the forest and clear for
yourself an area in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaim."
16 "The hill country is not enough for us," they replied, "and all the
Canaanites who live in the valley have iron chariots, both in Beth-shean
with its towns and in the Valley of Jezreel."
17 So Joshua said to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and
Manasseh—"You have many people and great strength. You shall not have
just one allotment,
18 because the hill country will be yours as well. It is a forest; clear it,
and its farthest limits will be yours. Although the Canaanites have iron
chariots and although they are strong, you can drive them out."

18

1 Then the whole congregation of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up
the Tent of Meeting there. And though the land was subdued before them,
2 there were still seven tribes of Israel who had not yet received their
inheritance.
3 So Joshua said to the Israelites, "How long will you put off entering and
possessing the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?
4 Appoint three men from each tribe, and I will send them out to survey
the land and map it out, according to the inheritance of each. Then they
will return to me
5 and divide the land into seven portions. Judah shall remain in their
territory in the south, and the house of Joseph shall remain in their
territory in the north.
6 When you have mapped out the seven portions of land and brought it
to me, I will cast lots for you here in the presence of the LORD our God.
7 The Levites, however, have no portion among you, because their
inheritance is the priesthood of the LORD. And Gad, Reuben, and half the
tribe of Manasseh have already received the inheritance that Moses the
servant of the LORD gave them beyond the Jordan to the east."

† **17:9 17:9** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verse 10

8 As the men got up to go out, Joshua commanded them to map out the
land, saying, “Go and survey the land, map it out, and return to me. Then I
will cast lots for you here in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD.”
9 So the men departed and went throughout the land, mapping it city by
city into seven portions. Then they returned with the document to Joshua
at the camp in Shiloh.
10 And Joshua cast lots for them in the presence of the LORD at Shiloh,
where he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their divisions.
11 The first lot came up for the clans of the tribe of Benjamin. Their
allotted territory lay between the tribes of Judah and Joseph:

12 On the north side their border began at the Jordan, went up past the
northern slope of Jericho, headed west through the hill country, and
came out at the wilderness of Beth-aven.
13 From there the border crossed over to the southern slope of Luz (that
is, Bethel) and went down to Ataroth-addar on the hill south of Lower
Beth-horon.
14 On the west side the border curved southward from the hill facing
Beth-horon on the south and came out at Kiriath-baal (that is,
Kiriath-jearim), a city of the sons of Judah. This was the western side.
15 On the south side the border began at the outskirts of Kiriath-jearim
and extended westward to the spring at the Waters of Nephtoah.
16 Then it went down to the foot of the hill that faces the Valley of
Ben-hinnom at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim and ran down
the Valley of Hinnom toward the southern slope of the Jebusites and
downward to En-rogel.
17 From there it curved northward and proceeded to En-shemesh and on
to Geliloth facing the Ascent of Adummim, and continued down to the
Stone of Bohan son of Reuben.
18 Then it went on to the northern slope facing the Arabah* and went
down into the valley.
19 The border continued to the northern slope of Beth-hoglah and came
out at the northern bay of the Salt Sea,† at the mouth of the Jordan. This
was the southern border.
20 On the east side the border was the Jordan.
These were the borders around the inheritance of the clans of the tribe
of Benjamin.
21 These were the cities of the clans of the tribe of Benjamin:

Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz,
22 Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,
23 Avvim, Parah, Ophrah,
24 Chephar-ammonah,‡ Ophni, and Geba—twelve cities, along with their
villages.
25 Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,
26 Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah,
27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,
28 Zelah, Haeleph, the Jebusite§ (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah,* and
Kiriath†—fourteen cities, along with their villages.

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* **18:18 18:18** LXX *slope of Beth-arabah* † **18:19 18:19** That is, the Dead Sea ‡ **18:24 18:24** Qere; Ketiv *Chephar-ammoni* § **18:28 18:28** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Jebus* * **18:28 18:28** Hebrew *Gibeath* † **18:28 18:28** LXX *Kiriath-jearim*

This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.

19

1 The second lot came out for the clans of the tribe of Simeon:

Their inheritance lay within the territory of Judah
2 and included Beersheba, Sheba,* Moladah,
3 Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem,
4 Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,
5 Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah,
6 Beth-lebaoth, and Sharuhen—thirteen cities, along with their villages.
7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan—four cities, along with their villages,
8 and all the villages surrounding these cities as far as Baalath-beer (Ramah of the Negev).
This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Simeon.
9 The inheritance of the Simeonites was taken from the territory of Judah, because the share for Judah's descendants was too large for them. So the Simeonites received an inheritance within Judah's portion.
10 The third lot came up for the clans of the tribe of Zebulun:

The border of their inheritance stretched as far as Sarid.
11 It went up westward to Maralah, reached Dabbesheth, and met the brook east of Jokneam.
12 From Sarid it turned eastward along the border of Chisloth-tabor and went on to Daberath and up to Japhia.
13 From there it crossed eastward to Gath-hepher and to Eth-kazin; it extended to Rimmon and curved around toward Neah.
14 Then the border circled around the north side of Neah to Hannathon and ended at the Valley of Iphtah-el.
15 It also included Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem. There were twelve cities, along with their villages.
16 This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Zebulun, including these cities and their villages.
17 The fourth lot came out for the clans of the tribe of Issachar:

18 Their territory included Jezreel, Chesulloth, Shunem,
19 Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath,
20 Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez,
21 Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, and Beth-pazzez.
22 The border reached Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth-shemesh, and ended at the Jordan. There were sixteen cities, along with their villages.
23 This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Issachar, including these cities and their villages.
24 The fifth lot came out for the clans of the tribe of Asher:

25 Their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph,
26 Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. On the west the border touched Carmel and Shihor-libnath,
27 then turned eastward toward Beth-dagon, touched Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtah-el, and went north to Beth-emek and Neiel, passing Cabul on the left.

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* **19:2 19:2** Or *Beersheba, that is, Sheba;* compare 1 Chronicles 4:28

28 It went on to Ebron,† Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, as far as Greater
Sidon.
29 The border then turned back toward Ramah as far as the fortified city
of Tyre, turned toward Hosah, and came out at the Sea‡ in the region of
Achzib,
30 Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob. There were twenty-two cities, along with
their villages.
31 This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Asher, including
these cities and their villages.
32 The sixth lot came out for the clans of the tribe of Naphtali:

33 Their border started at Heleph and the great tree of Zaanannim,
passing Adami-nekeb and Jabneel as far as Lakkum and ending at the
Jordan.
34 Then the border turned westward to Aznoth-tabor and ran from there
to Hukkok, touching Zebulun on the south side, Asher on the west, and
Judah at the Jordan§ on the east.
35 The fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,
36 Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,
37 Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor,
38 Iron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh. There were
nineteen cities, along with their villages.
39 This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Naphtali,
including these cities and their villages.
40 The seventh lot came out for the clans of the tribe of Dan:

41 The territory of their inheritance included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh,
42 Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah,
43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron,
44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,
45 Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon,
46 Me-jarkon, and Rakkon, including the territory across from Joppa.
47 (Later, when the territory of the Danites was lost to them, they went
up and fought against Leshem, captured it, and put it to the sword. So they
took possession of Leshem, settled there, and renamed it after their father
Dan.)
48 This was the inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Dan, including
these cities and their villages.
49 When they had finished distributing the land into its territories, the
Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them,
50 as the LORD had commanded. They gave him the city of
Timnath-serah* in the hill country of Ephraim, as he requested. He rebuilt
the city and settled in it.
51 These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun,
and the heads of the families distributed by lot to the tribes of Israel at
Shiloh before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. So they
finished dividing up the land.

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† **19:28 19:28** Some Hebrew manuscripts *Abdon*; see Joshua 21:30. ‡ **19:29 19:29** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea § **19:34 19:34** LXX *west, and the Jordan* * **19:50 19:50** *Timnath-serah* is also known as *Timnath-heres*; see Judges 2:9.

20

1 Then the LORD said to Joshua,
2 “Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses,
3 so that anyone who kills another unintentionally or accidentally may flee there. These will be your refuge from the avenger of blood.
4 When someone flees to one of these cities, stands at the entrance of the city gate, and states his case before its elders, they are to bring him into the city and give him a place to live among them.
5 Now if the avenger of blood pursues him, they must not surrender the manslayer into his hand, because that man killed his neighbor accidentally without prior malice.
6 He is to stay in that city until he stands trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest serving at that time. Then the manslayer may return to his own home in the city from which he fled.”
7 So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.
8 And beyond the Jordan, east of Jericho, they designated Bezer on the wilderness plateau from the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan from the tribe of Manasseh.
9 These are the cities appointed for all the Israelites and foreigners among them, so that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.

21

1 Now the family heads of the Levites approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the other tribes of Israel
2 at Shiloh in the land of Canaan and said to them, “The LORD commanded through Moses that we be given cities in which to live, together with pasturelands for our livestock.”
3 So by the command of the LORD, the Israelites gave the Levites these cities and their pasturelands out of their own inheritance:

4 The first lot came out for the Kohathite clans. The Levites who were descendants of Aaron the priest received thirteen cities by lot from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.
5 The remaining descendants of Kohath received ten cities by lot from the tribes of Ephraim, Dan, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.
6 The descendants of Gershon received thirteen cities by lot from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.
7 And the descendants of Merari received twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.
8 So the Israelites allotted to the Levites these cities, together with their pasturelands, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.
9 From the tribes of Judah and Simeon, they designated these cities by name
10 to the descendants of Aaron from the Kohathite clans of the Levites, because the first lot fell to them:

11 They gave them Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), with its surrounding
pasturelands, in the hill country of Judah. (Arba was the father of
Anak.)
12 But they had given the fields and villages around the city to Caleb son
of Jephunneh as his possession.
13 So to the descendants of Aaron the priest they gave these cities,
together with their pasturelands: Hebron, a city of refuge for the
manslayer, Libnah,
14 Jattir, Eshtemoa,
15 Holon, Debir,
16 Ain, Juttah, and Beth-shemesh—nine cities from these two tribes,
together with their pasturelands.

17 And from the tribe of Benjamin they gave them Gibeon, Geba,
18 Anathoth, and Almon—four cities, together with their pasturelands.

19 In all, thirteen cities, together with their pasturelands, were given to
the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

20 The remaining Kohathite clans of the Levites were allotted these cities:

From the tribe of Ephraim
21 they were given Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim (a city of
refuge for the manslayer), Gezer,
22 Kibzaim, and Beth-horon—four cities, together with their
pasturelands.
23 From the tribe of Dan they were given Elteke, Gibbethon,
24 Aijalon, and Gath-rimmon—four cities, together with their
pasturelands.
25 And from the half-tribe of Manasseh they were given Taanach and
Gath-rimmon—two cities, together with their pasturelands.
26 In all, ten cities, together with their pasturelands, were given to the
rest of the Kohathite clans.
27 This is what the Levite clans of the Gershonites were given:

From the half-tribe of Manasseh they were given Golan in Bashan, a city
of refuge for the manslayer, and Beeshterah—two cities, together with
their pasturelands.
28 From the tribe of Issachar they were given Kishion, Daberath,
29 Jarmuth, and En-gannim—four cities, together with their
pasturelands.
30 From the tribe of Asher they were given Mishal, Abdon,
31 Helkath, and Rehob—four cities, together with their pasturelands.
32 And from the tribe of Naphtali they were given Kedesh in Galilee (a
city of refuge for the manslayer), Hammoth-dor, and Kartan—three
cities, together with their pasturelands.
33 In all, thirteen cities, together with their pasturelands, were given to
the Gershonite clans.
34 This is what the Merarite clan (the rest of the Levites) were given:

From the tribe of Zebulun they were given Jokneam, Kartah,
35 Dimnah, and Nahalal—four cities, together with their pasturelands.

36 From the tribe of Reuben they were given Bezer, Jahaz,*
37 Kedemoth, and Mephaath—four cities, together with their
pasturelands.
38 And from the tribe of Gad they were given Ramoth in Gilead, a city of
refuge for the manslayer, Mahanaim,
39 Heshbon, and Jazer—four cities in all, together with their
pasturelands.
40 In all, twelve cities were allotted to the clans of Merari, the remaining
Levite clans.
41 For the Levites, then, there were forty-eight cities in all, together with
their pasturelands, within the territory of the Israelites.
42 Each of these cities had its own surrounding pasturelands; this was
true for all the cities.
43 Thus the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their
fathers, and they took possession of it and settled in it.
44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to
their fathers. None of their enemies could stand against them, for the
LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.
45 Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel had
failed; everything was fulfilled.

22

1 Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe
of Manasseh
2 and told them, "You have done all that Moses the servant of the LORD
commanded you, and you have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded
you.
3 All this time you have not deserted your brothers, up to this very day,
but have kept the charge given you by the LORD your God.
4 And now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as he
promised them, you may return to your homes in the land that Moses the
servant of the LORD gave you across the Jordan.
5 But be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that
Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to
walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, to hold fast to him, and
to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."
6 So Joshua blessed them and sent them on their way, and they went to
their homes.
7 (To the half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given land in Bashan, and to
the other half Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan among their
brothers.) When Joshua sent them to their homes he blessed them,
8 saying, "Return to your homes with your great wealth, with immense
herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze, iron, and very many clothes.
Divide with your brothers the spoil of your enemies."
9 So the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the
Israelites at Shiloh in the land of Canaan to return to their own land of
Gilead, which they had acquired according to the command of the LORD
through Moses.

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* **21:36 21:36** Verses 36–37 are lacking in the Leningrad and Aleppo codices and in many manuscripts; they are given here from other manuscripts and printed editions (compare 1 Chronicles 6:63–64).

10 And when they came to the region* near the Jordan in the land of
Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh built
an imposing altar there by the Jordan.
11 Then the Israelites received the report: “Behold, the Reubenites, the
Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the border
of the land of Canaan, in the region near the Jordan on the Israelite side.”
12 And when they heard this, the whole congregation of Israel assembled
at Shiloh to go to war against them.
13 The Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest to the land of
Gilead, to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.
14 With him they sent ten chiefs—one family leader from each tribe of
Israel, each the head of a family among the clans of Israel.
15 They went to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of
Manasseh in the land of Gilead and said to them,
16 “This is what the whole congregation of the LORD says: ‘What is this
breach of faith you have committed today against the God of Israel by
turning away from the LORD and building for yourselves an altar, that you
might rebel against the LORD this day?
17 Was not the sin of Peor enough for us, from which we have not
cleansed ourselves to this day? It even brought a plague upon the
congregation of the LORD.
18 And now, would you turn away from the LORD? If you rebel today
against the LORD, tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation
of Israel.
19 If indeed the land of your inheritance is unclean, then cross over to
the land of the LORD’s possession, where the LORD’s tabernacle stands,
and take possession of it among us. But do not rebel against the LORD or
against us by building for yourselves an altar other than the altar of the
LORD our God.
20 Was not Achan† son of Zerah unfaithful regarding what was set apart
for destruction,‡ bringing wrath upon the whole congregation of Israel?
Yet it was not only Achan who perished because of his sin!’ ”
21 Then the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh
answered the leaders of the clans of Israel:
22 “The LORD, the Mighty One, is God! The LORD, the Mighty One, is God!
He knows, and may Israel also know. If this was in rebellion or breach of
faith against the LORD, do not spare us today.
23 If we have built for ourselves an altar to turn away from him and to
offer burnt offerings and grain offerings on it, or to sacrifice peace
offerings on it, may the LORD himself hold us accountable.
24 But in fact we have done this for fear that in the future your
descendants might say to ours, ‘What have you to do with the LORD, the
God of Israel?
25 For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between us and you
Reubenites and Gadites. You have no share in the LORD!’ So your
descendants could cause ours to stop fearing the LORD.
26 That is why we said, ‘Let us take action and build an altar for
ourselves, but not for burnt offerings or sacrifices.

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* **22:10 22:10** Or *to the circle of stones* or *to Geliloth*; similarly in verse 11 † **22:20 22:20** *Achan* means *troubler*; also called *Achar* in 1 Chronicles 2:7. ‡ **22:20 22:20** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

27 Rather, let it be a witness between us and you and the generations to
come, that we will worship the LORD in his presence with our burnt
offerings, sacrifices, and peace offerings.' Then in the future, your
descendants cannot say to ours, 'You have no share in the LORD!'
28 Therefore we said, 'If they ever say this to us or to our descendants,
we will answer: Look at the replica of the altar of the LORD that our
fathers made, not for burnt offerings or sacrifices, but as a witness
between us and you.'
29 Far be it from us to rebel against the LORD and turn away from him
today by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings, or sacrifices,
other than the altar of the LORD our God, which stands before his
tabernacle."
30 When Phinehas the priest and the chiefs of the congregation—the
heads of Israel's clans who were with him—heard what the descendants
of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh had to say, they were satisfied.
31 Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest said to the descendants of Reuben,
Gad, and Manasseh, "Today we know that the LORD is among us, because
you have not committed this breach of faith against him. Consequently,
you have delivered the Israelites from the hand of the LORD."
32 Then Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest, together with the other
leaders, returned to the Israelites in the land of Canaan and brought back
a report regarding the Reubenites and Gadites in the land of Gilead.
33 The Israelites were satisfied with the report, and they blessed God and
spoke no more about going to war against them to destroy the land where
the Reubenites and Gadites lived.
34 So the Reubenites and Gadites named the altar, for they said,§ "It is a
witness between us that the LORD is God."

23

1 A long time after the LORD had given Israel rest from all the enemies
around them, when Joshua was old and well along in years,
2 he summoned all Israel, including its elders, leaders, judges, and
officers. "I am old and well along in years," he said,
3 "and you have seen everything that the LORD your God has done to all
these nations for your sake, because it was the LORD your God who fought
for you.
4 See, I have allotted as an inheritance to your tribes these remaining
nations, including all the nations I have already cut off, from the Jordan
westward to the Great Sea.*
5 The LORD your God will push them out of your way and drive them
out before you, so that you can take possession of their land, as the LORD
your God promised you.
6 Be very strong, then, so that you can keep and obey all that is written
in the Book of the Teaching of Moses, not turning aside from it to the right
or to the left.
7 So you are not to associate with these nations that remain among you.
You must not call on the names of their gods or swear by them, and you
must not serve them or bow down to them.
8 Instead, you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to
this day.

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§ **22:34 22:34** The name is not given in the Hebrew; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *named the altar Witness* * **23:4 23:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea

9 The LORD has driven out great and powerful nations before you, and
to this day no one can stand against you.
10 One of you can put a thousand to flight, because the LORD your God
fights for you, just as he promised.
11 Therefore watch yourselves carefully, that you love the LORD your
God.
12 For if you turn away and cling to the rest of these nations that remain
among you, and if you intermarry and associate with them,
13 know for sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these
nations before you. Instead, they will become for you a snare and a trap, a
scourge in your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this
good land that the LORD your God has given you.
14 Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know
with all your heart and soul that not one of the good promises the LORD
your God made to you has failed. Everything was fulfilled for you; not one
promise has failed.
15 But just as every good thing the LORD your God promised you has
come to pass, likewise the LORD will bring upon you the calamity he has
threatened, until he has destroyed you from this good land he has given
you.
16 If you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he
commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them,
then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you will quickly
perish from this good land he has given you."

24

1 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He
summoned the elders, leaders, judges, and officers of Israel, and they
presented themselves before God.
2 And Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: 'Long ago your fathers, including Terah the father of Abraham
and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates* and worshiped other gods.
3 But I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates and led
him through all the land of Canaan, and I multiplied his descendants. I
gave him Isaac,
4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau Mount Seir to possess,
but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.
5 Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted the Egyptians by what I
did there, and afterward I brought you out.
6 When I brought your fathers out of Egypt and you reached the sea, the
Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen as far as the Sea of
Reeds.
7 So your fathers cried out to the LORD, and he put darkness between
you and the Egyptians, over whom he brought the sea and engulfed them.
Your very eyes saw what I did to the Egyptians. Then you lived in the
wilderness for a long time.
8 Later, I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the
Jordan. They fought against you, but I delivered them into your hand, that
you should possess their land when I destroyed them before you.

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* **24:2 24:2** Hebrew *the River*; also in verses 3, 14, and 15

9 Then Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab, set out to fight against
Israel. He sent for Balaam son of Beor to curse you,
10 but I would not listen to Balaam. So he blessed you again and again,
and I delivered you from his hand.
11 After this, you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The people of
Jericho fought against you, as did the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites,
Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites, and I delivered them into your
hand.
12 I sent the hornet ahead of you, and it drove out the two Amorite kings
before you, but not by your own sword or bow.
13 So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities that you did
not build, and now you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive
groves that you did not plant.'
14 Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and truth;
cast aside the gods your fathers served beyond the Euphrates and in
Egypt, and serve the LORD.
15 But if it is unpleasing in your sight to serve the LORD, then choose for
yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers
served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land
you are living. As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"
16 The people replied, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve
other gods!
17 For the LORD our God brought us and our fathers out of the land of
Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and performed these great signs before
our eyes. He also protected us throughout our journey and among all the
nations through which we traveled.
18 And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the
Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is
our God!"
19 But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD, for
he is a holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your rebellion or
your sins.
20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring
disaster on you and consume you, even after he has been good to you."
21 "No!" replied the people. "We will serve the LORD!"
22 Then Joshua told them, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you
have chosen to serve the LORD."
"We are witnesses!" they said.
23 "Now, therefore," he said, "get rid of the foreign gods among you and
incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."
24 So the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and
obey his voice."
25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at
Shechem he established for them a statute and ordinance.
26 Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Teaching of God. Then
he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak† that was near the
sanctuary of the LORD.
27 And Joshua said to all the people, "You see this stone. It will be a
witness against us, for it has heard all the words the LORD has spoken to
us, and it will be a witness against you if you ever deny your God."
28 Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance.

† **24:26 24:26** Or *terebinth*

29 Some time later, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at
the age of 110.
30 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath-serah‡
in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.
31 Israel had served the LORD throughout the days of Joshua and of the
elders who outlived him and who had experienced all the works that the
LORD had done for Israel.
32 And the bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up out of
Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the plot of land that Jacob had
purchased from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces
of silver.§ So it became an inheritance for Joseph's descendants.
33 Eleazar son of Aaron also died, and they buried him at Gibeah, which
had been given to his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

‡ **24:30 24:30** *Timnath-serah* is also known as *Timnath-heres*; see Judges 2:9. § **24:32 24:32** Hebrew *a hundred kesitahs*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known.

Judges

1 After the death of Joshua, the Israelites inquired of the LORD, “Who
will be the first to go up and fight for us against the Canaanites?”
2 “Judah shall go up,” answered the LORD. “Indeed, I have delivered the
land into their hands.”
3 Then the men of Judah said to their brothers the Simeonites, “Come up
with us to our allotted territory, and let us fight against the Canaanites.
And we likewise will go with you to your territory.” So the Simeonites
went with them.
4 When Judah attacked, the LORD delivered the Canaanites and
Perizzites into their hands, and they struck down ten thousand men at
Bezek.
5 And there they found Adoni-bezek and fought against him, striking
down the Canaanites and Perizzites.
6 As Adoni-bezek
fled, they pursued him, seized him, and cut off his thumbs and big toes.
7 Then Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes
cut off have gathered the scraps under my table. As I have done to them,
so God has repaid me.” And they brought him to Jerusalem, where he died.
8 Then the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it. They
put the city to the sword and set it on fire.
9 Afterward, the men of Judah marched down to fight against the
Canaanites living in the hill country, in the Negev, and in the foothills.*
10 Judah also marched against the Canaanites who were living in
Hebron (formerly known as Kiriath-arba), and they struck down Sheshai,
Ahiman, and Talmai.
11 From there they marched against the inhabitants of Debir (formerly
known as Kiriath-sepher).
12 And Caleb said, “To the man who strikes down Kiriath-sepher and
captures it, I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage.”
13 So Othniel son of Caleb's younger brother Kenaz captured the city,
and Caleb gave his daughter Acsah to him in marriage.
14 One day Acsah came to Othniel and urged him† to ask her father for a
field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, “What do you desire?”
15 “Give me a blessing,” she answered. “Since you have given me land in
the Negev, give me springs of water as well.”
So Caleb gave her both the upper and lower springs.
16 Now the descendants of Moses' father-in-law, the Kenite, went up with
the men of Judah from the City of Palms‡ to the Wilderness of Judah in the
Negev near Arad. They went to live among the people.
17 Then the men of Judah went with their brothers the Simeonites,
attacked the Canaanites living in Zephath, and devoted the city to
destruction.§ So it was called Hormah.*

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* **1:9 1:9** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **1:14 1:14** LXX and Vulgate *and he urged her*; see Joshua 15:18. ‡ **1:16 1:16** That is, Jericho § **1:17 1:17** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **1:17 1:17** *Hormah* means *destruction*.

18 And Judah also captured† Gaza, Ashkelon, and Ekron—each with its territory.
19 The LORD was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the plains because they had chariots of iron.
20 Just as Moses had promised, Judah gave Hebron to Caleb, who drove out the descendants of the three sons of Anak.
21 The Benjamites, however, failed to drive out the Jebusites living in Jerusalem. So to this day the Jebusites live there among the Benjamites.
22 The house of Joseph also attacked Bethel, and the LORD was with them.
23 They sent spies to Bethel (formerly known as Luz),
24 and when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him, "Please show us how to get into the city, and we will treat you kindly."
25 So the man showed them the entrance to the city, and they put the city to the sword but released that man and all his family.
26 And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called it Luz, which is its name to this day.
27 At that time Manasseh failed to drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo, and their villages; for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.
28 When Israel became stronger, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor, but they never drove them out completely.
29 Ephraim also failed to drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer; so the Canaanites continued to dwell among them in Gezer.
30 Zebulun failed to drive out the inhabitants of Kitron and Nahalol; so the Canaanites lived among them and served as forced laborers.
31 Asher failed to drive out the inhabitants of Acco, Sidon, Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, and Rehob.
32 So the Asherites lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land, because they did not drive them out.
33 Naphtali failed to drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath. So the Naphtalites also lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land, but the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath served them as forced laborers.
34 The Amorites forced the Danites into the hill country and did not allow them to come down into the plain.
35 And the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, Aijalon, and Shaalbim. But when the house of Joseph grew in strength, they pressed the Amorites into forced labor.
36 And the border of the Amorites extended from the Ascent of Akrabbim‡ to Sela and beyond.

2

1 Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I had promised to your fathers, and I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you,
2 and you are not to make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall tear down their altars.'
Yet you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?

† **1:18 1:18** LXX *But Judah did not capture* ‡ **1:36 1:36** Or *the Ascent of Scorpions* or *Scorpion Pass*

3 So now I tell you that I will not drive out these people before you; they
will be in your sides,* and their gods will be a snare to you."
4 When the angel of the LORD had spoken these words to all the
Israelites, the people lifted up their voices and wept.
5 So they called that place Bochim† and offered sacrifices there to the
LORD.
6 After Joshua had dismissed the people, the Israelites went out to take
possession of the land, each to his own inheritance.
7 And the people served the LORD throughout the days of Joshua and of
the elders who outlived him, who had seen all the great works that the
LORD had done for Israel.
8 And Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110.
9 They buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath-heres‡ in
the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.
10 After that whole generation had also been gathered to their fathers,
another generation rose up who did not know the LORD or the works that
he had done for Israel.
11 And the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the
Baals.
12 Thus they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had
brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they followed after various
gods of the peoples around them. They bowed down to them and
provoked the LORD to anger,
13 for they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.
14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he delivered
them into the hands of those who plundered them.§ He sold them into the
hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to
resist.
15 Wherever Israel marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them
to bring calamity, just as the LORD had said and just as he had sworn to
them. So they were greatly distressed.
16 Then the LORD raised up leaders,* who saved them from the hands of
those who plundered them.
17 Israel, however, did not listen to their leaders. Instead, they
prostituted themselves with other gods and bowed down to them. They
quickly turned from the way of their fathers, who had walked in
obedience to the LORD's commandments; they did not do as their fathers
had done.
18 Whenever the LORD raised up a leader for the Israelites, he was with
that leader and saved them from the hands of their enemies while the
leader was still alive; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning
under those who oppressed them and afflicted them.
19 But when the leader died, the Israelites became even more corrupt
than their fathers, going after other gods to serve them and bow down to
them. They would not give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

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* **2:3 2:3** Hebrew *they will be to you for sides*; the meaning is uncertain. Compare Numbers 33:55 and Joshua 23:13, *thorns in your sides*; Targum *adversaries* † **2:5 2:5** *Bochim* means *weepers*. ‡ **2:9 2:9** *Timnath-heres* is also known as *Timnath-serah*; see Joshua 19:50 and Joshua 24:30. § **2:14 2:14** Literally *of plunderers who plundered them* * **2:16 2:16** Or *governors* or *judges*; here and throughout the book of Judges

20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he said, “Because
this nation has transgressed the covenant I laid down for their fathers and
has not heeded my voice,
21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left
when he died.
22 In this way I will test whether Israel will keep the way of the LORD by
walking in it as their fathers did.”
23 That is why the LORD had left those nations in place and had not
driven them out immediately by delivering them into the hand of Joshua.

3

1 These are the nations that the LORD left to test all the Israelites who
had not known any of the wars in Canaan,
2 if only to teach warfare to the subsequent generations of Israel,
especially to those who had not known it formerly:
3 the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and
the Hivites who lived in the mountains of Lebanon from Mount
Baal-hermon to Lebo-hamath.
4 These nations were left to test the Israelites, to find out whether they
would keep the commandments of the LORD, which he had given their
fathers through Moses.
5 Thus the Israelites continued to live among the Canaanites, Hittites,
Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.
6 And they took the daughters of these people in marriage, gave their
own daughters to their sons, and served their gods.
7 So the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD; they forgot the LORD
their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs.
8 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he sold them
into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Aram-naharaim,* and the
Israelites served him eight years.
9 But when the Israelites cried out to the LORD, he raised up Othniel son
of Caleb's younger brother Kenaz as a deliverer to save them.
10 The spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he became Israel's leader
and went out to war. And the LORD delivered Cushan-rishathaim king of
Aram into the hand of Othniel, who prevailed against him.
11 So the land had rest for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.
12 Once again the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD. So he gave
Eglon king of Moab power over Israel, because they had done evil in the
sight of the LORD.
13 After enlisting the Ammonites and Amalekites to join forces with him,
Eglon attacked and defeated Israel, taking possession of the City of Palms.†
14 The Israelites served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.
15 And again they cried out to the LORD, and he raised up Ehud son of
Gera, a left-handed Benjamite, as their deliverer. So they sent him with
tribute to Eglon king of Moab.
16 Now Ehud had made for himself a double-edged sword a cubit long.‡
He strapped it to his right thigh under his cloak
17 and brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was an obese man.

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* **3:8 3:8** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia. † **3:13 3:13** That is, Jericho
‡ **3:16 3:16** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters.

18 After Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he ushered out those
who had carried it.
19 But upon reaching the idols near Gilgal, he himself turned back and
said, “I have a secret message for you, O king.”
“Silence,” said the king, and all his attendants left him.
20 Then Ehud approached him while he was sitting alone in the coolness
of his upper room. “I have a word from God for you,” Ehud said, and the
king rose from his seat.
21 And Ehud reached with his left hand, pulled the sword from his right
thigh, and plunged it into Eglon’s belly.
22 Even the handle sank in after the blade, and Eglon’s fat closed in over
it, so that Ehud did not withdraw the sword from his belly. And Eglon’s
bowels emptied.
23 Then Ehud went out through the porch, closing and locking the doors
of the upper room behind him.
24 After Ehud was gone, Eglon’s servants came in and found the doors of
the upper room locked. “He must be relieving himself in the cool room,”
they said.
25 So they waited until they became worried and saw that he had still
not opened the doors of the upper room. Then they took the key and
opened the doors—and there was their lord lying dead on the floor.
26 Ehud, however, had escaped while the servants waited. He passed by
the idols and escaped to Seirah.
27 On arriving in Seirah, he blew the ram’s horn throughout the hill
country of Ephraim. The Israelites came down with him from the hills,
and he became their leader.
28 “Follow me,” he told them, “for the LORD has delivered your enemies
the Moabites into your hand.”
So they followed him down and seized the fords of the Jordan leading to
Moab, and they did not allow anyone to cross over.
29 At that time they struck down about ten thousand Moabites, all robust
and valiant men. Not one of them escaped.
30 So Moab was subdued under the hand of Israel that day, and the land
had rest for eighty years.
31 After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath. And he too saved Israel,
striking down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad.

4

1 After Ehud died, the Israelites again did evil in the sight of the LORD.
2 So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who
reigned in Hazor. The commander of his forces was Sisera, who lived in
Harosheth-hagoyim.
3 Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, because Jabin had nine
hundred chariots of iron, and he had harshly oppressed the Israelites for
twenty years.
4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel
at that time.
5 And she would sit under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and
Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, where the Israelites would go up to
her for judgment.
6 She summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and
said to him, “Surely the LORD, the God of Israel, is commanding you: ‘Go

and march to Mount Tabor, taking with you ten thousand men of Naphtali
and Zebulun.
7 And I will draw out Sisera the commander of Jabin's army, his chariots,
and his troops to the River Kishon, and I will deliver him into your hand.' "
8 Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not
go with me, I will not go."
9 "I will certainly go with you," Deborah replied, "but the road you are
taking will bring you no honor, because the LORD will be selling Sisera into
the hand of a woman." So Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh,
10 where he summoned Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand men
followed him, and Deborah also went with him.
11 Now Heber the Kenite had moved away from the Kenites, the
descendants of Hobab the father-in-law* of Moses, and had pitched his
tent by the great tree of Zaanannim,† which was near Kedesh.
12 When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up Mount
Tabor,
13 he summoned all nine hundred of his iron chariots and all the men
with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the River Kishon.
14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Arise, for this is the day that the LORD
has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone before you?"
So Barak came down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men
following him.
15 And in front of him the LORD routed with the sword Sisera, all his
charioteers, and all his army. Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on
foot.
16 Then Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as
Harosheth-hagoyim, and the whole army of Sisera fell by the sword; not a
single man was left.
17 Meanwhile, Sisera had fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of
Heber the Kenite, because there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor
and the house of Heber the Kenite.
18 Jael went out to greet Sisera and said to him, "Come in, my lord. Come
in with me. Do not be afraid." So he entered her tent, and she covered him
with a blanket.
19 Sisera said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am
thirsty." So she opened a container of milk, gave him a drink, and covered
him again.
20 "Stand at the entrance to the tent," he said, "and if anyone comes and
asks you, 'Is there a man here?' say, 'No.' "
21 But as he lay sleeping from exhaustion, Heber's wife Jael took a tent
peg, grabbed a hammer, and went silently to Sisera. She drove the peg
through his temple and into the ground, and he died.
22 When Barak arrived in pursuit of Sisera, Jael went out to greet him
and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man you are seeking." So
he went in with her, and there lay Sisera dead, with a tent peg through his
temple.
23 On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites.
24 And the hand of the Israelites grew stronger and stronger against
Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

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* **4:11 4:11** Or *brother-in-law* † **4:11 4:11** Qere; Ketiv *Zaanaim*

5

1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

2 “When the princes take the lead in Israel,
when the people volunteer,
bless the LORD.
3 Listen, O kings! Give ear, O princes!
I will sing to the LORD;
I will sing praise to the LORD,
the God of Israel.
4 O LORD, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the land of Edom,
the earth trembled, the heavens poured out rain,
and the clouds poured down water.
5 The mountains flowed* before the LORD,
the One of Sinai,
before the LORD,
the God of Israel.

6 In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael,
the highways were deserted
and the travelers took the byways.
7 Life in the villages ceased;
it ended in Israel,
until I, Deborah, arose,
a mother in Israel.
8 When they chose new gods,
then war came to their gates.
Not a shield or spear was found
among forty thousand in Israel.
9 My heart is with the princes of Israel,
with the volunteers among the people.
Bless the LORD!

10 You who ride white donkeys,
who sit on saddle blankets,
and you who travel the road,
ponder
11 the voices of the archers†
at the watering places.
There they shall recount the righteous acts of the LORD,
the righteous deeds of his villagers‡ in Israel.

Then the people of the LORD
went down to the gates:
12 ‘Awake, awake, O Deborah!
Awake, awake, sing a song!
Arise, O Barak,
and take hold of your captives, O son of Abinoam!’

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* **5:5 5:5** LXX, Syriac, and Targum *quaked*
† **5:11 5:11** Or *singers* or *those who divide the sheep*
‡ **5:11 5:11** Or *warriors*

13 Then the survivors came down to the nobles;
the people of the LORD came down to me against the mighty.
14 Some came from Ephraim, with their roots in Amalek;
Benjamin came with your people after you.
The commanders came down from Machir,
the bearers of the marshal's staff from Zebulun.

15 The princes of Issachar were with Deborah,
and Issachar was with Barak,
rushing into the valley at his heels.
In the clans of Reuben
there were great resolutions of heart.§
16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds
to hear the whistling for the flocks?
In the clans of Reuben
there was much searching of heart.

17 Gilead remained beyond the Jordan.
Dan, why did you linger by the ships?
Asher stayed at the coast
and remained in his harbors.
18 Zebulun was a people who risked their lives;
Naphtali, too, on the heights of the battlefield.
19 Kings came and fought;
then the kings of Canaan fought at Taanach
by the waters of Megiddo,
but they took no plunder of silver.

20 From the heavens the stars fought;
from their courses they fought against Sisera.
21 The River Kishon swept them away,
the ancient river, the River Kishon.

March on, O my soul, in strength!

22 Then the hooves of horses thundered—
the mad galloping of his stallions.
23 'Curse Meroz,' says the angel of the LORD.
'Bitterly curse her inhabitants;
for they did not come to help the LORD,
to help the LORD against the mighty.'

24 Most blessed among women is Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
most blessed of tent-dwelling women.
25 He asked for water, and she gave him milk.
In a magnificent bowl she brought him curds.
26 She reached for the tent peg,
her right hand for the workman's hammer.
She struck Sisera and crushed his skull;
she shattered and pierced his temple.

§ **5:15 5:15** Or *great indecision*; some Hebrew manuscripts *much searching of heart*, as in verse 16

27 At her feet he collapsed, he fell,
there he lay still;
at her feet he collapsed, he fell;
where he collapsed, there he fell dead.

28 Sisera's mother looked through the window;
she peered through the lattice and lamented:
'Why is his chariot so long in coming?
What has delayed the clatter of his chariots?'
29 Her wisest ladies answer;
indeed she keeps telling herself,
30 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil—
a girl or two for each warrior,
a plunder of dyed garments for Sisera,
the spoil of embroidered garments
for the neck of the looter?'

31 So may all your enemies perish,
O LORD!
But may those who love him*
shine like the sun at its brightest."
And the land had rest for forty years.

6

1 Again the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD; so he delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,
2 and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds.
3 Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and other people of the east would come up and invade them,
4 encamping against them as far as Gaza and destroying the produce of the land. They left Israel with no sustenance, neither sheep nor oxen nor donkeys.
5 For the Midianites came with their livestock and their tents like a great swarm of locusts. They and their camels were innumerable, and they entered the land to ravage it.
6 Israel was greatly impoverished by Midian, and the Israelites cried out to the LORD.
7 Now when the Israelites cried out to the LORD because of Midian,
8 he sent them a prophet, who told them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
9 I delivered you out of the hands of Egypt and all your oppressors. I drove them out before you and gave you their land.
10 And I said to you: 'I am the LORD your God. You must not worship* the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.' But you did not obey me."
11 Then the angel of the LORD came and sat down under the terebinth† in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to hide it from the Midianites.

* **5:31 5:31** Some ancient versions *you* * **6:10 6:10** Or *fear* † **6:11 6:11** Or *oak* or *great tree*; also in verse 19

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, “The LORD is
with you, O mighty man of valor.”
13 “Please, my lord,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all
this happened to us? And where are all his wonders of which our fathers
told us, saying, ‘Has not the LORD brought us up out of Egypt?’ But now
the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hand of Midian.”
14 The LORD‡ turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and
save Israel from the hand of Midian. Am I not sending you?”
15 “Please, my Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I save Israel? Indeed, my
clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s
house.”
16 “Surely I will be with you,” the LORD replied, “and you will strike
down all the Midianites as one man.”
17 Gideon answered, “If I have found favor in your sight, give me a sign
that it is you speaking with me.
18 Please do not depart from this place until I return to you. Let me
bring my offering and set it before you.”
And the LORD said, “I will stay until you return.”
19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread
and an ephah of flour.§ He placed the meat in a basket and the broth in a
pot and brought them out to present to him under the terebinth.
20 And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened
bread, lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And Gideon did so.
21 Then the angel of the LORD extended the tip of the staff that was in
his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread. And fire flared
from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then
the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.
22 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he said, “Oh
no, Lord GOD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”
23 But the LORD said to him, “Peace be with you. Do not be afraid, for
you will not die.”
24 So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is
Peace.* To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
25 On that very night the LORD said to Gideon, “Take your father’s young
bull and a second bull seven years old, tear down your father’s altar to
Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.
26 Then build a proper altar to the LORD your God on the top of this
stronghold. And with the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down, take the
second bull and offer it as a burnt offering.”
27 So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD had told him.
But because he was too afraid of his father’s household and the men of the
city, he did it by night rather than in the daytime.
28 When the men of the city got up in the morning, there was Baal’s altar
torn down, with the Asherah pole cut down beside it and the second bull
offered up on the newly built altar.
29 “Who did this?” they said to one another.
And after they had investigated thoroughly, they were told, “Gideon son
of Joash did it.”

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‡ **6:14 6:14** LXX *The angel of the LORD*; also in verse 16 § **6:19 6:19** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 25.5 pounds or 11.6 kilograms of flour). * **6:24 6:24** Hebrew *YHWH Shalom*

30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son. He must
die, because he has torn down Baal’s altar and cut down the Asherah pole
beside it.”
31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Are you contending for
Baal? Are you trying to save him? Whoever pleads his case will be put to
death by morning! If Baal is a god, let him contend for himself with the
one who has torn down his altar.”
32 So on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal,† that is to say, “Let Baal
contend with him,” because he had torn down Baal’s altar.
33 Then all the Midianites, Amalekites, and other people of the east
gathered together, crossed over the Jordan, and camped in the Valley of
Jezreel.
34 So the spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, who blew the ram’s horn
and rallied the Abiezrites behind him.
35 Calling them to arms, Gideon sent messengers throughout Manasseh,
as well as Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, so that they came up to meet him.
36 Then Gideon said to God, “If you are going to save Israel by my hand,
as you have said,
37 then behold, I will place a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If
there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know
that you are going to save Israel by my hand, as you have said.”
38 And that is what happened. When Gideon arose the next morning, he
squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.
39 Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me; let me speak one
more time. Please allow me one more test with the fleece. This time let it
be dry, and the ground covered with dew.”
40 And that night God did so. Only the fleece was dry, and dew covered
the ground.

7

1 Early in the morning Jerubbaal* (that is, Gideon) and all the men with
him camped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was
north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.
2 Then the LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men for me to
deliver Midian into their hands, lest Israel glorify themselves over me,
saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’
3 Now, therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the men: ‘Whoever is
fearful and trembling may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’ ”
So twenty-two thousand of them turned back, but ten thousand
remained.
4 Then the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take
them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say to you,
‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go. But if I say, ‘This one shall not go
with you,’ he shall not go.”
5 So Gideon brought the men down to the water, and the LORD said to
him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from
those who kneel to drink.”
6 And the number of those who lapped the water with their hands to
their mouths was three hundred men; all the others knelt to drink.

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† **6:32 6:32** *Jerubbaal* probably means *let Baal contend.* * **7:1 7:1** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; see Judges 6:32.

7 Then the LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men who
lapped the water I will save you and deliver the Midianites into your
hand. But all the others are to go home.”
8 So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three
hundred men, who took charge of the provisions and rams’ horns of the
others. And the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley.
9 That night the LORD said to Gideon, “Get up and go down against the
camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.
10 But if you are afraid to do so, then go down to the camp with your
servant Purah
11 and listen to what they are saying. Then your hands will be
strengthened to attack the camp.” So he went with Purah his servant to
the outposts where armed men were guarding the camp.
12 Now the Midianites, Amalekites, and all the other people of the east
had settled in the valley like a swarm of locusts, and their camels were as
countless as the sand on the seashore.
13 And as Gideon arrived, a man was telling his friend about a dream.
“Behold, I had a dream,” he said, “and I saw a loaf of barley bread come
tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent so hard that the tent
overturned and collapsed.”
14 His friend replied: “This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon son
of Joash, the Israelite. God has delivered Midian and the whole camp into
his hand.”
15 When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in
worship. He returned to the camp of Israel and said, “Get up, for the LORD
has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”
16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies and
gave each man a ram’s horn in one hand and a large jar in the other,
containing a torch.†
17 “Watch me and do as I do,” Gideon said. “When I come to the outskirts
of the camp, do exactly as I do.
18 When I and all who are with me blow our horns, then you are also to
blow your horns from all around the camp and shout, ‘For the LORD and
for Gideon!’ ”
19 Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the outskirts of the
camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after the changing of the
guard. They blew their horns and broke the jars that were in their hands.
20 The three companies blew their horns and shattered their jars.
Holding the torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands,
they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”
21 Each Israelite took his position around the camp, and the entire
Midianite army fled, crying out as they ran.
22 And when the three hundred rams’ horns sounded, the LORD set all
the men in the camp against one another with their swords. The army fled
to Beth-shittah toward Zererah‡ as far as the border of Abel-meholah near
Tabbath.
23 Then the men of Israel were called out from Naphtali, Asher, and all
Manasseh, and they pursued the Midianites.
24 Gideon sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim to
say, “Come down against the Midianites and seize the waters of the Jordan

† **7:16 7:16** Literally *and put rams’ horns and empty jars—large jars with torches inside—into the hand of all* ‡ **7:22 7:22** Some Hebrew manuscripts *Zeredah*

ahead of them as far as Beth-barah." So all the men of Ephraim were called out, and they captured the waters of the Jordan as far as Beth-barah.
25 They also captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two princes of Midian; and they killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. So they pursued the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

8

1 Then the men of Ephraim said to Gideon, "Why have you done this to us? Why did you fail to call us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they contended with him violently.
2 But Gideon answered them, "Now what have I accomplished compared to you? Are not the gleanings of Ephraim better than the grape harvest of Abiezer?
3 God has delivered Oreb and Zeeb, the two princes of Midian, into your hand. What was I able to do compared to you?" When he had said this, their anger* against him subsided.
4 Then Gideon and his three hundred men came to the Jordan and crossed it, exhausted yet still in pursuit.
5 So Gideon said to the men of Succoth, "Please give my troops some bread, for they are exhausted, and I am still pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."
6 But the leaders of Succoth asked, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your possession, that we should give bread to your army?"
7 "Very well," Gideon replied, "when the LORD has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will tear your flesh with the thorns and briers of the wilderness!"
8 From there he went up to Penuel† and asked the same from them, but the men of Penuel gave the same response as the men of Succoth.
9 So Gideon told the men of Penuel, "When I return in triumph, I will tear down this tower!"
10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with their army of about fifteen thousand men—all that were left of the armies of the people of the east. A hundred and twenty thousand swordsmen had already fallen.
11 And Gideon went up by way of the caravan route east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and he attacked their army, taking them by surprise.
12 When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, Gideon pursued and captured these two kings of Midian, routing their entire army.
13 After this, Gideon son of Joash returned from the battle along the Ascent of Heres.
14 There he captured a young man of Succoth and interrogated him. The young man wrote down for him the names of the seventy-seven leaders and elders of Succoth.
15 And Gideon went to the men of Succoth and said, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your possession, that we should give bread to your weary men?' "
16 Then he took the elders of the city, and using the thorns and briers of the wilderness, he disciplined the men of Succoth.

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* **8:3 8:3** Or *their spirit* † **8:8 8:8** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; also in verses 9 and 17; see Genesis 32:31.

17 He also pulled down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.
18 Next, Gideon asked Zebah and Zalmunna, “What kind of men did you kill at Tabor?”
“Men like you,” they answered, “each one resembling the son of a king.”
19 “They were my brothers,” Gideon replied, “the sons of my mother! As surely as the LORD lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you.”
20 So he said to Jether, his firstborn, “Get up and kill them.” But the young man did not draw his sword; he was fearful because he was still a youth.
21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, “Get up and kill us yourself, for as the man is, so is his strength.” So Gideon got up and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and he took the crescent ornaments from the necks of their camels.
22 Then the Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us—you and your son and grandson—for you have saved us from the hand of Midian.”
23 But Gideon replied, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son. The LORD shall rule over you.”
24 Then he added, “Let me make a request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his plunder.” (For the enemies had gold earrings because they were Ishmaelites.)
25 “We will give them gladly,” they replied.
So they spread out a garment, and each man threw an earring from his plunder onto it.
26 The weight of the gold earrings he had requested was 1,700 shekels,‡ in addition to the crescent ornaments, the pendants, the purple garments of the kings of Midian, and the chains from the necks of their camels.
27 From all this Gideon made an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his hometown. But soon all Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his household.
28 In this way Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. So the land had rest for forty years in the days of Gideon,
29 and he—Jerubbaal§ son of Joash—returned home and settled down.
30 Gideon had seventy sons of his own,* since he had many wives.
31 His concubine, who dwelt in Shechem, also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech.
32 Later, Gideon son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
33 And as soon as Gideon was dead, the Israelites turned and prostituted themselves with the Baals, and they set up Baal-berith as their god.
34 The Israelites failed to remember the LORD their God who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side.
35 They did not show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) for all the good things he had done for Israel.

9

1 Now Abimelech son of Jerubbaal* went to his mother’s brothers at Shechem and said to them and to all the clan of his mother,

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‡ **8:26 8:26** *1,700 shekels* is approximately 42.7 pounds or 19.4 kilograms. § **8:29 8:29** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; also in verse 35; see Judges 6:32.
* **8:30 8:30** Hebrew *who came from his own loins* * **9:1 9:1** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; here and throughout this chapter; see Judges 6:32.

2 “Please ask all the leaders of Shechem, ‘Is it better for you that seventy
men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, rule over you, or just one man?’ Remember
that I am your own flesh and blood.”
3 And when his mother’s brothers spoke all these words about him in
the presence of all the leaders of Shechem, their hearts were inclined to
follow Abimelech, for they said, “He is our brother.”
4 So they gave him seventy shekels of silver† from the temple of
Baal-berith, with which Abimelech hired some worthless and reckless
men to follow him.
5 He went to his father’s house in Ophrah, and on one stone murdered
his seventy brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal. But Jotham, the youngest son
of Jerubbaal, survived, because he hid himself.
6 Then all the leaders of Shechem and Beth-millo gathered beside the
terebinth‡ at the pillar in Shechem and proceeded to make Abimelech
their king.
7 When this was reported to Jotham, he climbed to the top of Mount
Gerizim, raised his voice, and cried out:

“Listen to me, O leaders of Shechem,
and may God listen to you.

8 One day the trees set out
to anoint a king for themselves.
They said to the olive tree,
‘Reign over us.’

9 But the olive tree replied,
‘Should I stop giving my oil
that honors both God and man,
to hold sway over the trees?’

10 Then the trees said to the fig tree,
‘Come and reign over us.’

11 But the fig tree replied,
‘Should I stop giving my sweetness
and my good fruit,
to hold sway over the trees?’

12 Then the trees said to the grapevine,
‘Come and reign over us.’

13 But the grapevine replied,
‘Should I stop giving my wine
that cheers both God and man,
to hold sway over the trees?’

14 Finally all the trees said to the thornbush,
‘Come and reign over us.’

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† **9:4 9:4** *70 shekels* is approximately 1.76 pounds or 797.8 grams of silver. ‡ **9:6 9:6** Or *oak* or *great tree*

15 But the thornbush replied,
'If you really are anointing me as king over you,
come and find refuge in my shade.
But if not, may fire come out of the thornbush
and consume the cedars of Lebanon.'
16 Now if you have acted faithfully and honestly in making Abimelech
king, if you have done well by Jerubbaal and his family, and if you have
done to him as he deserves—
17 for my father fought for you and risked his life to deliver you from the
hand of Midian,
18 but you have risen up against my father's house this day and killed his
seventy sons on a single stone, and you have made Abimelech, the son of
his slave woman, king over the leaders of Shechem because he is your
brother—
19 if you have acted faithfully and honestly toward Jerubbaal and his
house this day, then may you rejoice in Abimelech, and he in you.
20 But if not, may fire come from Abimelech and consume the leaders of
Shechem and Beth-millo, and may fire come from the leaders of Shechem
and Beth-millo and consume Abimelech."
21 Then Jotham ran away, escaping to Beer, and he lived there for fear of
his brother Abimelech.
22 After Abimelech had reigned over Israel for three years,
23 God sent a spirit of animosity§ between Abimelech and the leaders of
Shechem and caused them to treat Abimelech deceitfully,
24 in order that the crime against the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might
come to justice and their blood be avenged on their brother Abimelech
and on the leaders of Shechem, who had helped him murder his brothers.
25 The leaders of Shechem set up an ambush against Abimelech on the
hilltops, and they robbed all who passed by them on the road. So this was
reported to Abimelech.
26 Meanwhile, Gaal son of Ebed came with his brothers and crossed into
Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem put their confidence in him.
27 And after they had gone out into the fields, gathered grapes from their
vineyards, and trodden them, they held a festival and went into the house
of their god; and as they ate and drank, they cursed Abimelech.
28 Then Gaal son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem,
that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, and is not Zebul
his officer? You are to serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem.
Why should we serve Abimelech?
29 If only this people were under my authority, I would remove
Abimelech." And he said to Abimelech, "Muster your army and come out!"*
30 When Zebul the governor of the city heard the words of Gaal son of
Ebed, he burned with anger.
31 So he sent messengers to Abimelech in Tormah† to say, "Look, Gaal son
of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem and are stirring up‡ the
city against you.
32 Now then, tonight you and the people with you are to come and lie in
wait in the fields.

§ **9:23 9:23** Or *a harmful spirit* * **9:29 9:29** LXX *I would remove Abimelech; I would say to him, 'Muster your army and come out!'* † **9:31 9:31** Or *he covertly sent messengers to Abimelech*; probably the same place as *Arumah* in verse 41 ‡ **9:31 9:31** Or *besieging* or *closing up*

33 And in the morning at sunrise, get up and advance against the city.
When Gaal and his men come out against you, do to them whatever you
are able."
34 So Abimelech and all his troops set out by night and lay in wait
against Shechem in four companies.
35 Now Gaal son of Ebed went out and stood at the entrance of the city
gate just as Abimelech and his men came out from their hiding places.
36 When Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people are coming
down from the mountains!"
But Zebul replied, "The shadows of the mountains look like men to you."
37 Then Gaal spoke up again, "Look, people are coming down from the
center of the land,§ and one company is coming by way of the Diviners'
Oak.*"
38 "Where is your gloating now?" Zebul replied. "You said, 'Who is
Abimelech that we should serve him?' Are these not the people you
ridiculed? Go out now and fight them!"
39 So Gaal went out before the leaders of Shechem and fought against
Abimelech,
40 but Abimelech pursued him, and Gaal fled before him. And many
Shechemites fell wounded all the way to the entrance of the gate.
41 Abimelech stayed in Arumah, and Zebul drove Gaal and his brothers
out of Shechem.
42 The next day the people of Shechem went out into the fields, and this
was reported to Abimelech.
43 So he took his men, divided them into three companies, and lay in
wait in the fields. When he saw the people coming out of the city, he rose
up against them and attacked them.
44 Then Abimelech and the companies with him rushed forward and
took their stand at the entrance of the city gate. The other two companies
rushed against all who were in the fields and struck them down.
45 And all that day Abimelech fought against the city until he had
captured it and killed its people. Then he demolished the city and sowed it
with salt.
46 On hearing of this, all the leaders in the tower of Shechem entered the
inner chamber of the temple of El-berith.†
47 And when Abimelech was told that all the leaders in the tower of
Shechem were gathered there,
48 he and all his men went up to Mount Zalmon. Abimelech took his axe
in his hand and cut a branch from the trees, which he lifted to his
shoulder, saying to his men, "Hurry and do what you have seen me do."
49 So each man also cut his own branch and followed Abimelech. Then
they piled the branches against the inner chamber and set it on fire above
them, killing everyone in the tower of Shechem, about a thousand men
and women.
50 Then Abimelech went to Thebez, encamped against it, and captured it.
51 But there was a strong tower inside the city, and all the men, women,
and leaders of the city fled there. They locked themselves in and went up
to the roof of the tower.
52 When Abimelech came to attack the tower, he approached its
entrance to set it on fire.

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§ **9:37 9:37** Literally *the navel of the earth* * **9:37 9:37** Or *the Diviners' Terebinth* or *the diviners' tree* † **9:46 9:46** *El-berith* was another name for *Baal-berith*; see verse 4.

53 But a woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head,
crushing his skull.
54 He quickly called his armor-bearer, saying, "Draw your sword and kill
me, lest they say of me, 'A woman killed him.' "
So Abimelech's armor-bearer ran his sword through him, and he died.
55 And when the Israelites saw that Abimelech was dead, they all went
home.
56 In this way God repaid the wickedness that Abimelech had done to his
father in murdering his seventy brothers.
57 And God also brought all the wickedness of the men of Shechem back
upon their own heads. So the curse of Jotham son of Jerubbaal came upon
them.

10

1 After the time of Abimelech, a man of Issachar, Tola son of Puah, the
son of Dodo, rose up to save Israel. He lived in Shamir, in the hill country
of Ephraim.
2 Tola led* Israel twenty-three years, and when he died, he was buried
in Shamir.
3 Tola was followed by Jair the Gileadite, who led Israel twenty-two
years.
4 He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys. And they had thirty
towns in the land of Gilead, which to this day are called Havvoth-jair.†
5 When Jair died, he was buried in Kamon.
6 And again the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD. They served
the Baals, the Ashtoreths, the gods of Aram, Sidon, and Moab, and the gods
of the Ammonites and Philistines. Thus they forsook the LORD and did not
serve him.
7 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he sold them into
the hands of the Philistines and Ammonites,
8 who that very year harassed and oppressed the Israelites, and they did
so for eighteen years to all the Israelites on the other side of the Jordan in
Gilead, the land of the Amorites.
9 The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah,
Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim, and Israel was in deep distress.
10 Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned
against you, for we have indeed forsaken our God and served the Baals."
11 The LORD replied, "When the Egyptians, Amorites, Ammonites,
Philistines,
12 Sidonians, Amalekites, and Maonites‡ oppressed you and you cried
out to me, did I not save you from their hands?
13 But you have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer
save you.
14 Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them save you in
your time of trouble."
15 "We have sinned," the Israelites said to the LORD. "Deal with us as you
see fit; but please deliver us today!"
16 So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the
LORD, and he could no longer bear the misery of Israel.

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* **10:2 10:2** Or *governed* or *judged*; here and throughout the book of Judges † **10:4 10:4** Or *the villages of Jair* ‡ **10:12 10:12** Some LXX manuscripts *Midianites*

17 Then the Ammonites were called to arms and camped in Gilead, and
the Israelites assembled and camped at Mizpah.
18 And the people, the rulers of Gilead, said to one another, “Whoever
will launch the attack against the Ammonites will be the head of all who
live in Gilead.”

11

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor; he was the son
of a prostitute, and Gilead was his father.
2 And Gilead’s wife bore him sons who grew up, drove Jephthah out, and
said to him, “You shall have no inheritance in our father’s house, because
you are the son of another woman.”
3 So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the land of Tob,
where worthless men gathered around him and traveled with him.
4 Some time later, when the Ammonites fought against Israel
5 and made war with them, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah
from the land of Tob.
6 “Come,” they said, “be our commander, so that we can fight against the
Ammonites.”
7 Jephthah replied to the elders of Gilead, “Did you not hate me and
expel me from my father’s house? Why then have you come to me now,
when you are in distress?”
8 They answered Jephthah, “This is why we now turn to you, that you
may go with us, fight the Ammonites, and become leader over all of us
who live in Gilead.”
9 But Jephthah asked them, “If you take me back to fight the Ammonites
and the LORD gives them to me, will I really be your leader?”
10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “The LORD is our witness if
we do not do as you say.”
11 So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him
their leader and commander. And Jephthah repeated all his terms in the
presence of the LORD at Mizpah.
12 Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites, saying,
“What do you have against me that you have come to fight against my
land?”
13 The king of the Ammonites answered Jephthah’s messengers, “When
Israel came up out of Egypt, they seized my land, from the Arnon to the
Jabbok and all the way to the Jordan. Now, therefore, restore it peaceably.”
14 Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites
15 to tell him, “This is what Jephthah says: Israel did not take away the
land of Moab or of the Ammonites.
16 But when Israel came up out of Egypt, they traveled through the
wilderness to the Sea of Reeds* and came to Kadesh.
17 Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, ‘Please let us
pass through your land,’ but the king of Edom would not listen. They also
sent messengers to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel
stayed in Kadesh.
18 Then Israel traveled through the wilderness and bypassed the lands of
Edom and Moab. They came to the east side of the land of Moab and
camped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the territory
of Moab, since the Arnon was its border.

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* **11:16 11:16** Or *the Red Sea*

19 And Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, who ruled
in Heshbon, and said to him, 'Please let us pass through your land into our
own place.'
20 But Sihon would not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So he
gathered all his people, encamped in Jahaz, and fought with Israel.
21 Then the LORD, the God of Israel, delivered Sihon and all his people
into the hand of Israel, who defeated them. So Israel took possession of all
the land of the Amorites who inhabited that country,
22 seizing all the land from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the
wilderness to the Jordan.
23 Now since the LORD, the God of Israel, has driven out the Amorites
from before his people Israel, should you now possess it?
24 Do you not possess whatever your god Chemosh grants you? So also,
we possess whatever the LORD our God has granted us.
25 Are you now so much better than Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab?
Did he ever contend with Israel or fight against them?
26 For three hundred years Israel has lived in Heshbon, Aroer, and their
villages, as well as all the cities along the banks of the Arnon. Why did you
not take them back during that time?
27 I have not sinned against you, but you have done me wrong by
waging war against me. May the LORD, the Judge, decide today between
the Israelites and the Ammonites."
28 But the king of the Ammonites paid no heed to the message Jephthah
sent him.
29 Then the spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed
through Gilead and Manasseh, then through Mizpah of Gilead. And from
there he advanced against the Ammonites.
30 Jephthah made this vow to the LORD: "If indeed you will deliver the
Ammonites into my hand,
31 then whatever comes out the door of my house to greet me on my
triumphant return from the Ammonites will belong to the LORD, and I
will offer it up as a burnt offering."
32 So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and
the LORD delivered them into his hand.
33 With a great blow he devastated twenty cities from Aroer to the
vicinity of Minnith, as far as Abel-keramim. So the Ammonites were
subdued before the Israelites.
34 And when Jephthah returned home to Mizpah, there was his daughter
coming out to meet him with tambourines and dancing! She was his only
child; he had no son or daughter besides her.
35 As soon as Jephthah saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "No! Not my
daughter! You have brought me to my knees! You have brought great
misery upon me, for I have given my word to the LORD and cannot take it
back."
36 "My father," she replied, "you have given your word to the LORD. Do to
me as you have said, for the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the
Ammonites."
37 She also said to her father, "Let me do this one thing: Let me wander
for two months through the mountains with my friends and mourn my
virginity."
38 "Go," he said. And he sent her away for two months.

So she left with her friends and mourned her virginity upon the mountains.
39 After two months, she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed. And she had never had relations with a man.
So it has become a custom in Israel
40 that each year the young women of Israel go out for four days to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

12

1 Then the men of Ephraim assembled and crossed the Jordan to Zaphon. They said to Jephthah, “Why have you crossed over to fight the Ammonites without calling us to go with you? We will burn your house down with you inside!”
2 But Jephthah replied, “My people and I had a serious conflict with the Ammonites, and when I called, you did not save me out of their hands.
3 When I saw that you would not save me, I risked my life and crossed over to the Ammonites, and the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come today to fight against me?”
4 Jephthah then gathered all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck them down because the Ephraimites had said, “You Gileadites are fugitives in Ephraim, living in the territories of Ephraim and Manasseh.”
5 The Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan leading to Ephraim, and whenever a fugitive from Ephraim would say, “Let me cross over,” the Gileadites would ask him, “Are you an Ephraimite?”
If he answered, “No,”
6 they told him, “Please say Shibboleth.”
If he said, “Sibboleth,” because he could not pronounce it correctly, they seized him and killed him at the fords of the Jordan. So at that time 42,000 Ephraimites were killed.
7 Jephthah led Israel six years, and when he died, he was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.*
8 After Jephthah, Ibzan of Bethlehem led Israel.
9 He had thirty sons, as well as thirty daughters whom he gave in marriage to men outside his clan; and for his sons he brought back thirty wives from elsewhere. Ibzan led Israel seven years.
10 Then Ibzan died, and he was buried in Bethlehem.
11 After Ibzan, Elon the Zebulunite led Israel ten years.
12 Then Elon the Zebulunite died, and he was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.
13 After Elon, Abdon son of Hillel, from Pirathon, led Israel.
14 He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy donkeys. And he led Israel eight years.
15 Then Abdon son of Hillel, from Pirathon, died, and he was buried at Pirathon in Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

13

1 Again the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD, so he delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.
2 Now there was a man from Zorah named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, whose wife was barren and had no children.

* **12:7 12:7** LXX *in his city in Gilead*

3 The angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “It is
true that you are barren and have no children; but you will conceive and
give birth to a son.
4 Now please be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, and not to eat
anything unclean.
5 For behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son. And no razor
shall touch his head, because the boy will be a Nazirite* to God from the
womb, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hand of the
Philistines.”
6 So the woman went and told her husband, “A man of God came to me.
His appearance was like the angel of God, exceedingly awesome. I did not
ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name.
7 But he said to me, ‘Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son.
Now, therefore, do not drink wine or strong drink, and do not eat anything
unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from the womb until
the day of his death.’ ”
8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, “Please, O Lord, let the man of God
you sent us come to us again to teach us how to raise the boy who is to be
born.”
9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God
returned to the woman as she was sitting in the field; but her husband
Manoah was not with her.
10 The woman ran quickly to tell her husband, “Behold, the man who
came to me the other day has reappeared!”
11 So Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man,
he asked, “Are you the man who spoke to my wife?”
“I am,” he said.
12 Then Manoah asked, “When your words come to pass, what will be
the boy’s rule of life and mission?”
13 So the angel of the LORD answered Manoah, “Your wife is to do
everything I told her.
14 She must not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor drink any
wine or strong drink, nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I
have commanded her.”
15 “Please stay here,” Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “and we will
prepare a young goat for you.”
16 And the angel of the LORD replied, “Even if I stay, I will not eat your
food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD.” For
Manoah did not know that it was the angel of the LORD.
17 Then Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so
that we may honor you when your words† come to pass?”
18 “Why do you ask my name,” said the angel of the LORD, “since it is
beyond comprehension?”
19 Then Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered
them on a rock to the LORD. And as Manoah and his wife looked on, the
LORD did a marvelous thing.
20 When the flame went up from the altar to the sky, the angel of the
LORD ascended in the flame.
When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell facedown to the ground.
21 And when the angel of the LORD did not appear again to Manoah and
his wife, Manoah realized that it had been the angel of the LORD.

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* **13:5 13:5** Or *set apart* † **13:17 13:17** Ketiv; Qere *your word*

22 “We are going to die,” he said to his wife, “for we have seen God!”
23 But his wife replied, “If the LORD had intended to kill us, he would not
have accepted the burnt offering and the grain offering from our hands,
nor would he have shown us all these things or spoken to us this way.”
24 So the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson. The boy
grew, and the LORD blessed him.
25 And the spirit of the LORD began to stir him at Mahaneh-dan,‡
between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14

1 One day Samson went down to Timnah, where he saw a young
Philistine woman.
2 So he returned and told his father and mother, “I have seen a daughter
of the Philistines in Timnah. Now get her for me as a wife.”
3 But his father and mother replied, “Can’t you find a young woman
among your relatives or among any of our people? Must you go to the
uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?”
But Samson told his father, “Get her for me, for she is pleasing to my
eyes.”
4 (Now his father and mother did not know this was from the LORD,
who was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines; for at that
time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.)
5 Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother and
came to the vineyards of Timnah. Suddenly a young lion came roaring at
him,
6 and the spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him, and he tore the
lion apart with his bare hands as one would tear a young goat. But he did
not tell his father or mother what he had done.
7 Then Samson continued on his way down and spoke to the woman,
because she was pleasing to his eyes.
8 When Samson returned later to take her, he left the road to see the
lion’s carcass, and in it was a swarm of bees, along with their honey.
9 So he scooped some honey into his hands and ate it as he went along.
And when he returned to his father and mother, he gave some to them
and they ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from
the lion’s carcass.
10 Then his father went to visit the woman, and Samson prepared a feast
there, as was customary for the bridegroom.
11 And when they saw him,* they selected thirty men to accompany him.
12 “Let me tell you a riddle,” Samson said to them. “If you can solve it for
me within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments
and thirty sets of clothes.
13 But if you cannot solve it, you must give me thirty linen garments and
thirty sets of clothes.”
“Tell us your riddle,” they replied. “Let us hear it.”
14 So he said to them:

“Out of the eater came something to eat,
and out of the strong came something sweet.”
For three days they were unable to explain the riddle.

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‡ **13:25 13:25** *Mahaneh-dan* means *camp of Dan.* * **14:11 14:11** Or *when the Philistines saw him* or *when the bride's parents saw him*

15 So on the seventh† day they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your
husband to explain the riddle to us, or we will burn you and your father's
household to death. Did you invite us here to rob us?"
16 Then Samson's wife came to him, weeping, and said, "You hate me!
You do not really love me! You have posed to my people a riddle, but have
not explained it to me."
"Look," he said, "I have not even explained it to my father or mother, so
why should I explain it to you?"
17 She wept the whole seven days of the feast, and finally on the seventh
day, because she had pressed him so much, he told her the answer. And in
turn she explained the riddle to her people.
18 Before sunset on the seventh day, the men of the city said to Samson:

"What is sweeter than honey?
And what is stronger than a lion?"
So he said to them:

"If you had not plowed with my heifer,
you would not have solved my riddle!"
19 Then the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he went
down to Ashkelon, killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave
their clothes to those who had solved the riddle. And burning with anger,
Samson returned to his father's house,
20 and his wife was given to one of the men who had accompanied him.

15

1 Later on, at the time of the wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat
and went to visit his wife. "I want to go to my wife in her room," he said.
But her father would not let him enter.
2 "I was sure that you thoroughly hated her," said her father, "so I gave
her to one of the men who accompanied you. Is not her younger sister
more beautiful than she? Please take her instead."
3 Samson said to them, "This time I will be blameless in doing harm to
the Philistines."
4 Then Samson went out and caught three hundred foxes. And he took
torches, turned the foxes tail-to-tail, and fastened a torch between each
pair of tails.
5 Then he lit the torches and released the foxes into the standing grain of
the Philistines, burning up the piles of grain and the standing grain, as
well as the vineyards and olive groves.
6 "Who did this?" the Philistines demanded.
"It was Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite," they were told. "For he
took his wife and gave her to his companion."
So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death.
7 And Samson told them, "Because you have done this, I will not rest
until I have taken vengeance upon you."
8 And he struck them ruthlessly* with a great slaughter, and then went
down and stayed in the cave at the rock of Etam.
9 Then the Philistines went up, camped in Judah, and spread out in Lehi.†
10 "Why have you attacked us?" said the men of Judah.

† **14:15 14:15** LXX and Syriac *fourth* * **15:8 15:8** Literally *he struck them hip and thigh* † **15:9 15:9** Or *and deployed themselves near the town of Lehi*

The Philistines replied, “We have come to arrest Samson and pay him
back for what he has done to us.”
11 In response, three thousand men of Judah went to the cave at the rock
of Etam, and they asked Samson, “Do you not realize that the Philistines
rule over us? What have you done to us?”
“I have done to them what they did to me,” he replied.
12 But they said to him, “We have come down to arrest you and hand you
over to the Philistines.”
Samson replied, “Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves.”
13 “No,” they answered, “we will not kill you, but we will tie you up
securely and hand you over to them.” So they bound him with two new
ropes and led him up from the rock.
14 When Samson arrived in Lehi, the Philistines came out shouting
against him. And the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him. The
ropes on his arms became like burnt flax, and the bonds broke loose from
his hands.
15 He found the fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and
took it, and struck down a thousand men.
16 Then Samson said:

“With the jawbone of a donkey
I have piled them into heaps.‡
With the jawbone of a donkey
I have slain a thousand men.”
17 And when Samson had finished speaking, he cast the jawbone from
his hand; and he named that place Ramath-lehi.§
18 And being very thirsty, Samson cried out to the LORD, “You have
accomplished this great deliverance through your servant. Must I now die
of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?”
19 So God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it.
When Samson drank, his strength returned, and he was revived. That is
why he named it En-hakkore,* and it remains in Lehi to this day.
20 And Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

16

1 One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute and went in
to spend the night with her.
2 When the Gazites heard that Samson was there, they surrounded that
place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They were quiet
throughout the night, saying, “Let us wait until dawn; then we will kill
him.”
3 But Samson lay there only until midnight, when he got up, took hold of
the doors of the city gate and both gateposts, and pulled them out, bar and
all. Then he put them on his shoulders and took them to the top of the
mountain overlooking Hebron.
4 Some time later, Samson fell in love with a woman in the Valley of
Sorek, whose name was Delilah.
5 The lords of the Philistines went to her and said, “Entice him and find
out the source of his great strength and how we can overpower him to tie

‡ **15:16 15:16** Or *I have made them into donkeys* § **15:17 15:17** *Ramath-lehi* means *the hill of the jawbone.* * **15:19 15:19** *En-hakkore* means *the spring of him who calls.*

him up and subdue him. Then each one of us will give you eleven
hundred shekels of silver.*"
6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me the source of your great
strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."
7 Samson told her, "If they tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings that
have not been dried, I will become as weak as any other man."
8 So the lords of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that
had not been dried, and she tied him up with them.
9 While the men were hidden in her room, she called out, "Samson, the
Philistines are here!"
But he snapped the bowstrings like a strand of yarn seared by a flame.
So the source of his strength remained unknown.
10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have mocked me and lied to me!
Now please tell me how you can be tied up."
11 He replied, "If they tie me up with new ropes that have never been
used, I will become as weak as any other man."
12 So Delilah took new ropes, tied him up with them, and called out,
"Samson, the Philistines are here!"
But while the men were hidden in her room, he snapped the ropes off
his arms like they were threads.
13 Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have mocked me and lied to me all
along! Tell me how you can be tied up."
He told her, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the web of a
loom."†
14 Then she tightened it with a pin‡ and called to him, "Samson, the
Philistines are here!"
But he awoke from his sleep and pulled out the pin with the loom and
the web.
15 "How can you say, 'I love you,' " she asked, "when your heart is not
with me? This is the third time you have mocked me and failed to reveal
to me the source of your great strength!"
16 Finally, after she had pressed him daily with her words and pleaded
until he was sick to death,
17 Samson told her all that was in his heart: "My hair has never been cut,
because I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am
shaved, my strength will leave me, and I will become as weak as any other
man."
18 When Delilah realized that he had revealed to her all that was in his
heart, she sent this message to the lords of the Philistines: "Come up once
more, for he has revealed to me§ all that is in his heart."
Then the lords of the Philistines came to her, bringing the money in
their hands.
19 And having lulled him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave
off the seven braids of his head. In this way she began to subdue him,*
and his strength left him.
20 Then she called out, "Samson, the Philistines are here!"

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* **16:5 16:5** *1,100 shekels* is approximately 27.6 pounds or 12.5 kilograms of silver. † **16:13 16:13** LXX and Vulgate add *and tighten it with a pin, I will become as weak as any other man* ‡ **16:14 16:14** LXX and Vulgate first add *So while he slept, Delilah took the seven braids of his hair and wove them into the web* § **16:18 16:18** Qere; Ketiv *to her* * **16:19 16:19** Some LXX manuscripts *he began to grow weak*

When Samson awoke from his sleep, he thought, “I will escape as I did
before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had
departed from him.
21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes, and brought him
down to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze shackles and forced to
grind grain in the prison.
22 However, the hair of his head began to grow back after it had been
shaved.
23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great
sacrifice to their god Dagon. They rejoiced and said, “Our god has
delivered Samson our enemy into our hands.”
24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god, saying:

“Our god has delivered into our hands
our enemy who destroyed our land
and multiplied our dead.”
25 And while their hearts were merry, they said, “Call for Samson to
entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison to entertain them.
And they stationed him between the pillars.
26 Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Lead me where I can
feel the pillars supporting the temple, so I can lean against them.”
27 Now the temple was full of men and women; all the lords of the
Philistines were there, and about three thousand men and women were
on the roof watching Samson entertain them.
28 Then Samson called out to the LORD: “O Lord GOD, please remember
me. Strengthen me, O God, just once more, so that with one vengeful blow
I may pay back the Philistines for my two eyes.”
29 And Samson reached out for the two central pillars supporting the
temple. Bracing himself against them with his right hand on one pillar
and his left hand on the other,
30 Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.”
Then he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and
all the people in it. So in his death he killed more than he had killed in his
life.
31 Then Samson’s brothers and his father’s family came down, carried
him back, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his
father Manoah. And he had led Israel twenty years.

17

1 Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim
2 said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver* that were
taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse—I have the
silver here with me; I took it.”
Then his mother said, “Blessed be my son by the LORD!”
3 And when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his
mother, she said, “I wholly dedicate the silver to the LORD for my son’s
benefit, to make a graven image and a molten idol. Therefore I will now
return it to you.”
4 So he returned the silver to his mother, and she took two hundred
shekels of silver† and gave them to a silversmith, who made them into a

* **17:2 17:2** *1,100 shekels* is approximately 27.6 pounds or 12.5 kilograms of silver; also in verse 3.
† **17:4 17:4** *200 shekels* is approximately 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of silver.

graven image and a molten idol. And they were placed in the house of Micah.
5 Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some household idols, and ordained‡ one of his sons as his priest.
6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
7 And there was a young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah who had been residing within the clan of Judah.
8 This man left the city of Bethlehem in Judah to settle where he could find a place. And as he traveled, he came to Micah's house in the hill country of Ephraim.
9 "Where are you from?" Micah asked him.
"I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah," he replied, "and I am on my way to settle wherever I can find a place."
10 "Stay with me," Micah said to him, "and be my father and priest, and I will give you ten shekels of silver§ per year, a suit of clothes, and your provisions."
So the Levite went in
11 and agreed to stay with him, and the young man became like a son to Micah.
12 Micah ordained the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in his house.
13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, because a Levite has become my priest."

18

1 In those days there was no king in Israel, and the tribe of the Danites was looking for territory to occupy. For up to that time they had not come into an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.
2 So the Danites sent out five men from their clans, men of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and explore it. "Go and explore the land," they told them.
The men entered the hill country of Ephraim and came to the house of Micah, where they spent the night.
3 And while they were near Micah's house, they recognized the voice of the young Levite; so they went over and asked him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? Why are you here?"
4 "Micah has done this and that for me," he replied, "and he has hired me to be his priest."
5 Then they said to him, "Please inquire of God to determine whether we will have a successful journey."
6 And the priest told them, "Go in peace. The LORD is watching over your journey."
7 So the five men departed and came to Laish, where they saw that the people were living securely, like the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting. There was nothing lacking in the land and no oppressive ruler. And they were far away from the Sidonians and had no alliance with anyone.
8 When the men returned to Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers asked them, "What did you find?"

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‡ **17:5 17:5** Hebrew *filled the hand of*; also in verse 12 § **17:10 17:10** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams of silver.

9 They answered, “Come on, let us go up against them, for we have seen
the land, and it is very good. Why would you fail to act? Do not hesitate to
go there and take possession of the land!
10 When you enter, you will come to an unsuspecting people and a
spacious land, for God has delivered it into your hand. It is a place where
nothing on earth is lacking.”
11 So six hundred Danites departed from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with
weapons of war.
12 They went up and camped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. That is why the
place west of Kiriath-jearim is called Mahaneh-dan* to this day.
13 And from there they traveled to the hill country of Ephraim and came
to Micah’s house.
14 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land of Laish said to
their brothers, “Did you know that one of these houses has an ephod,
household gods, a graven image, and a molten idol? Now think about
what you should do.”
15 So they turned aside there and went to the home of the young Levite,
the house of Micah, and greeted him.
16 The six hundred Danites stood at the entrance of the gate, armed with
their weapons of war.
17 And the five men who had gone to spy out the land went inside and
took the graven image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molten
idol, while the priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred
armed men.
18 When they entered Micah’s house and took the graven image, the
ephod, the household idols, and the molten idol, the priest said to them,
“What are you doing?”
19 “Be quiet,” they told him. “Put your hand over your mouth and come
with us and be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest
for the house of one person or a priest for a tribe and family in Israel?”
20 So the priest was glad and took the ephod, the household idols, and
the graven image, and went with the people.
21 Putting their small children, their livestock, and their possessions in
front of them, they turned and departed.
22 After they were some distance from Micah’s house, the men in the
houses near Micah’s house mobilized and overtook the Danites.
23 When they called out after them, the Danites turned to face them and
said to Micah, “What is the matter with you that you have called out such a
company?”
24 He replied, “You took the gods I had made, and my priest, and went
away. What else do I have? How can you say to me, ‘What is the matter
with you?’ ”
25 The Danites said to him, “Do not raise your voice against us, or angry
men will attack you, and you and your family will lose your lives.”
26 So the Danites went on their way, and Micah turned to go back home,
because he saw that they were too strong for him.
27 After they had taken Micah’s idols† and his priest, they went to Laish,
to a quiet and unsuspecting people, and they struck them with their
swords and burned down the city.

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* **18:12 18:12** *Mahaneh-dan* means *camp of Dan.* † **18:27 18:27** Hebrew *what Micah had made*

28 There was no one to deliver them, because the city was far from Sidon
and had no alliance with anyone; it was in a valley near Beth-rehob.
And the Danites rebuilt the city and lived there.
29 They named it Dan, after their forefather Dan, who was born to
Israel—though the city was formerly named Laish.
30 The Danites set up the graven image for themselves, and Jonathan son
of Gershom, the son of Manasseh,‡ and his sons were priests for the tribe
of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.
31 So they set up for themselves the graven image Micah had made, and
it was there the whole time the house of God was in Shiloh.

19

1 Now in those days, when there was no king in Israel, a Levite who
lived in the remote hill country of Ephraim took for himself a concubine
from Bethlehem in Judah.
2 But she was unfaithful to him* and left him to return to her father's
house in Bethlehem in Judah.
After she had been there four months,
3 her husband got up and went after her to speak kindly to her and
bring her back,† taking his servant and a pair of donkeys. So the girl
brought him into her father's house, and when her father saw him, he
gladly welcomed him.
4 His father-in-law, the girl's father, persuaded him to stay, so he
remained with him three days, eating, drinking, and lodging there.
5 On the fourth day, they got up early in the morning and prepared to
depart, but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with
a morsel of bread, and then you can go."
6 So they sat down and the two of them ate and drank together. Then the
girl's father said to the man, "Please agree to stay overnight and let your
heart be merry."
7 The man got up to depart, but his father-in-law persuaded him, so he
stayed there that night.
8 On the fifth day, he got up early in the morning to depart, but the girl's
father said, "Please refresh your heart." So they waited until late afternoon
and the two of them ate.
9 When the man got up to depart with his concubine and his servant, his
father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, "Look, the day is drawing to a
close. Please spend the night. See, the day is almost over. Spend the night
here, that your heart may be merry. Then you can get up early tomorrow
for your journey home."
10 But the man was unwilling to spend the night. He got up and
departed, and arrived opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem), with his two
saddled donkeys and his concubine.
11 When they were near Jebus and the day was almost gone, the servant
said to his master, "Please, let us stop at this Jebusite city and spend the
night here."
12 But his master replied, "We will not turn aside to the city of foreigners,
where there are no Israelites. We will go on to Gibeah."

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‡ **18:30 18:30** The Hebrew writes the letter *n* above the line; some Hebrew and LXX manuscripts and Vulgate *the son of Moses* * **19:2 19:2** LXX *became angry with him* † **19:3 19:3** Qere; Ketiv *bring it back*

13 He said to his servant, “Come, let us try to reach one of these towns to
spend the night in Gibeah or Ramah.”
14 So they continued on their journey, and the sun set as they neared
Gibeah in Benjamin.
15 They stopped to go in and lodge in Gibeah. The Levite went in and sat
down in the city square, but no one would take them into his home for the
night.
16 That evening an old man from the hill country of Ephraim, who was
residing in Gibeah (the men of that place were Benjamites), came in from
his work in the field.
17 When he looked up and saw the traveler in the city square, the old
man asked, “Where are you going, and where have you come from?”
18 The Levite replied, “We are traveling from Bethlehem in Judah to the
remote hill country of Ephraim, where I am from. I went to Bethlehem in
Judah, and now I am going to the house of the LORD;‡ but no one has
taken me into his home,
19 even though there is both straw and feed for our donkeys, and bread
and wine for me and the maidservant and young man with me. There is
nothing that we, your servants, lack.”
20 “Peace to you,” said the old man. “Let me supply everything you need.
Only do not spend the night in the square.”
21 So he brought him to his house and fed his donkeys. And they washed
their feet and ate and drank.
22 While they were enjoying themselves, suddenly the wicked men of the
city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they said to the old man
who owned the house, “Bring out the man who came to your house, so we
can have relations with him!”
23 The owner of the house went out and said to them, “No, my brothers,
do not do this wicked thing! After all, this man is a guest in my house. Do
not commit this outrage.
24 Look, let me bring out my virgin daughter and the man’s concubine,
and you can use them and do with them as you wish. But do not do such a
vile thing to this man.”
25 But the men would not listen to him. So the Levite took his concubine
and sent her outside to them, and they raped her and abused her
throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go.
26 Early that morning, the woman went back to the house where her
master was staying, collapsed at the doorway, and lay there until it was
light.
27 In the morning, when her master got up and opened the doors of the
house to go out on his journey, there was his concubine, collapsed in the
doorway of the house, with her hands on the threshold.
28 “Get up,” he told her. “Let us go.” But there was no response. So the
man put her on his donkey and set out for home.
29 When he reached his house, he picked up a knife, took hold of his
concubine, cut her limb by limb into twelve pieces, and sent her
throughout the territory of Israel.
30 And everyone who saw it said, “Nothing like this has been seen or
done from the day the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt until this
day. Think it over, take counsel, and speak up!”

‡ **19:18 19:18** LXX *I am going to my home*; see verse 29.

20

1 Then all the Israelites from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of
Gilead came out, and the congregation assembled as one man before the
LORD at Mizpah.
2 The leaders of all the people and all the tribes of Israel presented
themselves in the assembly of God's people: 400,000 men on foot, armed
with swords.
3 (Meanwhile the Benjamites heard that the Israelites had gone up to
Mizpah.) And the Israelites asked, "Tell us, how did this wicked thing
happen?"
4 So the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, answered: "I and
my concubine came to Gibeah in Benjamin to spend the night.
5 And during the night, the men of Gibeah rose up against me and
surrounded the house. They intended to kill me, but they abused my
concubine, and she died.
6 Then I took my concubine, cut her into pieces, and sent her throughout
the land of Israel's inheritance, because they had committed a lewd and
disgraceful act in Israel.
7 Behold, all you Israelites, give your advice and verdict here and now."
8 Then all the people stood as one man and said, "Not one of us will
return to his tent or to his house.
9 Now this is what we will do to Gibeah: We will go against it as the lot
dictates.
10 We will take ten men out of every hundred from all the tribes of
Israel, and a hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every
ten thousand, to supply provisions for the army when they go to Geba* in
Benjamin to punish them for the atrocity they have committed in Israel."
11 So all the men of Israel gathered as one man, united against the city.
12 And the tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin,
saying, "What is this wickedness that has occurred among you?
13 Hand over the wicked men of Gibeah so we can put them to death and
purge Israel of this evil."
But the Benjamites refused to heed the voice of their fellow Israelites.
14 And from their cities they came together at Gibeah to go out and fight
against the Israelites.
15 On that day the Benjamites mobilized 26,000 swordsmen from their
cities, in addition to the 700 select men of Gibeah.
16 Among all these soldiers there were 700 select left-handers, each of
whom could sling a stone at a hair without missing.
17 The Israelites, apart from Benjamin, mobilized 400,000 swordsmen,
each one an experienced warrior.
18 The Israelites set out, went up to Bethel, and inquired of God, "Who of
us shall go up first to fight against the Benjamites?"
"Judah will be first," the LORD replied.
19 The next morning the Israelites set out and camped near Gibeah.
20 And the men of Israel went out to fight against Benjamin and took up
their battle positions at Gibeah.
21 And the Benjamites came out of Gibeah and cut down 22,000 Israelites
on the battlefield that day.

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* **20:10 20:10** One Hebrew manuscript *Gibeah*

22 But the Israelite army took courage and again took their battle
positions in the same place where they had arrayed themselves on the
first day.
23 They went up and wept before the LORD until evening, inquiring of
him, “Should we again draw near for battle against our brothers the
Benjamites?”

And the LORD answered, “Go up against them.”

24 On the second day the Israelites advanced against the Benjamites.
25 That same day the Benjamites came out against them from Gibeah
and cut down another 18,000 Israelites, all of them armed with swords.
26 Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, where they sat
weeping before the LORD. That day they fasted until evening and
presented burnt offerings and peace offerings to the LORD.
27 And the Israelites inquired of the LORD. (In those days the ark of the
covenant of God was there,
28 and Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, served before it.) The
Israelites asked, “Should we again go out to battle against our brothers the
Benjamites, or should we stop?”

The LORD answered, “Fight, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your
hand.”
29 So Israel set up an ambush around Gibeah.
30 On the third day the Israelites went up against the Benjamites and
arrayed themselves against Gibeah as they had done before.
31 The Benjamites came out against them and were drawn away from
the city. They began to attack the people as before, killing about thirty
men of Israel in the fields and on the roads, one of which led up to Bethel
and the other to Gibeah.
32 “We are defeating them as before,” said the Benjamites.

But the Israelites said, “Let us retreat and draw them away from the city
onto the roads.”
33 So all the men of Israel got up from their places and arrayed
themselves at Baal-tamar, and the Israelites in ambush charged from their
positions in Maareh-geba.†
34 Then 10,000 select men from all Israel made a frontal assault against
Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But the Benjamites did not realize that
disaster was upon them.
35 The LORD defeated Benjamin in the presence of Israel, and on that
day the Israelites slaughtered 25,100 Benjamites, all armed with swords.
36 Then the Benjamites realized they had been defeated.

Now the men of Israel had retreated before Benjamin because they
were relying on the ambush they had set against Gibeah.
37 The men in ambush rushed suddenly against Gibeah; they advanced
and put the whole city to the sword.
38 The men of Israel had arranged a signal with the men in ambush:
When they sent up a great cloud of smoke from the city,
39 the men of Israel would turn in the battle.

When the Benjamites had begun to strike them down, killing about
thirty men of Israel, they said, “They are defeated before us as in the first
battle.”

† **20:33 20:33** Some LXX manuscripts and Vulgate *charged from their positions west of Gibeah*

40 But when the signal, a column of smoke, began to go up from the city,
the Benjamites looked behind them and saw the whole city going up in
smoke.
41 Then the men of Israel turned back on them, and the men of Benjamin
were terrified when they realized that disaster had come upon them.
42 So they fled before the men of Israel toward the wilderness, but the
battle overtook them, and the men coming out of the cities struck them
down there.
43 They surrounded the Benjamites, pursued them, and easily overtook
them in the vicinity of Gibeah on the east.
44 And 18,000 Benjamites fell, all men of valor.
45 Then the Benjamites turned and fled toward the wilderness to the
rock of Rimmon, and Israel cut down 5,000 men on the roads. And they
overtook them at Gidom and struck down 2,000 more.
46 That day 25,000 Benjamite swordsmen fell, all men of valor.
47 But 600 men turned and fled into the wilderness to the rock of
Rimmon, where they stayed four months.
48 And the men of Israel turned back against the other Benjamites and
put to the sword all the cities, including the animals and everything else
they found. And they burned down all the cities in their path.

21

1 Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, “Not one
of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjamite.”
2 So the people came to Bethel and sat there before God until evening,
lifting up their voices and weeping bitterly.
3 “Why, O LORD God of Israel,” they cried out, “has this happened in
Israel? Today in Israel one tribe is missing!”
4 The next day the people got up early, built an altar there, and
presented burnt offerings and peace offerings.
5 The Israelites asked, “Who among all the tribes of Israel did not come
to the assembly before the LORD?” For they had taken a solemn oath that
anyone who failed to come up before the LORD at Mizpah would surely be
put to death.
6 And the Israelites grieved for their brothers, the Benjamites, and said,
“Today a tribe is cut off from Israel.
7 What should we do about wives for the survivors, since we have sworn
by the LORD not to give them our daughters in marriage?”
8 So they asked, “Which one of the tribes of Israel failed to come up
before the LORD at Mizpah?” And, in fact, no one from Jabesh-gilead had
come to the camp for the assembly.
9 For when the people were counted, none of the residents of
Jabesh-gilead were there.
10 So the congregation sent 12,000 of their most valiant men and
commanded them: “Go and put to the sword those living in Jabesh-gilead,
including women and children.
11 This is what you are to do: Devote to destruction* every male, as well
as every female who has had relations with a man.”

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* **21:11 21:11** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

12 So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred
young women who had not had relations with a man, and they brought
them to the camp at Shiloh in the land of Canaan.
13 Then the whole congregation sent a message of peace to the
Benjamites who were at the rock of Rimmon.
14 And at that time the Benjamites returned and were given the women
who were spared from Jabesh-gilead. But there were not enough women
for all of them.
15 The people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a void
in the tribes of Israel.
16 Then the elders of the congregation said, “What should we do about
wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been
destroyed?”
17 They added, “There must be heirs for the survivors of Benjamin, so
that a tribe of Israel will not be wiped out.
18 But we cannot give them our daughters as wives.”
For the Israelites had sworn, “Cursed is he who gives a wife to a
Benjamite.”
19 “But look,” they said, “there is a yearly feast to the LORD in Shiloh,
which is north of Bethel east of the road that goes up from Bethel to
Shechem, and south of Lebonah.”
20 So they commanded the Benjamites: “Go, hide in the vineyards
21 and watch. When you see the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform
their dances, each of you is to come out of the vineyards, catch for himself
a wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.
22 When their fathers or brothers come to us to complain, we will tell
them, ‘Do us a favor by helping them, since we did not get wives for each
of them in the war. Since you did not actually give them your daughters,
you have no guilt.’ ”
23 The Benjamites did as instructed and carried away the number of
women they needed from the dancers they caught. They went back to
their own inheritance, rebuilt their cities, and settled in them.
24 And at that time, each of the Israelites returned from there to his own
tribe and clan, each to his own inheritance.
25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right
in his own eyes.

1 Samuel

1 Now there was a man named Elkanah who was from
Ramathaim-zophim* in the hill country of Ephraim. He was the son of
Jeroham, the son of Elihu,† the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.
2 He had two wives, one named Hannah and the other Peninnah. And
Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.
3 Year after year Elkanah would go up from his city to worship and
sacrifice to the LORD of Hosts at Shiloh, where Eli's two sons, Hophni and
Phinehas, were priests to the LORD.
4 And whenever the day came for Elkanah to present his sacrifice, he
would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and
daughters.
5 But to Hannah he would give only one portion,‡ though he loved her,
for the LORD had closed her womb.
6 Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival would
provoke her viciously to taunt her.
7 And this went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the
house of the LORD, her rival taunted her until she wept and would not eat.
8 "Hannah, why are you crying?" her husband Elkanah asked. "Why
won't you eat? Why is your heart so grieved? Am I not better to you than
ten sons?"
9 So after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood
up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the temple
of the LORD.
10 In her bitter distress, Hannah prayed to the LORD and wept with
many tears.
11 And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD of Hosts, if only you will look
upon the affliction of your maidservant and remember me, not forgetting
your maidservant but giving her a son, then I will dedicate him to the
LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall ever touch his head."
12 As Hannah kept on praying before the LORD, Eli watched her mouth.
13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and though her lips were moving,
her voice could not be heard.
So Eli thought she was drunk
14 and said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put away your wine!"
15 "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman troubled in spirit. I
have not had any wine or strong drink, but I have poured out my soul
before the LORD.
16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman, for all this time I have
been praying out of the depth of my anguish and grief."
17 "Go in peace," Eli replied, "and may the God of Israel grant the petition
you have asked of him."
18 "May your maidservant find favor with you," said Hannah. Then she
went on her way, and she began to eat, and her face was no longer
downcast.
19 The next morning they got up early to bow in worship before the
LORD, and then they returned home to Ramah.

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* **1:1 1:1** By a different word division (see also 1 Chronicles 6:11 and 20) *from Ramathaim, a Zuphite*
† **1:1 1:1** *Elihu* is also called *Eliab* and *Eliel*; see 1 Chronicles 6:12 and 19. ‡ **1:5 1:5** Meaning of Hebrew uncertain; or *a double portion* or *a choice portion*

And Elkanah had relations with his wife Hannah, and the LORD
remembered her.
20 So in the course of time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son.
She named him Samuel,§ saying, “Because I have asked for him from the
LORD.”
21 Then Elkanah and all his house went up to make the annual sacrifice
to the LORD and to fulfill his vow,
22 but Hannah did not go. “After the boy is weaned,” she said to her
husband, “I will take him to appear before the LORD and to stay there
permanently.”*
23 “Do what you think is best,” her husband Elkanah replied, “and stay
here until you have weaned him. Only may the LORD confirm his word.”†
So Hannah stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.
24 Once she had weaned him, Hannah took the boy with her, along with
three bulls,‡ an ephah of flour,§ and a skin of wine. Though the boy was
still young, she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.
25 And when they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the boy to Eli.
26 “Please, my lord,” said Hannah, “as surely as you live, my lord, I am
the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD.
27 I prayed for this boy, and since the LORD has granted me what I asked
of him,
28 I now dedicate the boy to the LORD. For as long as he lives, he is
dedicated to the LORD.”
And he worshiped* the LORD there.

2

1 At that time Hannah prayed:

“My heart rejoices in the LORD;
my horn* is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies,
for I rejoice in your deliverance.
2 There is no one holy like the LORD.
Indeed, there is no one besides you!
And there is no Rock like our God.

3 Do not boast so proudly,
or let arrogance come from your mouth,
for the LORD is a God who knows,
and by him actions are weighed.†

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble are equipped with strength.
5 The well-fed hire themselves out for food,
but the starving hunger no more.
The barren woman gives birth to seven,
but she who has many sons pines away.

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§ **1:20 1:20** *Samuel* sounds like the Hebrew for *heard of God.* * **1:22 1:22** DSS include *I will offer him as a Nazirite for all time.* † **1:23 1:23** DSS, LXX, and Syriac *your word* ‡ **1:24 1:24** DSS, LXX, and Syriac *a three-year-old bull* § **1:24 1:24** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 25.5 pounds or 11.6 kilograms of flour). * **1:28 1:28** One DSS manuscript *So they worshiped* * **2:1 2:1** Or *strength*; also in verse 10 † **2:3 2:3** Qere; Ketiv *and actions are not weighed*

6 The LORD brings death and gives life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth;
he humbles and he exalts.
8 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap.
He seats them among princes
and bestows on them a throne of honor.

For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's,
and upon them he has set the world.
9 He guards the steps of his faithful ones,
but the wicked perish in darkness;
for by his own strength shall no man prevail.

10 Those who oppose the LORD will be shattered.
He will thunder from heaven against them.
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth
and will give power to his king.
He will exalt the horn of his anointed."
11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy began ministering to the LORD before Eli the priest.
12 Now the sons of Eli were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD
13 or for the custom of the priests with the people.
When any man offered a sacrifice, the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged meat fork while the meat was boiling
14 and plunge it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or cooking pot. And the priest would claim for himself whatever the meat fork brought up. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.
15 Even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast, because he will not accept boiled meat from you, but only raw."
16 And if any man said to him, "The fat must be burned first; then you may take whatever you want," the servant would reply, "No,‡ you must give it to me right now. If you refuse, I will take it by force!"
17 Thus the sin of these young men was severe in the sight of the LORD, for the men§ were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.
18 Now Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.
19 Each year his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him when she went with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.
20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman in place of the one requested from the LORD.*" Then they would go home.
21 So the LORD attended to Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters.
Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

‡ **2:16 2:16** Qere; Ketiv *To him* § **2:17 2:17** DSS and LXX *they* * **2:20 2:20** DSS *in place of the one she dedicated to the LORD*

22 Now Eli was very old, and he heard about everything his sons were
doing to all Israel and how they were sleeping with the women who
served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
23 "Why are you doing these things?" Eli said to his sons. "I hear about
your wicked deeds from all these people.
24 No, my sons; it is not a good report I hear circulating among the
LORD's people.
25 If a man sins against another man, God† can intercede for him; but if
a man sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?"
But they would not listen to their father, since the LORD intended to put
them to death.
26 And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with
the LORD and with man.
27 Then a man of God came to Eli and told him, "This is what the LORD
says: 'Did I not clearly reveal myself to your father's house when they
were in Egypt under Pharaoh's house?
28 And out of all the tribes of Israel I selected your father to be my priest,
to offer sacrifices on my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in
my presence. I also gave to the house of your father all the food offerings
of the Israelites.
29 Why then do you kick at‡ my sacrifice and offering that I have
prescribed for the dwelling place?§ You have honored your sons more
than me by fattening yourselves with the best of all the offerings of my
people Israel.'
30 Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, declares:

'I did indeed say that your house
and the house of your father
would walk before me forever.

But now the LORD declares:
Far be it from me!
For I will honor those who honor me,
but those who despise me will be disdained.
31 Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the
strength of your father's house, so that no one in it will reach old age.
32 You will see distress in the dwelling place.* Despite all that is good in
Israel, no one in your house will ever again reach old age.
33 And every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar, I will cause
your eyes to fail and your heart to grieve.† All the increase of your house‡
will die as mortals.§
34 And this sign shall come to you concerning your two sons Hophni and
Phinehas: They will both die on the same day.
35 Then I will raise up for myself a faithful priest. He will do whatever is
in my heart and mind. And I will build for him an enduring house, and he
will walk before my anointed one for all time.

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† **2:25 2:25** Or *the judges* ‡ **2:29 2:29** Or *scorn* § **2:29 2:29** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain. * **2:32 2:32** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain. † **2:33 2:33** LXX *his eyes will fail and his heart will grieve* ‡ **2:33 2:33** Or *All your descendants* § **2:33 2:33** Or *will die in the prime of life*; DSS and LXX *will die by the sword of men*

36 And everyone left in your house will come and bow down to him for a
piece of silver or a morsel of bread, pleading, “Please appoint me to some
priestly office so that I can eat a piece of bread.” ’ ”

3

1 And the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli.
Now in those days the word of the LORD was rare, and visions were
scarce.
2 And at that time Eli, whose eyesight had grown so dim that he could
not see, was lying in his room.
3 Before the lamp of God had gone out, Samuel was lying down in the
temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was located.
4 Then the LORD called to Samuel, and he answered, “Here I am.”
5 He ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you have called me.”
“I did not call,” Eli replied. “Go back and lie down.”
So he went and lay down.
6 Once again the LORD called, “Samuel!”
So Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you have called
me.”
“My son, I did not call,” Eli replied. “Go back and lie down.”
7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, because the word of the
LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
8 Once again, for the third time, the LORD called to Samuel. He got up,
went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you have called me.”
Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy.
9 “Go and lie down,” he said to Samuel, “and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak,
LORD, for your servant is listening.’ ”
So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
10 Then the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel!
Samuel!”
And Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”
11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, “I am about to do something in Israel
at which the ears of all who hear it will tingle.
12 On that day I will carry out against Eli everything I have spoken about
his house, from beginning to end.
13 I told him that I would judge his house forever for the iniquity of
which he knows, because his sons made themselves contemptible* and he
did not restrain them.
14 Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli, ‘The iniquity of Eli’s house
shall never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’ ”
15 Samuel lay down until the morning; then he opened the doors of the
house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision,
16 but Eli called to him and said, “Samuel, my son.”
“Here I am,” answered Samuel.
17 “What was the message he gave you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from
me. May God punish you, and ever so severely, if you hide from me
anything he said to you.”
18 So Samuel told him everything and did not hide a thing from him.
“He is the LORD,” replied Eli. “Let him do what is good in his eyes.”
19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and he let none of
Samuel’s words fall to the ground.

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* **3:13 3:13** LXX *blasphemed God*

20 So all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed
as a prophet of the LORD.
21 And the LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, because there he
revealed himself to Samuel by his word.

4

1 Thus the word of Samuel came to all Israel.
Now the Israelites went out to meet the Philistines in battle and camped
at Ebenezer, while the Philistines camped at Aphek.
2 The Philistines arrayed themselves against Israel, and as the battle
spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who struck down about four
thousand men on the battlefield.
3 When the troops returned to the camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why
has the LORD brought defeat on us before the Philistines today? Let us
bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh, so that he may go*
with us to save us from the hand of our enemies."
4 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the
covenant of the LORD of Hosts, who sits enthroned between the cherubim.
And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of
the covenant of God.
5 When the ark of the covenant of the LORD entered the camp, all the
Israelites raised such a great shout that the ground shook.
6 On hearing the noise of the shout, the Philistines asked, "What is this
loud shouting in the camp of the Hebrews?"
And when they realized that the ark of the LORD had entered the camp,
7 the Philistines were afraid. "A god has entered† their camp!" they said.
"Woe to us, for nothing like this has happened before.
8 Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods?
These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in
the wilderness.
9 Take courage and be men, O Philistines! Otherwise, you will serve the
Hebrews just as they served you. Now be men and fight!"
10 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and each man fled
to his tent. The slaughter was very great—thirty thousand foot soldiers of
Israel fell.
11 The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and
Phinehas, died.
12 That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line all the way to
Shiloh, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.
13 When he arrived, there was Eli, sitting on his chair beside the road
and watching, because his heart trembled for the ark of God.
When the man entered the city to give a report, the whole city cried out.
14 Eli heard the outcry and asked, "Why this commotion?"
So the man hurried over and reported to Eli.
15 Now Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his gaze was fixed because he
could not see.
16 "I have just come from the battle," the man said to Eli. "I fled from
there today."
"What happened, my son?" Eli asked.

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* **4:3 4:3** Or *it may go* † **4:7 4:7** Or *The gods have entered*

17 The messenger answered, “Israel has fled before the Philistines, and
there has been a great slaughter among the people. Your two sons, Hophni
and Phinehas, are both dead, and the ark of God has been captured.”
18 As soon as the ark of God was mentioned, Eli fell backward from his
chair by the city gate, and being old and heavy, he broke his neck and
died. And Eli had led‡ Israel forty years.
19 Now Eli’s daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and
about to give birth. When she heard the news of the capture of God’s ark
and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband, she collapsed and
gave birth, for her labor pains overtook her.
20 As she was dying, the women attending to her said, “Do not be afraid,
for you have given birth to a son!”
But she did not respond or pay any heed.
21 And she named the boy Ichabod,§ saying, “The glory has departed*
from Israel,” because the ark of God had been captured and her
father-in-law and her husband had been killed.
22 “The glory has departed from Israel,” she said, “for the ark of God has
been captured.”

5

1 After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from
Ebenezer to Ashdod,
2 carried it into the temple of Dagon, and set it beside Dagon.*
3 When the people of Ashdod got up early the next morning, there was
Dagon, fallen on his face before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon
and returned him to his place.
4 But when they got up early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen
on his face before the ark of the LORD, with his head and his hands
broken off and lying on the threshold. Only the torso remained.
5 That is why, to this day, the priests of Dagon and all who enter the
temple of Dagon in Ashdod do not step on the threshold.
6 Now the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod and its
vicinity, ravaging them and afflicting them with tumors.†
7 And when the men of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, “The
ark of the God of Israel must not stay here with us, because his hand is
heavy upon us and upon our god Dagon.”
8 So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked, “What
shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?”
“It must be moved to Gath,” they replied. So they carried away the ark of
the God of Israel.
9 But after they had moved the ark to Gath, the LORD’s hand was also
against that city, throwing it into great confusion and afflicting the men of
the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumors.
10 So they sent the ark of God to Ekron, but as it arrived, the Ekronites
cried out, “They have brought us the ark of the God of Israel in order to kill
us and our people!”

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‡ **4:18 4:18** Or *judged* or *governed* § **4:21 4:21** *Ichabod* means *no glory.* * **4:21 4:21** Or *gone into exile*; also in verse 22 * **5:2 5:2** Or *set it beside his statue* † **5:6 5:6** LXX and Vulgate include *And rats appeared in their land, and death and destruction were throughout the city.*

11 Then the Ekronites called together all the rulers of the Philistines and
said, “Send away the ark of the God of Israel. It must return to its place, so
that it will not‡ kill us and our people!”
For a deadly confusion had pervaded the city; the hand of God was very
heavy upon it.
12 Those who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and the outcry of
the city went up to heaven.

6

1 When the ark of the LORD had been in the land of the Philistines seven
months,
2 the Philistines summoned the priests and diviners, saying, “What shall
we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how to send it back to its place.”
3 They replied, “If you return the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it
away empty, but by all means return it to him with a guilt offering. Then
you will be healed, and you will understand why his hand has not been
lifted from you.”
4 “What guilt offering should we send back to him?” asked the Philistines.
“Five gold tumors and five gold rats,” they said, “according to the
number of rulers of the Philistines, since the same plague has struck both
you and your rulers.
5 Make images of your tumors and of the rats that are ravaging the land.
Give glory to the God of Israel, and perhaps he will lift his hand from you
and your gods and your land.
6 Why harden* your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened
theirs? When he afflicted them, did they not send the people out so they
could go on their way?
7 Now, therefore, prepare one new cart with two milk cows that have
never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away
and pen them up.
8 Take the ark of the LORD, set it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put
the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering.
Then send the ark on its way,
9 but keep watching it. If it goes up the road to its homeland, toward
Beth-shemesh, it is the LORD who has brought on us this great disaster.
But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that punished
us and that it happened by chance.”
10 So the men did as instructed. They took two milk cows, hitched them
to the cart, and penned up their calves.
11 Then they put the ark of the LORD on the cart, along with the chest
containing the gold rats and the images of the tumors.
12 And the cows headed straight up the road toward Beth-shemesh,
staying on that one highway and lowing as they went, never straying to
the right or to the left. The rulers of the Philistines followed behind them
to the border of Beth-shemesh.
13 Now the people of Beth-shemesh were harvesting wheat in the valley,
and when they looked up and saw the ark, they were overjoyed at the
sight.

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‡ **5:11 5:11** Or *he will not* * **6:6 6:6** Or *make heavy*; similarly again in this verse

14 The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh and stopped
there near a large rock. The people chopped up the cart and offered the
cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.
15 And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD and the chest
containing the gold objects, and they placed them on the large rock. That
day the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices
to the LORD.
16 And when the five rulers of the Philistines saw this, they returned to
Ekron that same day.
17 As a guilt offering to the LORD, the Philistines had sent back one gold
tumor for each city: Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.
18 The number of gold rats also corresponded to the number of Philistine
cities belonging to the five rulers—the fortified cities and their outlying
villages, as far as the great meadow† on which they placed the ark of the
LORD. It remains to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh.
19 But God struck down some of the people of Beth-shemesh because
they looked inside the ark of the LORD. He struck down seventy men, fifty
thousand men,‡ and the people mourned because the LORD had struck
them with a great slaughter.
20 The men of Beth-shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of
the LORD, this holy God? To whom should the ark go up from here?”
21 So they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath-jearim, saying, “The
Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up
with you.”

7

1 Then the men of Kiriath-jearim came for the ark of the LORD and took
it into Abinadab’s house on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar
to guard the ark of the LORD.
2 And from that day a long time passed, twenty years in all, as the ark
remained at Kiriath-jearim. And all the house of Israel mournfully sought
the LORD.
3 Then Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the
LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and Ashtoreths
among you, prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve him only. And he
will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.”
4 So the Israelites put away the Baals and Ashtoreths and served only the
LORD.
5 Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the
LORD on your behalf.”
6 When they had gathered at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out
before the LORD. On that day they fasted, and there they confessed, “We
have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel led* the Israelites at Mizpah.
7 When the Philistines heard that the Israelites had gathered at Mizpah,
their rulers marched up toward Israel. And when the Israelites learned of
this, they feared the Philistines
8 and said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us,
that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines.”

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† **6:18 6:18** Hebrew *Abel-haggedolah*; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Targum *the large rock*
‡ **6:19 6:19** The numbers are difficult. A few late Hebrew manuscripts and Josephus *seventy men*; LXX *70 men and 50,000 men of the people*; Syriac and Arabic *70 men and 5,000 men*; alternately, possibly *70 men and 50 oxen*
* **7:6 7:6** Or *judged* or *governed*; similarly in verses 15, 16, and 17

9 Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt
offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on behalf of Israel, and the
LORD answered him.
10 As the Philistines drew near to fight against Israel, Samuel was
offering up the burnt offering. But that day the LORD thundered loudly
against the Philistines and threw them into such confusion that they fled
before Israel.
11 Then the men of Israel charged out of Mizpah and pursued the
Philistines, striking them down all the way to an area below Beth-car.
12 Afterward, Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and
Shen.† He named it Ebenezer,‡ saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."
13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they stopped invading the
territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines
all the days of Samuel.
14 The cities from Ekron to Gath, which the Philistines had taken, were
restored to Israel, who also delivered the surrounding territory from the
hand of the Philistines. And there was peace between the Israelites and
the Amorites.
15 So Samuel led Israel all the days of his life.
16 Every year he would go on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah,
leading Israel in all these places.
17 Then he would return to Ramah because his home was there, and
there he led Israel and built an altar to the LORD.

8

1 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges* over Israel.
2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second was
Abijah. They were judges in Beersheba.
3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside toward
dishonest gain, accepting bribes and perverting justice.
4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at
Ramah.
5 "Look," they said, "you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways.
Now appoint a king to judge us like all the other nations."
6 But when they said, "Give us a king to judge us," their demand was
displeasing in the sight of Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD.
7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all
that they say to you. For it is not you they have rejected, but they have
rejected me as their king.
8 Just as they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt
until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to
you.
9 Now listen to their voice; but you must solemnly warn them and show
them the manner of the king who will reign over them."
10 So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people who were
asking him for a king.
11 He said, "This will be the manner of the king who will reign over you:
He will take your sons and appoint them to serve his own chariots and
horses, and to run in front of his chariots.

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† **7:12 7:12** LXX and Syriac *Jeshanah* ‡ **7:12 7:12** *Ebenezer* means *stone of help.* * **8:1 8:1** Or *governors* or *leaders*; similarly in verses 2, 5, 6, and 20

12 He will appoint some for himself as commanders of thousands and of
fifties, and others to plow his ground, to reap his harvest, and to make his
weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.
13 And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.
14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and
give them to his servants.
15 He will take a tenth of your grain and grape harvest and give it to his
officials and servants.
16 And he will take your male and female slaves and your best young
men† and donkeys and put them to his own use.
17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his
slaves.
18 When that day comes, you will beg for relief from the king you have
chosen, but the LORD will not answer you on that day."
19 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said.
"We must have a king over us.
20 Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to judge us, to
go out before us, and to fight our battles."
21 Samuel listened to all the words of the people and repeated them in
the hearing of the LORD.
22 "Listen to their voice," the LORD said to Samuel. "Appoint a king for
them."
Then Samuel told the men of Israel, "Everyone must go back to his city."

9

1 Now there was a Benjamite, a powerful man, whose name was Kish
son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah of
Benjamin.
2 And he had a son named Saul, choice and handsome, without equal
among the Israelites—a head taller than any of the people.
3 One day the donkeys of Saul's father Kish wandered off, and Kish said
to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants and go look for the donkeys."
4 So Saul passed through the hill country of Ephraim and then through
the land of Shalishah, but they did not find the donkeys. He and the
servant went through the region of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then
they went through the land of Benjamin, and still they did not find them.
5 When they reached the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant, "Come,
let us go back, or my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and start
worrying about us."
6 "Look," said the servant, "in this city there is a man of God who is
highly respected; everything he says surely comes to pass. Let us go there
now. Perhaps he will tell us which way to go."
7 "If we do go," Saul replied, "what can we give the man? For the bread in
our packs is gone, and there is no gift to take to the man of God. What do
we have?"
8 The servant answered him again. "Look," he said, "I have here in my
hand a quarter shekel of silver.* I will give it to the man of God, and he
will tell us our way."

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† **8:16 8:16** LXX *your best cattle* * **9:8 9:8** *A quarter shekel* is approximately 0.1 ounces or 2.85 grams of silver.

9 (Formerly in Israel, a man on his way to inquire of God would say,
"Come, let us go to the seer." For the prophet of today was formerly called
the seer.)
10 "Good," said Saul to his servant. "Come, let us go." So they set out for
the city where the man of God was.
11 And as they were climbing the hill to the city, they met some young
women coming out to draw water and asked, "Is the seer here?"
12 "Yes, he is ahead of you," they answered. "Hurry now, for today he has
come to the city because the people have a sacrifice on the high place.
13 As soon as you enter the city, you will find him before he goes up to
the high place to eat. The people will not eat until he comes, because he
must bless the sacrifice; after that, the guests will eat. Go up at once; you
will find him."
14 So Saul and his servant went up toward the city, and as they were
entering it, there was Samuel coming toward them on his way up to the
high place.
15 Now on the day before Saul's arrival, the LORD had revealed to
Samuel,†
16 "At this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of
Benjamin, and you are to anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will
save them from the hand of the Philistines. For I have looked upon my
people, because their cry has come to me."
17 When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, "Here is the man of whom
I spoke; he shall rule over my people."
18 Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, "Would you please
tell me where the seer's house is?"
19 "I am the seer," Samuel replied. "Go up before me to the high place, for
you shall eat with me today. And when I send you off in the morning, I
will tell you all that is in your heart.
20 As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them,
for they have been found. And upon whom is all the desire of Israel, if not
upon you and all your father's house?"
21 Saul replied, "Am I not a Benjamite from the smallest tribe of Israel,
and is not my clan the least of all the clans of Benjamin? So why would
you say such a thing to me?"
22 Then Samuel took Saul and his servant, brought them into the hall,
and seated them in the place of honor among those who were
invited—about thirty in all.
23 And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion I gave you and told
you to set aside."
24 So the cook picked up the leg and what was attached to it and set it
before Saul. Then Samuel said, "Here is what was kept back. It was set
apart for you. Eat, for it has been kept for you for this occasion, from the
time I said, 'I have invited the people.' " So Saul dined with Samuel that
day.
25 And after they had come down from the high place into the city,
Samuel spoke with Saul on the roof of his house.
26 They got up early in the morning, and just before dawn Samuel called
to Saul on the roof, "Get ready, and I will send you on your way!" So Saul
got ready, and both he and Samuel went outside together.

† **9:15 9:15** Literally *had uncovered the ear of Samuel*

27 As they were going down to the edge of the city, Samuel said to Saul,
“Tell the servant to go on ahead of us, but you stay for a while, and I will
reveal to you the word of God.” So the servant went on.

10

1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil, poured it on Saul’s head, kissed him,
and said, “Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance?*
2 When you leave me today, you will find two men at Rachel’s tomb in
Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, ‘The donkeys you
seek have been found, and now your father has stopped worrying about
the donkeys and started worrying about you, asking, “What should I do
about my son?” ’
3 Then you will go on from there until you come to the Terebinth† of
Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one
carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and
another carrying a skin of wine.
4 They will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you will
accept from their hands.
5 After that you will come to Gibeah of God,‡ where the Philistines have
an outpost. As you approach the city, you will meet a group of prophets
coming down from the high place, preceded by harps, tambourines, flutes,
and lyres, and they will be prophesying.
6 Then the spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy
with them; and you will be transformed into a different person.
7 When these signs have come, do as the occasion demands, for God is
with you.
8 And you shall go before me to Gilgal, and surely I will come to you to
offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Wait seven days
until I come to you and show you what you are to do.”
9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all the
signs came to pass that day.
10 When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah,§ a group of prophets
met him. Then the spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied
along with them.
11 When all those who had formerly known Saul saw him prophesying
with the prophets, they asked one another, “What has happened to the son
of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?”
12 Then a man who lived there replied, “And who is their father?” So the
saying became a proverb: “Is Saul also among the prophets?”
13 And when Saul had finished prophesying, he went up to the high
place.
14 Now Saul’s uncle asked him and his servant, “Where did you go?”
“To look for the donkeys,” Saul replied. “When we saw they were not to
be found, we went to Samuel.”
15 “Tell me,” Saul’s uncle asked, “what did Samuel say to you?”
16 And Saul replied, “He assured us that the donkeys had been found.”
But Saul did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.

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* **10:1 10:1** LXX *“Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over Israel? And you will rule over the LORD’s people and save them from their enemies around them. This will be the sign to you that the LORD has appointed you to be leader over his inheritance.* † **10:3 10:3** Or *Oak* or *Great Tree* ‡ **10:5 10:5** Hebrew *Gibeath-Elohim*, meaning *the hill of God* § **10:10 10:10** *Gibeah* means *the hill.*

17 After this, Samuel summoned the people to the LORD at Mizpah
18 and said to the Israelites, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: ‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the hands of
the Egyptians and of all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’
19 But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your
troubles and afflictions, and you have said to him, ‘No, set a king over us.’
Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and
clans.”
20 Thus Samuel had all the tribes of Israel come forward, and the tribe of
Benjamin was selected.
21 Then he had the tribe of Benjamin come forward by its clans, and the
clan of Matri was selected.* Finally, Saul son of Kish was selected. But
when they looked for him, they could not find him.
22 So again they inquired of the LORD, “Has the man come here yet?”
And the LORD replied, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the
baggage.”
23 So they ran and brought Saul, and when he stood among the people,
he was a head taller than any of the others.
24 Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the one the LORD has
chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.”
And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”
25 Then Samuel explained to the people the rights of kingship. He wrote
them on a scroll and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the
people away, each to his own home.
26 Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, and the men of valor whose
hearts God had touched went with him.
27 But some worthless men said, “How can this man save us?” So they
despised him and brought him no gifts; but Saul remained silent about it.†

11

1 Then Nahash* the Ammonite came up and laid siege to Jabesh-gilead.
All the men of Jabesh said to him, “Make a treaty† with us, and we will
serve you.”
2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, “I will make a treaty with you on
one condition, that I may put out everyone’s right eye and bring reproach
upon all Israel.”
3 “Hold off for seven days,” replied the elders of Jabesh, “and let us send
messengers throughout Israel. If there is no one to save us, we will
surrender to you.”
4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and relayed these words
in the hearing of the people, they all wept aloud.
5 Just then Saul was returning from the field, behind his oxen. “What
troubles the people?” asked Saul. “Why are they weeping?” And they
relayed to him the words of the men from Jabesh.

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* **10:21** **10:21** LXX includes *And he brought the family of the Matrites near, man by man.* † **10:27** **10:27** MT and LXX; one DSS manuscript includes *Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had viciously oppressed the people of Gad and Reuben, gouging out the right eye of each Israelite dwelling there. He would not allow anyone to rescue them, and there was no Israelite east of the Jordan whose right eye had not been gouged out. But 7,000 men had escaped from the Ammonites and settled in Jabesh-gilead.*

* **11:1** **11:1** DSS and LXX *About a month later Nahash* † **11:1** **11:1** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.

6 When Saul heard their words, the spirit of God rushed upon him, and
he burned with great anger.
7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent them by
messengers throughout the land of Israel, proclaiming, “This is what will
be done to the oxen of anyone who does not march behind Saul and
Samuel.”
Then the terror of the LORD fell upon the people, and they came out
together as one man.
8 And when Saul numbered them at Bezek, there were 300,000 Israelites
and 30,000‡ men of Judah.
9 So they said to the messengers who had come, “Tell the men of
Jabesh-gilead: ‘Deliverance will be yours tomorrow by the time the sun is
hot.’ ”
And when the messengers relayed this to the men of Jabesh, they
rejoiced.
10 Then the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, “Tomorrow we will come out,
and you can do with us whatever seems good to you.”
11 The next day Saul organized the troops into three divisions, and
during the morning watch they invaded the camp of the Ammonites and
slaughtered them, until the hottest part of the day. And the survivors were
so scattered that no two of them were left together.
12 Then the people said to Samuel, “Who said that Saul should not reign
over us? Bring those men here so we can kill them!”
13 But Saul ordered, “No one shall be put to death this day, for today the
LORD has won a victory in Israel.”
14 Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew
the kingship there.”
15 So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the
presence of the LORD. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the
LORD, and Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.

12

1 Then Samuel said to all Israel, “I have listened to your voice in all that
you have said to me, and I have set over you a king.
2 Now here is the king walking before you, and I am old and gray, and
my sons are here with you. I have walked before you from my youth until
this day.
3 Here I am. Bear witness against me before the LORD and before his
anointed: Whose ox or donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated or
oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe and closed my eyes?
Tell me, and I will restore it* to you.”
4 “You have not cheated us or oppressed us,” they replied, “nor have you
taken anything from the hand of man.”
5 Samuel said to them, “The LORD is a witness against you, and his
anointed is a witness today, that you have not found anything in my hand.”
“He is a witness,” they replied.
6 Then Samuel said to the people, “The LORD is the One who† appointed
Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up out of the land of
Egypt.

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‡ **11:8 11:8** DSS and LXX *70,000* * **12:3 12:3** Hebrew *And I will restore it*; LXX *Testify against me, and I will restore it* † **12:6 12:6** LXX *The LORD is the witness who*

7 Now present yourselves, so that I may confront you before the LORD
with all the righteous acts he has done for you and your fathers.
8 When Jacob went to Egypt,‡ your fathers cried out to the LORD, and he
sent them Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and
settled them in this place.
9 But they forgot the LORD their God, and he sold them into the hand of
Sisera the commander of the army of Hazor,§ and into the hands of the
Philistines and the king of Moab, who fought against them.
10 Then they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, for we
have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths. Now
deliver us from the hands of our enemies, that we may serve you.'
11 So the LORD sent Jerubbaal,* Bedan,† Jephthah, and Samuel,‡ and he
delivered you from the hands of your enemies on every side, and you
dwelt securely.
12 But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving
against you, you said to me, 'No, we must have a king to rule over
us'—even though the LORD your God was your king.
13 Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you requested. Behold,
the LORD has placed a king over you.
14 If you fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice, and if you do
not rebel against the command of the LORD, and if both you and the king
who rules over you follow the LORD your God, then all will be well.§
15 But if you disobey the LORD and rebel against his command, then the
hand of the LORD will be against you as it was against your fathers.*
16 Now, therefore, present yourselves and see this great thing that the
LORD will do before your eyes.
17 Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call on the LORD to send
thunder and rain, so that you will know and see what a great evil you
have committed in the sight of the LORD by asking for a king."
18 So Samuel called to the LORD, and on that day the LORD sent thunder
and rain.
As a result, all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.
19 They pleaded with Samuel, "Pray to the LORD your God for your
servants so that we will not die! For we have added to all our sins the evil
of asking for a king."
20 "Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. "Even though you have committed
all this evil, do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the
LORD with all your heart.
21 Do not turn aside after worthless things that cannot profit you or
deliver you, for they are empty.
22 Indeed, for the sake of his great name, the LORD will not abandon his
people, because he was pleased to make you his own.
23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by
ceasing to pray for you. And I will continue to teach you the good and
right way.

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‡ **12:8 12:8** LXX includes *and the Egyptians oppressed them* § **12:9 12:9** LXX *the army of Jabin king of Hazor* * **12:11 12:11** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; see Judges 6:32. † **12:11 12:11** LXX and Syriac *Barak* ‡ **12:11 12:11** LXX and Syriac *Samson* § **12:14 12:14** *then all will be well* is implied; Literally *If you fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice, and if you do not rebel against the command of the LORD, (then) both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God.* * **12:15 12:15** LXX *against your king*

24 Above all, fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart;
consider what great things he has done for you.
25 But if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be swept
away."

13

1 Saul was … years old* when he became king, and he reigned over
Israel two years.†
2 He chose for himself three thousand men of Israel: Two thousand were
with Saul at Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand
were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. And the rest of the troops he
sent away, each to his own home.
3 Then Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the
Philistines heard about it. So Saul blew the ram's horn throughout the
land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!"
4 And all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked an outpost of the
Philistines, and now Israel has become a stench to the Philistines!" Then
the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.
5 Now the Philistines assembled to fight against Israel with thirty
thousand‡ chariots, six thousand horsemen, and troops as numerous as
the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Michmash, east of
Beth-aven.
6 Seeing that they were in danger because their troops were
hard-pressed, the men of Israel hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks,
and in cellars and cisterns.
7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead.
Saul, however, remained at Gilgal, and all his troops were quaking in fear.
8 And Saul waited seven days for the time appointed by Samuel, but
Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the troops began to desert Saul.
9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And
he offered up the burnt offering.
10 Just as he finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel arrived, and
Saul went out to greet him.
11 "What have you done?" Samuel asked.
And Saul replied, "When I saw that the troops were deserting me, and
that you did not come at the appointed time and the Philistines were
gathering at Michmash,
12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will descend upon me at Gilgal, and I
have not sought the favor of the LORD.' So I felt compelled to offer the
burnt offering."
13 "You have acted foolishly," Samuel declared. "You have not kept the
command that the LORD your God gave you; if you had, the LORD would
have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.
14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought a man
after his own heart and appointed him ruler over his people, because you
have not kept the command of the LORD."

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* **13:1 13:1** MT has no number (literally *a son of a year*); a number appears to be missing. A few late LXX manuscripts *thirty years old*; the verse is absent from most LXX manuscripts. † **13:1 13:1** Some propose *forty years* or *forty-two years*. ‡ **13:5 13:5** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac *three thousand*

15 Then Samuel set out from Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin.§
And Saul numbered the troops who were with him, about six hundred
men.
16 Now Saul and Jonathan his son and the troops with them were staying
in Geba of Benjamin, while the Philistines camped at Michmash.
17 And raiders went out of the Philistine camp in three divisions. One
headed toward Ophrah in the land of Shual,
18 another toward Beth-horon, and the third down the border road
overlooking the Valley of Zeboim facing the wilderness.
19 And no blacksmith could be found in all the land of Israel, because the
Philistines had said, "The Hebrews must not be allowed to make swords or
spears."
20 Instead, all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen
their plowshares, mattocks, axes, and plowshares.*
21 The charge was a pim† for sharpening a plowshare or mattock, a
three-pronged fork, or an axe, and for repointing an oxgoad.‡
22 So on the day of battle not a sword or spear could be found in the
hands of the troops with Saul and Jonathan; only Saul and his son
Jonathan had weapons.
23 And a garrison of the Philistines had gone out to the pass at Michmash.

14

1 One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor,
"Come, let us cross over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But
Jonathan did not tell his father.
2 Meanwhile, Saul was staying under the pomegranate tree* in Migron
on the outskirts of Gibeah. And the troops who were with him numbered
about six hundred men,
3 including Ahijah, who was wearing an ephod. He was the son of
Ichabod's brother Ahitub son of Phinehas, the son of Eli the priest of the
LORD in Shiloh. But the troops did not know that Jonathan had left.
4 Now there were cliffs on both sides of the pass that Jonathan intended
to cross to reach the Philistine outpost. One was named Bozez and the
other Seneh.
5 One cliff stood to the north toward Michmash, and the other to the
south toward Geba.
6 Jonathan said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let us cross
over to the outpost of these uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will
work on our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether
by many or by few."
7 His armor-bearer replied, "Do all that is in your heart. Go ahead; I am
with you heart and soul."
8 "Very well," said Jonathan, "we will cross over toward these men and
show ourselves to them.

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§ **13:15 13:15** LXX *Then Samuel set out, and the rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin.* * **13:20 13:20** MT (so *plowshare* appears twice in the Hebrew); LXX *sickles* † **13:21 13:21** *A pim* possibly refers to a polished stone weighing approximately 0.25 ounces or 7 grams found in excavations. This is equivalent to about two-thirds of a shekel and likely refers to the price charged by the Philistines for the services listed. ‡ **13:21 13:21** Meaning of several terms uncertain. Others read *a third of a shekel* for the fork and axe; the Hebrew states no unit. * **14:2 14:2** Or *around the rock of Rimmon* or *in the pomegranate cave*; see Judges 20:45, Judges 20:47, and Judges 21:13.

9 If they say, ‘Wait until we come to you,’ then we will stay where we are
and will not go up to them.
10 But if they say, ‘Come on up,’ then we will go up, because this will be
our sign that the LORD has delivered them into our hands.”
11 So the two of them showed themselves to the outpost of the
Philistines, who exclaimed, “Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the
holes in which they were hiding!”
12 So the men of the outpost called out to Jonathan and his armor-bearer,
“Come on up, and we will teach you a lesson!”
“Follow me,” Jonathan told his armor-bearer, “for the LORD has
delivered them into the hand of Israel.”
13 So Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer
behind him. And the Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his
armor-bearer followed and finished them off.
14 In that first assault, Jonathan and his armor-bearer struck down
about twenty men in about half an acre† of land.
15 Then panic struck the Philistines in the camp, in the field, and among
all the people. Even those in the outposts and raiding parties trembled.
Indeed, the earth quaked, and panic spread from God.‡
16 Now when Saul’s watchmen at Gibeah in Benjamin looked and saw
the troops melting away and scattering in every direction,§
17 Saul said to the troops who were with him, “Call the roll and see who
has left us.”
And when they had called the roll, they saw that Jonathan and his
armor-bearer were not there.
18 Then Saul said to Ahijah, “Bring the ark of God.” (For at that time it
was with the Israelites.)*
19 While Saul was talking to the priest, the commotion in the Philistine
camp continued to increase. So Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your
hand.”
20 Then Saul and all his troops assembled and marched to the battle, and
they found the Philistines in total confusion, with each man wielding the
sword against his neighbor.
21 And the Hebrews who had previously gone up into the surrounding
camps to join the Philistines now went over to the Israelites who were
with Saul and Jonathan.
22 When all the Israelites who had been hiding in the hill country of
Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they also joined the battle
in close pursuit.
23 So the LORD saved Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond
Beth-aven.
24 Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, for Saul had placed
the troops under an oath, saying, “Cursed is the man who eats any food
before evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies.” So none
of the troops tasted any food.
25 Then all the troops entered the forest, and there was honey on the
ground.

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† **14:14 14:14** Hebrew *half a yoke.* A *yoke* was the amount of land plowed by a pair of yoked oxen in one day. ‡ **14:15 14:15** Or *and a terrible panic spread* § **14:16 14:16** Or *melting away and going here and there* * **14:18 14:18** LXX *“Bring the ephod.” For at that time he wore the ephod before the Israelites.*

26 And when they entered the forest and saw the flowing honey, not one
of them put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath.
27 Jonathan, however, had not heard that his father had bound the
people with the oath. So he reached out the end of the staff in his hand,
dipped it into the honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth, and his eyes
brightened.†‡
28 Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father bound the troops with
a solemn oath, saying, 'Cursed is the man who eats food today.' That is
why the people are faint."
29 "My father has brought trouble to the land," Jonathan replied. "Just
look at how my eyes have brightened because I tasted a little of this honey.
30 How much better it would have been if the troops had eaten freely
today from the plunder they took from their enemies! Would not the
slaughter of the Philistines have been much greater?"
31 That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines from
Michmash to Aijalon, the people were very faint.
32 So they rushed greedily§ to the plunder, taking sheep, cattle, and
calves. They slaughtered them on the ground and ate meat with the blood
still in it.
33 Then someone reported to Saul: "Look, the troops are sinning against
the LORD by eating meat with the blood still in it."
"You have broken faith," said Saul. "Roll a large stone over here at once."
34 Then he said, "Go among the troops and tell them, 'Each man must
bring me his ox or his sheep, slaughter them in this place, and then eat.
Do not sin against the LORD by eating meat with the blood still in it.' "
So that night everyone brought his ox and slaughtered it there.
35 Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first time he had built
an altar to the LORD.
36 And Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and
plunder them until dawn, leaving no man alive!"
"Do what seems good to you," the troops replied.
But the priest said, "We must consult God here."
37 So Saul inquired of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will
you give them into the hand of Israel?"
But God did not answer him that day.
38 Therefore Saul said, "Come here, all you leaders of the troops, and let
us investigate how this sin has occurred today.
39 As surely as the LORD who saves Israel lives, even if it is my son
Jonathan, he must die!"
But not one of the troops said a word.
40 Then Saul said to all Israel, "You stand on one side, and I and my son
Jonathan will stand on the other side."
"Do what seems good to you," the troops replied.
41 So Saul said to the LORD, the God of Israel, "Give a perfect lot."* And
Jonathan and Saul were selected, but the people were cleared of the
charge.

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† **14:27 14:27** Qere; Ketiv *and his eyes saw* ‡ **14:27 14:27** Or *his strength was renewed*; similarly in verse 29 § **14:32 14:32** Qere; Ketiv *did* * **14:41 14:41** LXX and Vulgate *"Why have you not answered your servant this day? If the fault is with me or my son Jonathan, respond with Urim, but if the fault is with the men of Israel, respond with Thummim."*

42 Then Saul said, “Cast the lot between me and my son Jonathan.” And
Jonathan was selected.
43 “Tell me what you have done,” Saul commanded him.
So Jonathan told him, “I only tasted a little honey with the end of the
staff that was in my hand. And now I must die?”
44 And Saul declared, “May God punish me, and ever so severely, if you,
Jonathan, do not surely die!”
45 But the people said to Saul, “Must Jonathan die—he who accomplished
such a great deliverance for Israel? Never! As surely as the LORD lives,
not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for with God’s help he has
accomplished this today.”
So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.
46 Then Saul gave up his pursuit of the Philistines, and the Philistines
returned to their own land.
47 After Saul had assumed the kingship over Israel, he fought against all
his enemies on every side—the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Edomites,
the kings† of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he routed
them.‡
48 He fought valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, delivering Israel
from the hands of its plunderers.
49 Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchishua. His two
daughters were named Merab (his firstborn) and Michal (his younger
daughter).
50 His wife’s name was Ahinoam daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the
commander of his army was Abner, the son of Saul’s uncle Ner.
51 Saul’s father Kish and Abner’s father Ner were sons of Abiel.
52 And the war with the Philistines was fierce for all the days of Saul. So
whenever he noticed any strong or brave man, Saul would enlist him.

15

1 Then Samuel said to Saul, “The LORD sent me to anoint you king over
his people Israel. Now therefore, listen to the words of the LORD.
2 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: ‘I witnessed what the Amalekites
did to the Israelites when they opposed them on their way up from Egypt.
3 Now go and attack the Amalekites and devote to destruction* all that
belongs to them. Do not spare them, but put to death men and women,
children and infants, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys.’ ”
4 So Saul summoned the troops and numbered them at Telaim—200,000
foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah.
5 Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley.
6 And he warned the Kenites, “Since you showed kindness to all the
Israelites when they came up out of Egypt, go on and get away from the
Amalekites. Otherwise I will sweep you away with them.”
So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.
7 Then Saul struck down the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to
Shur, which is east of Egypt.
8 He captured Agag king of Amalek alive, but devoted all the others to
destruction with the sword.

† **14:47 14:47** DSS and LXX *king* ‡ **14:47 14:47** Or *he inflicted punishment on them;* LXX *he was victorious* * **15:3 15:3** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verses 8, 9, 15, 18, 20, and 21.

9 Saul and his troops spared Agag, along with the best of the sheep and
cattle, the grown bulls† and lambs, and the best of everything else. They
were unwilling to devote them to destruction, but they devoted to
destruction all that was despised and worthless.
10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,
11 "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned away from
following me and has not carried out my instructions."
And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all that night.
12 Early in the morning Samuel got up to confront Saul, but he was told,
"Saul has gone to Carmel, and behold, he has set up a monument for
himself and has turned and gone down to Gilgal."
13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said to him, "May the LORD bless
you. I have carried out the LORD's instructions."
14 But Samuel replied, "Then what is this bleating of sheep and lowing of
cattle that I hear?"
15 Saul answered, "The troops brought them from the Amalekites; they
spared the best sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but the
rest we devoted to destruction."
16 "Stop!" exclaimed Samuel. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me
last night."
"Tell me," Saul replied.
17 And Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes,
have you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed
you king over Israel
18 and sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and devote to destruction the
sinful Amalekites. Fight against them until you have wiped them out.'
19 So why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you rush upon the
plunder and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"
20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul replied. "I went on the mission that the
LORD gave me. I brought back Agag king of Amalek and devoted the
Amalekites to destruction.
21 The troops took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of the
things devoted to destruction, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your
God at Gilgal."
22 But Samuel declared:

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obedience to his voice?
Behold, obedience is better than sacrifice,
and attentiveness is better than the fat of rams.
23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance is like the wickedness of idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
he has rejected you as king."
24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have transgressed the
LORD's commandment and your instructions, because I feared the people
and obeyed their voice.
25 Now therefore, please forgive my sin and return with me so I can
worship the LORD."
26 "I will not return with you," Samuel replied. "For you have rejected the
word of the LORD, and he has rejected you as king over Israel."

† **15:9 15:9** Or *the fat calves*

27 As Samuel turned to go, Saul grabbed the hem of his robe, and it tore.
28 So Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from
you today and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you.
29 Moreover, the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind, for he is
not a man, that he should change his mind.”
30 “I have sinned,” Saul replied. “Please honor me now before the elders
of my people and before Israel. Come back with me, so that I may worship
the LORD your God.”
31 So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.
32 Then Samuel said, “Bring me Agag king of the Amalekites.”
Agag came to him cautiously,‡ for he thought, “Surely the bitterness of
death is past.”§
33 But Samuel declared:

“As your sword has made women childless,
so your mother will be childless among women.”
And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD at Gilgal.
34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah
of Saul.
35 And to the day of his death, Samuel never again visited Saul. Samuel
mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king
over Israel.

16

1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long are you going to mourn for
Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil
and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have selected from
his sons a king for myself.”
2 “How can I go?” Samuel asked. “Saul will hear of it and kill me!”
The LORD answered, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to
sacrifice to the LORD.’
3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you are to
do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”
4 So Samuel did what the LORD had said and went to Bethlehem. When
the elders of the town met him, they trembled and asked, “Do you come in
peace?”
5 “In peace,” he replied. “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate
yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.”
Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and said, “Surely here before the
LORD is his anointed.”
7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or
height, for I have rejected him; the LORD does not see as man does. For
man sees the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart.”
8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel, who said,
“The LORD has not chosen this one either.”
9 Next Jesse presented Shammah,* but Samuel said, “The LORD has not
chosen this one either.”
10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel
told him, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”

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‡ **15:32 15:32** Or *cheerfully* or *in chains*; see DSS and LXX. § **15:32 15:32** DSS and LXX *“Surely this is the bitterness of death.”* * **16:9 16:9** *Shammah* is a variant of *Shimeah*, *Shimea*, and *Shimei*; see 2 Samuel 13:3, 2 Samuel 21:21, and 1 Chronicles 2:13.

11 And Samuel asked him, “Are these all the sons you have?”
“There is still the youngest,” Jesse replied, “but he is tending the sheep.”
“Send for him,” Samuel replied. “For we will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”
12 So Jesse sent for his youngest son and brought him in. He was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for he is the one.”
13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. Then Samuel set out and went to Ramah.
14 Now the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit† from the LORD began to torment him.
15 Saul’s servants said to him, “Surely a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you.
16 Let our lord command your servants here to seek out someone who can skillfully play the harp. Whenever the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he is to play it, and you will be well.”
17 And Saul commanded his servants, “Find me someone who plays well, and bring him to me.”
18 One of the servants answered, “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a mighty man of valor, a warrior, eloquent and handsome, and the LORD is with him.”
19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.”
20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and one young goat and sent them to Saul with his son David.
21 When David came to Saul and entered his service, Saul loved him very much, and David became his armor-bearer.
22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.”
23 And whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would pick up his harp and play. Then Saul would find relief and feel better, and the harmful spirit would depart from him.

17

1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war at Socoh in Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah in Ephes-dammim.
2 Saul and the men of Israel assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah, arraying themselves for battle against the Philistines.
3 The Philistines stood on one hill and the Israelites stood on another, with the valley between them.
4 Then a champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out from the Philistine camp. He was six cubits and a span in height,*
5 and he had a bronze helmet on his head. He wore a bronze coat of mail weighing five thousand shekels,†
6 and he had armor of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders.

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† **16:14 16:14** Or *a spirit of distress*; similarly in verses 15, 16, and 23 * **17:4 17:4** Goliath was approximately 9 feet 9 inches or 297 centimeters tall; LXX, DSS, and Josephus *four cubits and a span in height* (approximately 6 feet 9 inches or 206 centimeters tall). † **17:5 17:5** *5,000 shekels* is approximately 125.6 pounds or 57 kilograms.

7 The shaft‡ of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and its iron point
weighed six hundred shekels.§ In addition, his shield bearer went before
him.
8 And Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you
come out and array yourselves for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are
you not servants of Saul? Choose one of your men and have him come
down against me.
9 If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But
if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and
work for us."
10 Then the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day! Give me a
man to fight!"
11 On hearing the words of the Philistine, Saul and all the Israelites were
dismayed and greatly afraid.
12 Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from
Bethlehem of Judah who had eight sons. And in the days of Saul, Jesse was
old, advanced in age among men.*
13 The three older sons of Jesse had followed Saul into battle: The
firstborn was Eliab, the second was Abinadab, and the third was
Shammah.
14 And David was the youngest.
The three oldest had followed Saul,
15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep in
Bethlehem.
16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and
evening to take his stand.
17 One day Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain†
and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.
18 Take also these ten portions of cheese to the commander of their unit.
Check on the welfare of your brothers and bring back some token from
them.‡
19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah,
fighting against the Philistines."
20 So David got up early in the morning, left the flock with a keeper,
loaded up, and set out as Jesse had instructed him. He reached the camp
as the army was marching out to its position and shouting the battle cry.
21 And Israel and the Philistines arrayed in formation against each other.
22 Then David left his supplies in the care of the quartermaster and ran
to the battle line. When he arrived, he asked his brothers how they were
doing.
23 And as he was speaking with them, suddenly the champion named
Goliath, the Philistine from Gath, came forward from the ranks§ of the
Philistines and shouted his usual words, which David also heard.
24 When all the men of Israel saw Goliath, they fled from him in great
fear.
25 Now the men of Israel had been saying, "Do you see how this man
keeps coming out to defy Israel? To the man who kills him the king will

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‡ **17:7 17:7** Qere; Ketiv *arrow* § **17:7 17:7** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms. * **17:12 17:12** Literally *had come among men*; LXX and Syriac *well along in years* † **17:17 17:17** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters of roasted grain. ‡ **17:18 17:18** Or *an assurance from them* or *some pledge from them* § **17:23 17:23** Qere; Ketiv *caves*

give great riches. And he will give him his daughter in marriage and exempt his father's house from taxation in Israel."

26 David asked the men who were standing with him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

27 The people told him about the offer, saying, "That is what will be done for the man who kills him."

28 Now when David's oldest brother Eliab heard him speaking to the men, his anger burned against David. "Why have you come down here?" he asked. "And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and wickedness of heart—you have come down to see the battle!"

29 "What have I done now?" said David. "Was it not just a question?"

30 Then he turned from him toward another and asked about the offer, and those people answered him just as the first ones had answered.

31 Now David's words were overheard and reported to Saul, who sent for him.

32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of this Philistine. Your servant will go and fight him!"

33 But Saul replied, "You cannot go out against this Philistine to fight him. You are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 David replied, "Your servant has been tending his father's sheep, and whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock,

35 I went after it, struck it down, and delivered the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it.

36 Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

37 David added, "The LORD, who delivered me from the claws of the lion and the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

"Go," said Saul, "and may the LORD be with you."

38 Then Saul clothed David in his own tunic, put a bronze helmet on his head, and dressed him in armor.

39 David strapped his sword over the tunic and tried to walk, but he was not accustomed to them.

"I cannot walk in these," David said to Saul. "I am not accustomed to them." So David took them off.

40 And David took his staff in his hand, selected five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag. And with his sling in hand, he approached the Philistine.

41 Now the Philistine came closer and closer to David, with his shield-bearer before him.

42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him because he was just a boy, ruddy and handsome.

43 "Am I a dog," he said to David, "that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 "Come here," he called to David, "and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

45 But David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand. This day I will strike
you down, cut off your head, and give the carcasses of the Philistine army
to the birds of the air and the creatures of the earth. Then the whole
world will know that there is a God in Israel.
47 And all those assembled here will know that it is not by sword or
spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all
of you into our hands."
48 As the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly
toward the battle line to meet him.
49 Then David reached into his bag, took out a stone, and slung it,
striking the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead,
and he fell facedown on the ground.
50 Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone;
without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.
51 David ran and stood over him. He grabbed the Philistine's sword and
pulled it from its sheath and killed him, and he cut off his head with the
sword.
When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.
52 Then the men of Israel and Judah charged forward with a shout and
pursued the Philistines to the entrance of the valley* and to the gates of
Ekron. And the bodies of the Philistines were strewn along the Shaaraim
road to Gath and Ekron.
53 When the Israelites returned from their pursuit of the Philistines, they
plundered their camps.
54 David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, and
he put Goliath's weapons in his own tent.
55 As Saul had watched David going out to confront the Philistine, he
said to Abner the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young
man?"
"As surely as you live, O king," Abner replied, "I do not know."
56 "Find out whose son this young man is!" said the king.
57 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, still holding his
head in his hand, Abner took him and brought him before Saul.
58 "Whose son are you, young man?" asked Saul.
"I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem," David replied.

18

1 After David had finished speaking with Saul, the souls of Jonathan and
David were knit together, and Jonathan loved him as himself.
2 And from that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return
to his father's house.
3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as
himself.
4 And Jonathan removed the robe he was wearing and gave it to David,
along with his tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt.
5 So David marched out and prospered in everything Saul sent him to
do, and Saul set him over the men of war. And this was pleasing in the
sight of all the people, and of Saul's officers as well.
6 As the troops were returning home after David had killed the
Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel to meet King Saul

* **17:52 17:52** MT *Gai*, that is, *the valley*; LXX *Gath*

with singing and dancing, with joyful songs, and with tambourines and other instruments.*
7 And as the women danced, they sang out:

"Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands."
8 And Saul was furious and resented this song. "They have ascribed tens of thousands to David," he said, "but only thousands to me. What more can he have but the kingdom?"
9 And from that day forward Saul kept a jealous eye on David.
10 The next day a harmful spirit† sent from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house while David played the harp as usual. Now Saul was holding a spear,
11 and he hurled it, thinking, "I will pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.
12 So Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul.
13 Therefore Saul sent David away and gave him command of a thousand men. David led the troops out to battle and back,
14 and he continued to prosper in all his ways, because the LORD was with him.
15 When Saul saw that David was very successful, he was afraid of him.
16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he was leading them out to battle and back.
17 Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD's battles." But Saul was thinking, "I need not raise my hand against him; let the hand of the Philistines be against him."
18 And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the son-in-law of the king?"
19 But when it was time‡ to give Saul's daughter Merab to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.
20 Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David, and when this was reported to Saul, it pleased him.
21 "I will give her to David," Saul thought, "so that she may be a snare to him, and the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So Saul said to David, "For a second time now you can be my son-in-law."
22 Then Saul ordered his servants, "Speak to David privately and tell him, 'Behold, the king is pleased with you, and all his servants love you. Now therefore, become his son-in-law.' "
23 But when Saul's servants relayed these words to David, he replied, "Does it seem trivial in your sight to be the son-in-law of the king? I am a poor man and lightly esteemed."
24 And the servants told Saul what David had said.
25 Saul replied, "Say to David, 'The king desires no other dowry but a hundred Philistine foreskins as revenge on his enemies.' " But Saul intended to cause David's death at the hands of the Philistines.
26 When the servants reported these terms to David, he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. Before the wedding day arrived,

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* **18:6 18:6** Possibly *three-stringed instruments* or *cymbals* or *lutes* or *lyres* † **18:10 18:10** Or *a spirit of distress* ‡ **18:19 18:19** Or *So when it was time*

27 David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. He
brought their foreskins and presented them as payment in full to become
the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave his daughter Michal to David in
marriage.
28 When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his
daughter Michal loved David,
29 he grew even more afraid of David. So from then on Saul was David's
enemy.
30 Every time the Philistine commanders came out for battle, David was
more successful than all of Saul's officers, so that his name was highly
esteemed.

19

1 Then Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David.
But Jonathan delighted greatly in David,
2 so he warned David, saying, "My father Saul intends to kill you. Be on
your guard in the morning; find a secret place and hide there.
3 I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, so I
can ask about you. And if I find out anything, I will tell you."
4 Then Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul and said to him,
"The king should not sin against his servant David; he has not sinned
against you. In fact, his actions have been highly beneficial to you.
5 He took his life in his hands when he struck down the Philistine, and
the LORD worked a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced, so
why would you sin against innocent blood by killing David for no reason?"
6 Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan and swore an oath: "As surely as
the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."
7 So Jonathan summoned David and told him all these things. Then
Jonathan brought David to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.
8 When war broke out again, David went out and fought the Philistines
and struck them with such a mighty blow that they fled before him.
9 But as Saul was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, a
harmful spirit* from the LORD came upon him. While David was playing
the harp,
10 Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear. But David eluded him
and the spear struck the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.
11 Then Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him and kill him
in the morning. But David's wife Michal warned him, "If you do not run
for your life tonight, tomorrow you will be dead!"
12 So Michal lowered David from the window, and he ran away and
escaped.
13 Then Michal took a household idol† and laid it in the bed, placed some
goat hair on its head, and covered it with a garment.
14 When Saul sent the messengers to seize David, Michal said, "He is ill."
15 But Saul sent the messengers back to see David and told them, "Bring
him up to me in his bed so I can kill him."
16 And when the messengers entered, there was the idol in the bed with
the goat hair on its head.
17 And Saul said to Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this? You sent
my enemy away, and he has escaped!"

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* **19:9 19:9** Or *a spirit of distress* † **19:13 19:13** Or *a household god*; Hebrew *teraphim*; also in verse 16

Michal replied, “He said to me, ‘Help me get away, or I will kill you!’ ”
18 So David ran away and escaped. And he went to Samuel at Ramah
and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to
Naioth and stayed there.
19 When Saul was told that David was at Naioth in Ramah,
20 he sent messengers to seize him. But when he saw‡ the group of
prophets prophesying, with Samuel leading them, the spirit of God came
upon them, and Saul’s messengers also began to prophesy.
21 When this was reported to Saul, he sent more messengers, but they
began to prophesy as well.
So Saul tried again and sent messengers a third time, and even they
began to prophesy.
22 Finally, Saul himself left for Ramah and came to the large cistern at
Secu, where he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?”
“At Naioth in Ramah,” he was told.
23 So Saul went to Naioth in Ramah. But the spirit of God came upon
even Saul, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth in
Ramah.
24 Then Saul stripped off his robes and also prophesied before Samuel.
And he collapsed and lay naked all that day and night. That is why it is
said, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

20

1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah. He came to Jonathan and
asked, “What have I done? What is my iniquity? How have I sinned
against your father, that he wants to take my life?”
2 “Far from it!” Jonathan replied. “You will not die. Indeed, my father
does nothing,* great or small, without telling me. So why would he hide
this matter from me? This cannot be true!”
3 But David again vowed, “Your father knows very well that I have found
favor in your eyes, and he has said, ‘Jonathan must not know of this, or he
will be grieved.’ As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, there
is but a step between me and death.”
4 Then Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you desire, I will do for you.”
5 So David told him, “Look, tomorrow is the New Moon,† and I am
supposed to dine with the king. Instead, let me go and hide in the field
until the third evening from now.
6 If your father misses me at all, tell him, ‘David urgently requested my
permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his hometown, because there is an
annual sacrifice for his whole clan.’
7 If he says, ‘Good,’ then your servant is safe, but if he is enraged, you
will know he has evil intentions.
8 Therefore show kindness to your servant, for you have brought me
into a covenant with you before the LORD. If there is iniquity in me, then
kill me yourself; why should you bring me to your father?”
9 “Never!” Jonathan replied. “If I ever found out that my father had evil
intentions against you, would I not tell you?”
10 Then David asked Jonathan, “Who will tell me if your father answers
you harshly?”
11 “Come,” he replied, “let us go out to the field.”

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‡ **19:20 19:20** LXX and Syriac *they saw*
* **20:2 20:2** Qere; Ketiv *if my father had done anything*
† **20:5 20:5** That is, the New Moon feast; also in verses 18, 24, and 27

So the two of them went out into the field,
12 and Jonathan said, “By the LORD, the God of Israel, I will sound out my
father by this time tomorrow or the next day. If he is favorable toward
you, will I not send for you and tell you?
13 But if my father intends to bring evil on you, then may the LORD
punish me, and ever so severely, if I do not tell you and send you on your
way in safety. May the LORD be with you, just as he has been with my
father.
14 And as long as I live, treat me with the LORD’s loving devotion,‡ that I
may not die,
15 and do not ever cut off your loving devotion from my household—not
even when the LORD cuts off every one of David’s enemies from the face
of the earth.”
16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May
the LORD hold David’s enemies accountable.”
17 And Jonathan had David reaffirm his vow out of love for him, for
Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.
18 Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow is the New Moon, and you
will be missed, because your seat will be empty.
19 When you have stayed three days, hurry down to the place you hid on
the day this trouble began, and remain beside the stone Ezel.§
20 I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as if I were aiming at a target.
21 Then I will send a boy and say, ‘Go, find the arrows!’ Now, if I
expressly say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring
them,’ then come, because as surely as the LORD lives, it is safe for you,
and there is no danger.
22 But if I say to the young man, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then
you must go, for the LORD has sent you away.
23 And as for the matter you and I have discussed, the LORD is a witness
between you and me forever.”
24 So David hid in the field, and when the New Moon had come, the king
sat down to eat.
25 He sat in his usual place by the wall. Jonathan arose, and Abner sat
down by Saul’s side,* but David’s place was empty.
26 Saul said nothing that day because he thought, “Something has
happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean—surely he is
unclean.”
27 But on the day after the New Moon, the second day, David’s place was
still empty, and Saul asked his son Jonathan, “Why hasn’t the son of Jesse
come to the meal either yesterday or today?”
28 Jonathan answered, “David urgently requested my permission to go to
Bethlehem,
29 saying, ‘Please let me go, because our clan is holding a sacrifice in the
city, and my brother has told me to be there. So now, if I have found favor
in your eyes, please let me go and see my brothers.’ That is why he has not
come to the king’s table.”
30 Then Saul’s anger burned against Jonathan, and he said to him, “You
son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have

‡ **20:14 20:14** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. § **20:19 20:19** *Ezel* means *departure*. * **20:25 20:25** LXX *by the wall, opposite Jonathan and beside Abner,*

chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother
who bore you?
31 For as long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your
kingdom shall be established. Now send for him and bring him to me, for
he must surely die!"
32 "Why must he be put to death?" Jonathan replied. "What has he done?"
33 Then Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan to kill him. So Jonathan knew
that his father was determined to kill David.
34 Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger and did not eat any
food that second day of the month, for he was grieved by his father's
shameful treatment of David.
35 In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for the appointment
with David, and a small boy was with him.
36 He said to the boy, "Run and find the arrows I shoot." And as the boy
ran, Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him.
37 When the boy reached the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen,
Jonathan called to him, "Isn't the arrow beyond you?"
38 Then Jonathan cried out, "Hurry! Make haste! Do not delay!" So the
boy picked up the arrows† and returned to his master.
39 But the boy did not know anything; only Jonathan and David knew
the arrangement.
40 Then Jonathan gave his equipment to the boy and said, "Go, take it
back to the city."
41 When the young man had gone, David got up from the south side,‡ fell
facedown, and bowed three times. Then he and Jonathan kissed each
other and wept together—though David wept more.
42 And Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for the two of us have
sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be a witness
between you and me, and between your descendants and mine forever.' "

21

1 Then David got up and departed, and Jonathan went back into the city.
2 Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And when
Ahimelech met David, he trembled and asked him, "Why are you alone?
Why is no one with you?"
3 "The king has given me a mission," David replied. "He told me no one is
to know about the mission on which I am sending you. And I have
directed my young men to meet me at a certain place.
4 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or
whatever can be found."
5 "There is no common bread on hand," the priest replied, "but there is
some consecrated bread—provided that the young men have kept
themselves from women."
6 David answered, "Women have indeed been kept from us, as is usual
when I set out. And the bodies of the young men are holy even on
common missions. How much more so today!"
7 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread
there but the Bread of the Presence, which had been removed from before
the LORD and replaced with hot bread on the day it was taken away.
8 Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the
LORD. And his name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief shepherd for Saul.

† **20:38 20:38** Qere; Ketiv *arrow* ‡ **20:41 20:41** LXX *from beside the stone*

9 Then David asked Ahimelech, “Is there not a spear or sword on hand
here? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me,
because the king’s mission was urgent.”
10 The priest replied, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you
killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the
ephod. If you want, you may take it. For there is no other but this one
here.”
And David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.”
11 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.
12 But the servants of Achish said to him, “Is this not David, the king of
the land? Did they not sing about him in their dances, saying:

‘Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands’?”
13 Now David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of
Achish the king of Gath.
14 So he changed his behavior before them and feigned madness in their
hands; he scratched on the doors of the gate and let his saliva run down
his beard.
15 Then Achish said to his servants, “Look, you can see that the man is
insane! Why have you brought him to me?
16 Am I in need of madmen, that you have brought this man to rave in
my presence? Must this man come into my house?”

22

1 So David left Gath and took refuge in the cave of Adullam. When his
brothers and the rest of his father’s household heard about it, they went
down to him there.
2 And all who were distressed or indebted or discontented rallied around
him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.
3 From there David went to Mizpeh of Moab, where he said to the king
of Moab, “Please let my father and mother come out* to be with you until I
learn what God will do for me.”
4 So he led them before the king of Moab,† and they stayed with him the
whole time David was in the stronghold.
5 Then the prophet Gad said to David, “Do not stay in the stronghold.
Depart and go into the land of Judah.” So David left and went to the forest
of Hereth.
6 Soon Saul learned that David and his men had been discovered. At that
time Saul was sitting under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, with
his spear in hand and all his servants standing around him.
7 Then Saul said to his servants, “Listen, men of Benjamin! Is the son of
Jesse giving all of you fields and vineyards and making you commanders
of thousands or hundreds?
8 Is that why all of you have conspired against me? Not one of you told
me that my own son had made a covenant with the son of Jesse. Not one
of you has shown concern for me or revealed to me that my son has
stirred up my own servant to lie in wait against me, as is the case today.”
9 But Doeg the Edomite, who had stationed himself with Saul’s servants,
answered: “I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob.

* **22:3 22:3** Syriac and Vulgate *stay* † **22:4 22:4** Targum and Syriac *left them with*

10 Ahimelech inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions. He
also gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."
11 Then the king sent messengers to summon Ahimelech the priest, the
son of Ahitub, and his father's whole family, who were priests at Nob. And
all of them came to the king.
12 "Listen now, son of Ahitub," said Saul.
"Here I am, my lord," he replied.
13 And Saul asked him, "Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired
against me? You gave him bread and a sword and inquired of God for him
so that he could rise up against me to lie in wait, as he is doing today."
14 Ahimelech answered the king, "Who among all your servants is as
faithful as David, the king's son-in-law, who has access to your private
council‡ and is honored in your house?
15 Was that day the first time I inquired of God for him? Far be it from
me! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of my father's household,
for your servant knew nothing of this whole affair—not in part or in
whole."
16 But the king replied, "You will surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your
father's house!"
17 Then the king ordered the guards at his side, "Turn and kill the priests
of the LORD, because they too sided with David. For they knew he was
fleeing, but they did not tell me.§"
But the king's servants would not lift a hand to strike the priests of the
LORD.
18 So the king ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests!"
And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests himself. On
that day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.
19 He also put to the sword Nob, the city of the priests, with its men and
women, children and infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep.
20 But one of the sons of Ahimelech son of Ahitub escaped. His name
was Abiathar, and he fled to David.
21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.
22 Then David said to Abiathar, "I knew that Doeg the Edomite was there
that day, and that he was sure to tell Saul. I myself am responsible for the
lives of everyone in your father's house.
23 Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks your life is seeking
mine as well. You will be safe with me."

23

1 Now it was reported to David, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against
Keilah and looting the threshing floors."
2 So David inquired of the LORD, "Should I go and attack these
Philistines?"
And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save
Keilah."
3 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah; how
much more if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"
4 Once again, David inquired of the LORD, and the LORD answered him:
"Go at once to Keilah, for I will deliver the Philistines into your hand."

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‡ **22:14 22:14** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; LXX *commander of all your orders* § **22:17 22:17** Qere; Ketiv *him*

5 Then David and his men went to Keilah, fought against the Philistines,
and carried off their livestock, striking them with a mighty blow. So David
saved the people of Keilah.
6 (Now Abiathar son of Ahimelech had brought the ephod with him
when he fled to David at Keilah.)
7 When Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah, he said, “God has
delivered him into my hand, for he has trapped himself by entering a
town with gates and bars.”
8 Then Saul summoned all his troops to go to war at Keilah and besiege
David and his men.
9 When David learned that Saul was plotting evil against him, he said to
Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod.”
10 And David said, “O LORD, God of Israel, your servant has heard that
Saul intends to come to Keilah and destroy the city on my account.
11 Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me into his hand?* Will Saul
come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, God of Israel, please tell
your servant.”
“He will,” said the LORD.
12 So David asked, “Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men
into the hand of Saul?”
“They will,” said the LORD.
13 Then David and his men, about six hundred strong, set out and
departed from Keilah, moving from place to place. When Saul was told
that David had escaped from Keilah, he declined to go forth.
14 And David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hill
country of the Wilderness of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him,
but God would not deliver David into his hand.
15 While David was in Horesh in the Wilderness of Ziph, he saw that
Saul had come out to take his life.
16 And Saul’s son Jonathan came to David in Horesh and strengthened
his hand in God,
17 saying, “Do not be afraid, for my father Saul will never lay a hand on
you. And you will be king over Israel, and I will be your
second-in-command. Even my father Saul knows this is true.”
18 So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David
remained in Horesh, while Jonathan went home.
19 Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David
hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah
south of Jeshimon?
20 Now, O king, come down whenever your soul desires, and we will be
responsible for delivering him into your hand.”
21 “May you be blessed by the LORD,” replied Saul, “for you have had
compassion on me.
22 Please go and prepare further. Investigate and watch carefully where
he goes and who has seen him there, for I am told that he is extremely
cunning.
23 Observe and find out all the places where he hides. Then come back
to me with certainty, and I will go with you. If he is in the land, I will
search him out among all the clans of Judah.”
24 So they set out and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his
men were in the Wilderness of Maon in the Arabah south of Jeshimon,

* **23:11 23:11** Aleppo and Leningrad codices include this question; some manuscripts omit it.

25 and Saul and his men went to seek him. When David was told about
it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And
when Saul heard of this, he pursued David there.
26 Saul was proceeding along one side of the mountain, and David and
his men along the other side. Even though David was hurrying to get away,
Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them.
27 Then a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Come quickly, for the
Philistines have raided the land!"
28 So Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines.
That is why that place is called Sela-hammahlekoth.†

24

1 And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En-gedi.
2 After Saul had returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told,
"David is in the wilderness of En-gedi."
3 So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to
look for David and his men in the region of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.
4 Soon Saul came to the sheepfolds along the road, where there was a
cave, and he went in to relieve himself.* And David and his men were
hiding in the recesses of the cave.
5 So David's men said to him, "This is the day about which the LORD said
to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy† into your hand, that you may do
with him as you wish.' "
Then David crept up and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.
6 Afterward, David's conscience was stricken because he had cut off the
corner of Saul's robe.
7 So he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to
my master, the LORD's anointed. May I never lift my hand against him,
since he is the LORD's anointed."
8 With these words David restrained his men, and he did not let them
rise up against Saul. Then Saul left the cave and went on his way.
9 After that, David got up, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul,
"My lord the king!"
When Saul looked behind him, David bowed facedown in reverence
10 and said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say,
'Look, David intends to harm you'?
11 Behold, this day you have seen with your own eyes that the LORD
delivered you into my hand in the cave. I was told to kill you, but I spared
you and said, 'I will not lift my hand against my lord, since he is the
LORD's anointed.'
12 See, my father, look at the corner of your robe in my hand. For I cut it
off, but I did not kill you. Know and see that there is no evil or rebellion in
my hands. I have not sinned against you, even though you are hunting me
down to take my life.
13 May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD take
vengeance on you, but my hand will never be against you.
14 As the old proverb says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' But
my hand will never be against you.
15 Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you
pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?

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† **23:28 23:28** *Sela-hammahlekoth* means *Rock of Escape.* * **24:4 24:4** Literally *cover his feet*, a euphemism for relieving oneself † **24:5 24:5** Qere; Ketiv *enemies*

16 May the LORD be our judge and decide between you and me. May he
take notice and plead my case and deliver me from your hand."
17 When David had finished saying these things, Saul called back, "Is that
your voice, David my son?"
Then Saul wept aloud
18 and said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have
rewarded me with good, though I have rewarded you with evil.
19 And you have declared this day how you have treated me well, for
when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me.
20 When a man finds his enemy, does he let him go away unharmed?
May the LORD reward you with good for what you have done for me this
day.
21 Now I know for sure that you will be king and that the kingdom of
Israel will be established in your hands.
22 So now, swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my
descendants or wipe out my name from my father's house."
23 So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David
and his men went up to the stronghold.

25

1 When Samuel died, all Israel gathered to mourn for him; and they
buried him at his home in Ramah.
Then David set out and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.*
2 Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. He was
a very wealthy man with a thousand goats and three thousand sheep,
which he was shearing in Carmel.
3 His name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an
intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite,† was harsh
and evil in his dealings.
4 While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing
sheep.
5 So David sent ten young men and instructed them, "Go up to Nabal at
Carmel. Greet him in my name
6 and say to him, 'Long life to you, and peace to you and to your house
and to all that belongs to you.
7 Now I hear that it is time for shearing. When your shepherds were
with us, we did not harass them, and nothing of theirs was missing the
whole time they were in Carmel.
8 Ask your young men, and they will tell you. So let my young men find
favor with you, for we have come on the day of a feast. Please give
whatever you can spare to your servants and to your son David.' "
9 When David's young men arrived, they relayed all these words to
Nabal on behalf of David. Then they waited.
10 But Nabal asked them, "Who is David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many
servants these days are breaking away from their masters.
11 Why should I take my bread and water and the meat I have
slaughtered for my shearers, and give them to these men whose origin I
do not know?"
12 So David's men turned around and went back, and they relayed to
him all these words.

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* **25:1 25:1** Hebrew and some LXX manuscripts; other LXX manuscripts *Maon* † **25:3 25:3** Qere; Ketiv *according to his heart*

13 And David said to his men, “Strap on your swords!” So David and all
his men strapped on their swords, and about four hundred men followed
David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.
14 Meanwhile, one of Nabal’s young men informed Nabal’s wife Abigail,
“Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but
he screamed at them.
15 Yet these men were very good to us. When we were in the field, we
were not harassed, and nothing of ours went missing the whole time we
lived among them.
16 They were a wall around us, both day and night, the whole time we
were herding our sheep near them.
17 Now consider carefully what you must do, because disaster looms
over our master and all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that
nobody can speak to him!”
18 Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins
of wine, five butchered sheep, five seahs of roasted grain,‡ a hundred
clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on
donkeys
19 and said to her young men, “Go ahead of me. I will be right behind
you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal.
20 As Abigail came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, she saw
David and his men coming down toward her, and she met them.
21 Now David had just said, “In vain I have protected all that belonged to
this man in the wilderness. Nothing that belongs to him has gone missing,
yet he has paid me back evil for good.
22 May God punish the enemies of David,§ and ever so severely, if I let
one male belonging to Nabal* survive until morning.”
23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off the donkey, fell
facedown, and bowed before him.
24 She fell at his feet and said, “My lord, may the blame be on me alone,
but please let your servant speak to you; hear the words of your servant.
25 My lord should pay no attention to this scoundrel Nabal,† for he lives
up to his name: His name means Fool, and folly accompanies him. I, your
servant, did not see my lord’s young men whom you sent.
26 Now, my lord, as surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, since
the LORD has held you back from bloodshed and from avenging yourself
with your own hand, may your enemies and those who seek harm for my
lord be like Nabal.
27 Now let this gift your servant has brought to my lord be given to the
young men who follow you.
28 Please forgive your servant’s offense, for the LORD will surely make a
lasting dynasty for my lord, because he fights the LORD’s battles. May no
evil be found in you as long as you live.
29 And should someone pursue you and seek your life, then the life of
my lord will be bound securely by the LORD your God in the bundle of the
living. But he shall fling away the lives of your enemies like stones from a
sling.‡

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‡ **25:18 25:18** *5 seahs* is approximately 33 dry quarts or 36.5 liters of roasted grain. § **25:22 25:22** Some LXX manuscripts *May God punish David* * **25:22 25:22** Literally *one who urinates against a wall* † **25:25 25:25** *Nabal* means *fool.* ‡ **25:29 25:29** Literally *fling away the souls of your enemies as from the pocket of a sling*

30 When the LORD has done for my lord all the good he promised, and
when he has appointed you ruler over Israel,
31 then my lord will have no remorse or guilt of conscience over
needless bloodshed and revenge. And when the LORD has dealt well with
my lord, may you remember your servant."
32 Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who sent you to meet me this day!
33 Blessed is your discernment, and blessed are you, because today you
kept me from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand.
34 Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has
restrained me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me,
then surely no male§ belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by
morning light."
35 Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him, and
he said to her, "Go home in peace. See, I have heeded your voice and
granted your request."
36 When Abigail returned to Nabal, there he was in the house, holding a
feast fit for a king, in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing
until morning light.
37 In the morning when Nabal was sober, his wife told him about these
events, and his heart failed within him, and he became like a stone.
38 About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal dead.
39 On hearing that Nabal was dead, David said, "Blessed be the LORD,
who has upheld my cause against the reproach of Nabal and has
restrained his servant from evil. For the LORD has brought the
wickedness of Nabal down upon his own head."
Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife.
40 When his servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they said, "David has
sent us to take you as his wife."
41 She arose, bowed facedown, and said, "Here is your servant, ready to
serve and to wash the feet of my lord's servants."
42 So Abigail hurried and got on a donkey, and attended by five of her
maidens, she followed David's messengers and became his wife.
43 David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel. So she and Abigail were
both his wives.
44 But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Palti* son of
Laish, who was from Gallim.

26

1 Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding
on the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?"
2 So Saul, accompanied by three thousand chosen men of Israel, went
down to the Wilderness of Ziph to search for David there.
3 Saul camped beside the road at the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon,
but David was living in the wilderness. When he realized that Saul had
followed him there,
4 David sent out spies to verify that Saul had arrived.
5 Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He
saw the place where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the general of his army,

§ **25:34 25:34** Literally *one who urinates against a wall* * **25:44 25:44** *Palti* is a variant of *Paltiel*; see 2 Samuel 3:15.

had lain down. Saul was lying inside the inner circle of the camp, with the troops camped around him.
6 And David asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?"
"I will go with you," answered Abishai.
7 That night David and Abishai came to the troops, and Saul was lying there asleep in the inner circle of the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the troops were lying around him.
8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand. Now, therefore, please let me thrust the spear through him into the ground with one stroke. I will not need to strike him twice!"
9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can extend a hand against the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?"
10 David added, "As surely as the LORD lives, the LORD himself will strike him down; either his day will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.
11 But the LORD forbid that I should extend my hand against the LORD's anointed. Instead, take the spear and water jug by his head, and let us go."
12 So David took the spear and water jug by Saul's head, and they departed. No one saw them or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up; they all remained asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.
13 Then David crossed to the other side and stood atop the mountain at a distance; there was a wide gulf between them.
14 And David shouted to the troops and to Abner son of Ner, "Will you not answer me, Abner?"
"Who are you who calls to the king?" Abner replied.
15 So David said to Abner, "You are a man, aren't you? And who in Israel is your equal? Why then did you not protect your lord the king when one of the people came to destroy him?
16 This thing you have done is not good. As surely as the LORD lives, all of you deserve to die, since you did not protect your lord, the LORD's anointed. Now look around. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were by his head?"
17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?"
"It is my voice, my lord and king," David said.
18 And he continued, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done? What evil is in my hand?
19 Now please, may my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, then may he accept an offering. But if men have done it, may they be cursed in the presence of the LORD! For today they have driven me away from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'
20 So do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to look for a flea, like one who hunts a partridge in the mountains."
21 Then Saul replied, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. I will never harm you again, because today you considered my life precious. I have played the fool and have committed a grave error!"
22 "Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of the young men come over and get it.

23 May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and
faithfulness. For the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would
not extend my hand against the LORD's anointed.
24 As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life
and rescue me from all trouble."
25 Saul said to him, "May you be blessed, David my son. You will
accomplish great things and will surely prevail."
So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

27

1 David, however, said to himself, "One of these days now I will be swept
away by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape to
the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will stop searching for me all over
Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."
2 So David set out with his six hundred men and went to Achish son of
Maoch,* the king of Gath.
3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his
family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and
Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.
4 And when Saul learned that David had fled to Gath, he no longer
searched for him.
5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let me
be assigned a place in one of the outlying towns, so I can live there. For
why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"
6 That day Achish gave him Ziklag, and to this day it still belongs to the
kings of Judah.
7 And the time that David lived in Philistine territory amounted to a year
and four months.
8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the
Gizrites,† and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these people had
inhabited the land extending to Shur and Egypt.)
9 Whenever David attacked a territory, he did not leave a man or woman
alive, but he took the flocks and herds, the donkeys, camels, and clothing.
Then he would return to Achish,
10 who would ask him, "What have you raided today?"
And David would reply, "The Negev of Judah," or "The Negev of
Jerahmeel," or "The Negev of the Kenites."
11 David did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for
he said, "Otherwise they will report us, saying, 'This is what David did.' "
And this was David's custom the whole time he lived in Philistine territory.
12 So Achish trusted David, thinking, "Since he has made himself an utter
stench to his people Israel, he will be my servant forever."

28

1 Now in those days the Philistines gathered their forces for warfare
against Israel. So Achish said to David, "You must understand that you and
your men are to go out to battle with me."
2 David replied, "Then you will come to know what your servant can do."
"Very well," said Achish. "I will make you my bodyguard for life."

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* **27:2 27:2** *Maoch* is a variant of *Maacah*; see 1 Kings 2:39. † **27:8 27:8** Qere; Ketiv *Girzites*

3 Now by this time Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him
and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed the
mediums and spiritists from the land.
4 The Philistines gathered together and camped at Shunem, while Saul
gathered all Israel and camped at Gilboa.
5 When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid and trembled
violently.
6 He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams
or Urim* or prophets.
7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so
I can go and consult her."
"There is a medium at Endor," his servants replied.
8 So Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes, and he set out
with two of his men. They came to the woman at night, and Saul said,
"Consult a spirit for me. Bring up for me the one I name."
9 But the woman replied, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he
has killed the mediums and spiritists in the land. Why have you set a trap
to get me killed?"
10 Then Saul swore to her by the LORD: "As surely as the LORD lives, no
punishment shall come upon you for this."
11 "Whom shall I bring up for you?" the woman asked.
"Bring up Samuel," he replied.
12 But when the woman saw Samuel, she cried out in a loud voice and
said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"
13 "Do not be afraid," the king replied. "What do you see?"
"I see gods† coming up out of the earth," the woman answered.
14 "What does he look like?" asked Saul.
"An old man is coming up," she replied. "And he is wearing a robe."
So Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed facedown in reverence.
15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing
me up?"
"I am deeply distressed," replied Saul. "The Philistines are fighting
against me, and God has turned away from me. He no longer answers me,
either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to
do."
16 "Why do you consult me," asked Samuel, "since the LORD has turned
away from you and become your enemy?
17 He has done exactly what he spoke through me: The LORD has torn
the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor David.
18 Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his burning anger
against Amalek, the LORD has done this to you today.
19 Moreover, the LORD will deliver Israel with you into the hand of the
Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. And the
LORD will deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."
20 Immediately Saul fell flat on the ground, terrified by the words of
Samuel. And his strength was gone, because he had not eaten anything all
that day and night.
21 When the woman came to Saul and saw how distraught he was, she
said to him, "Look, your maidservant has obeyed your voice. I took my life
in my hands and did as you told me.

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* **28:6 28:6** Literally *Lights* † **28:13 28:13** Or *a god, a divine being*, or *a spirit*; the verb *coming up* is plural.

22 Now please listen to your servant and let me set a morsel of bread
before you so you may eat and have the strength to go on your way."
23 Saul refused, saying, "I will not eat." But his servants joined the
woman in urging him, and he heeded their voice. He got up from the
ground and sat on the bed.
24 The woman had a fattened calf at her house, and she quickly
slaughtered it. She also took flour, kneaded it, and baked unleavened
bread.
25 She served it to Saul and his servants, and they ate. And that night
they got up and left.

29

1 Now the Philistines brought all their forces together at Aphek, while
Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel.
2 As the Philistine leaders marched out with their units of hundreds and
thousands, David and his men marched behind them with Achish.
3 Then the commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these
Hebrews?"
Achish replied, "Is this not David, the servant of King Saul of Israel? He
has been with me all these days, even years, and from the day he defected
until today I have found no fault in him."
4 But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with Achish and told
him, "Send that man back and let him return to the place you assigned
him. He must not go down with us into battle only to become our
adversary during the war. What better way for him to regain the favor of
his master than with the heads of our men?
5 Is this not the David about whom they sing in their dances:

'Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands'?"
6 So Achish summoned David and told him, "As surely as the LORD lives,
you have been upright, and it seems right in my sight that you should
march in and out with me in the army, because I have found no fault in
you from the day you came to me until this day. But you are not good in
the sight of the leaders.
7 Therefore turn back now and go in peace, so that you will not do
anything to displease the leaders of the Philistines."
8 "But what have I done?" David replied. "What have you found against
your servant, from the day I came to you until today, to keep me from
going along to fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"
9 Achish replied, "I know that you are as pleasing in my sight as an angel
of God. But the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He must not go
into battle with us.'
10 Now then, get up early in the morning, along with your master's
servants who came with you, and go as soon as it is light."
11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to return to the
land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

30

1 On the third day David and his men arrived in Ziklag, and the
Amalekites had raided the Negev, attacked Ziklag, and burned it down.

2 They had taken captive the women* who were there, both young and
old. They had not killed anyone, but had carried them off as they went on
their way.
3 When David and his men came to the city, they found it burned down
and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.
4 So David and the troops with him lifted up their voices and wept until
they had no strength left to weep.
5 David's two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal
of Carmel, had been taken captive.
6 And David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning
him, because the soul of every man grieved for his sons and daughters.
But David found strength in the LORD his God.
7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me
the ephod."
So Abiathar brought it to him,
8 and David inquired of the LORD: "Should I pursue these raiders? Will I
overtake them?"
"Pursue them," the LORD replied, "for you will surely overtake them and
rescue the captives."
9 So David and his six hundred men went to the Brook of Besor, where
some stayed behind
10 because two hundred men were too exhausted to cross the brook. But
David and four hundred men continued in pursuit.
11 Now his men found an Egyptian in the field and brought him to
David. They gave the man water to drink and food to eat—
12 a piece of a fig cake and two clusters of raisins. So he ate and was
revived, for he had not had any food or water for three days and three
nights.
13 Then David asked him, "To whom do you belong, and where are you
from?"
"I am an Egyptian," he replied, "the slave of an Amalekite. My master
abandoned me three days ago when I fell ill.
14 We raided the Negev of the Cherethites, the territory of Judah, and the
Negev of Caleb, and we burned down Ziklag."
15 "Will you lead me to these raiders?" David asked.
And the man replied, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or
deliver me into the hand of my master, and I will lead you to them."
16 So he led David down, and there were the Amalekites spread out over
all the land, eating, drinking, and celebrating the great amount of plunder
they had taken from the land of the Philistines and the land of Judah.
17 And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the
next day. Not a man escaped, except four hundred young men who fled,
riding off on camels.
18 So David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including
his two wives.
19 Nothing was missing, young or old, son or daughter, or any of the
plunder the Amalekites had taken. David brought everything back.
20 And he took all the flocks and herds, which his men drove ahead of
the other livestock, calling out, "This is David's plunder!"
21 When David came to the two hundred men who had been too
exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Brook of Besor,

* **30:2 30:2** LXX adds *and all*

they came out to meet him and the troops with him. As David approached the men, he greeted them,
22 but all the wicked and worthless men among those who had gone with David said, “Because they did not go with me,† we will not share with them the plunder we recovered, except for each man’s wife and children. They may take them and go.”
23 But David said, “My brothers, you must not do this with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiders who came against us.
24 Who will listen to your proposal? The share of the one who went to battle will match the share of the one who stayed with the supplies. They will share alike.”
25 And so it has been from that day forward. David established this statute and ordinance for Israel to this very day.
26 When David arrived in Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, “Here is a gift for you from the plunder of the LORD’s enemies.”
27 He sent gifts to those in Bethel, Ramoth Negev, and Jattir;
28 to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, and Eshtemoa;
29 to those in Racal and in the cities of the Jerahmeelites and Kenites;
30 to those in Hormah, Bor-ashan, and Athach;
31 and to those in Hebron and in all the places where David and his men had roamed.

31

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before them, and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa.
2 The Philistines hotly pursued Saul and his sons, and they killed Saul’s sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua.
3 When the battle intensified against Saul, the archers overtook him and wounded him critically.
4 Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and run me through with it, or these uncircumcised men will come and run me through and torture me!”
But his armor-bearer was terrified and refused to do it. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it.
5 When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his own sword and died with him.
6 So Saul, his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his men died together that same day.
7 When the Israelites along the valley and those on the other side of the Jordan saw that the army of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their cities and ran away. So the Philistines came and occupied their cities.
8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.
9 They cut off Saul’s head, stripped off his armor, and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temples of their idols and among their people.
10 They put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and hung his body on the wall of Beth-shan.

† **30:22 30:22** Some Hebrew manuscripts and ancient versions *with us*

11 When the people of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done
to Saul,
12 all their men of valor set out, journeyed all night, and retrieved the
bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth-shan.
When they arrived at Jabesh, they burned the bodies there.
13 Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree
in Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

2 Samuel

1 After the death of Saul, David returned from the slaughter of the
Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days.
2 On the third day a man with torn clothes and dust on his head arrived
from Saul's camp. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay
him homage.
3 "Where have you come from?" David asked.
"I have escaped from the Israelite camp," he replied.
4 "What was the outcome?" David asked. "Please tell me."
"The troops fled from the battle," he replied. "Many of them fell and
died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead."
5 Then David asked the young man who had brought him the report,
"How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"
6 "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," he replied, "and there was Saul,
leaning on his spear, with the chariots and the cavalry closing in on him.
7 When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I
answered, 'Here I am!'
8 'Who are you?' he asked.
So I told him, 'I am an Amalekite.'
9 Then he begged me, 'Stand over me and kill me, for agony has seized
me, but my life still lingers.'
10 So I stood over him and killed him, because I knew that after he had
fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and
the band that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."
11 Then David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and all the
men who were with him did the same.
12 They mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son
Jonathan, and for the people of the LORD and the house of Israel, because
they had fallen by the sword.
13 And David inquired of the young man who had brought him the
report, "Where are you from?"
"I am the son of a foreigner," he answered. "I am an Amalekite."
14 So David asked him, "Why were you not afraid to lift your hand to
destroy the LORD's anointed?"
15 Then David summoned one of the young men and said, "Go, execute
him!" So the young man struck him down, and he died.
16 For David had said to the Amalekite, "Your blood be on your own head
because your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I killed the
LORD's anointed.' "
17 Then David took up this lament for Saul and his son Jonathan,
18 and he ordered that the sons of Judah be taught the Song of the Bow.*
It is written in the Book of Jashar:†

19 "Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights.
How the mighty have fallen!

20 Tell it not in Gath;
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon,

* **1:18 1:18** Or *be taught the use of the bow*; literally *be taught the bow* † **1:18 1:18** Or *the Book of the Upright One*

lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
and the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.
21 O mountains of Gilboa,
may you have no dew or rain,
no fields yielding offerings of grain.‡
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, no longer anointed with oil.

22 From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not retreat,
and the sword of Saul did not return empty.
23 Saul and Jonathan, beloved and delightful in life,
were not divided in death.
They were swifter than eagles;
they were stronger than lions.

24 O daughters of Israel,
weep for Saul,
who clothed you in scarlet and luxury,
who decked your garments with ornaments of gold.
25 How the mighty have fallen in the thick of battle!
Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

26 I grieve for you, Jonathan, my brother.
You were delightful to me;
your love to me was extraordinary,
surpassing the love of women.
27 How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war have perished!"

2

1 Some time later, David inquired of the LORD, "Should I go up to one of the towns of Judah?"

"Go up," the LORD answered.

Then David asked, "Where should I go?"

"To Hebron," replied the LORD.

2 So David went there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

3 David also took the men who were with him, each with his household, and they settled in the towns near Hebron.

4 Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul."

5 So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead to tell them, "The LORD bless you, because you showed this kindness to Saul your lord when you buried him.

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‡ **1:21 1:21** Or *no showers falling on your terraced fields*; LXX *no fields of firstfruits*; Hebrew *no fields of offerings*

6 Now may the LORD show you loving devotion* and faithfulness, and I
will also show you the same favor because you have done this.
7 Now then, be strong and courageous, for though Saul your lord is dead,
the house of Judah has anointed me as their king."
8 Meanwhile, Abner son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, took
Saul's son Ish-bosheth,† moved him to Mahanaim,
9 and made him king over Gilead, the Ashurites,‡ Jezreel, Ephraim, and
Benjamin—over all Israel.
10 Saul's son Ish-bosheth was forty years old when he began to reign
over Israel, and he reigned for two years.
The house of Judah, however, followed David.
11 And the length of time that David was king in Hebron over the house
of Judah was seven years and six months.
12 One day Abner son of Ner and the servants of Ish-bosheth son of Saul
marched out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.
13 So Joab son of Zeruiah and the servants of David marched out and
met them by the pool of Gibeon. And the two groups took up positions on
opposite sides of the pool.
14 Then Abner said to Joab, "Let us have the young men get up and
compete before us."
"Let them get up," Joab replied.
15 So they got up and were counted off—twelve for Benjamin and
Ish-bosheth son of Saul, and twelve from the servants of David.
16 Then each man grabbed his opponent by the head and thrust his
sword into his opponent's side, and they all fell together. So this place,
which is in Gibeon, is called Helkath-hazzurim.§
17 The battle that day was intense, and Abner and the men of Israel were
defeated by the servants of David.
18 The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Now
Asahel was fleet of foot like a wild gazelle,
19 and he chased Abner, not turning to the right or to the left in his
pursuit.
20 And Abner glanced back and said, "Is that you, Asahel?"
"It is," Asahel replied.
21 So Abner told him, "Turn to your right or to your left, seize one of the
young men, and take his equipment for yourself."
But Asahel would not stop chasing him.
22 Once again, Abner warned Asahel, "Stop chasing me. Why should I
strike you to the ground? How could I show my face to your brother Joab?"
23 But Asahel refused to turn away. So Abner thrust the butt of his spear
into his stomach, and it came out his back, and he fell dead on the spot.
And every man paused when he came to the place where Asahel had
fallen and died.
24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. By sunset, they had gone as far
as the hill of Ammah opposite Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon.
25 The Benjamites rallied to Abner, formed a single unit, and took their
stand atop a hill.

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* **2:6 2:6** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. † **2:8 2:8** *Ish-bosheth* is also called *Esh-baal*; see 1 Chronicles 8:33. ‡ **2:9 2:9** Targum *Asher*; Syriac and Vulgate *Geshur* § **2:16 2:16** *Helkath-hazzurim* means *the Field of Swords*.

26 Then Abner called out to Joab: “Must the sword devour forever? Do
you not realize that this will only end in bitterness? How long before you
tell the troops to stop pursuing their brothers?”
27 “As surely as God lives,” Joab replied, “if you had not spoken up, the
troops would have continued pursuing their brothers until morning.”
28 So Joab blew the ram’s horn, and all the troops stopped; they no
longer pursued Israel or continued to fight.
29 And all that night Abner and his men marched through the Arabah.
They crossed the Jordan, marched through the whole Bithron,* and
arrived at Mahanaim.
30 When Joab returned from pursuing Abner, he gathered all the troops.
In addition to Asahel, nineteen of David’s servants were missing,
31 but they had struck down 360 Benjamites who were with Abner.
32 And they took Asahel and buried him in his father’s tomb in
Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night and reached Hebron
at daybreak.

3

1 Now the war between the house of Saul and the house of David was
protracted. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul
grew weaker and weaker.
2 And sons were born to David in Hebron:

His firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam of Jezreel;
3 his second was Chileab,* by Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel;
his third was Absalom, the son of Maacah daughter of King Talmai of
Geshur;
4 his fourth was Adonijah, the son of Haggith;
his fifth was Shephatiah, the son of Abital;
5 and his sixth was Ithream, by David’s wife Eglah.
These sons were born to David in Hebron.
6 During the war between the house of Saul and the house of David,
Abner had continued to strengthen his position in the house of Saul.
7 Now Saul had a concubine named Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. So
Ish-bosheth questioned Abner, “Why did you sleep with my father’s
concubine?”
8 Abner was furious over Ish-bosheth’s accusation. “Am I the head of a
dog that belongs to Judah?” he asked. “All this time I have been loyal to the
house of your father Saul, to his brothers, and to his friends. I have not
delivered you into the hand of David, but now you accuse me of
wrongdoing with this woman!
9 May God punish Abner, and ever so severely, if I do not do for David
what the LORD has sworn to him:
10 to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the
throne of David over Israel and Judah, from Dan to Beersheba.”
11 And for fear of Abner, Ish-bosheth did not dare to say another word to
him.
12 Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to say to David, “To whom
does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and surely my hand
will be with you to bring all Israel over to you.”

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* **2:29 2:29** LXX *marched all morning*

* **3:3 3:3** LXX *Daluia*; some translators *Daniel*; see 1 Chronicles 3:1.

13 “Good,” replied David, “I will make a covenant with you. But there is
one thing I require of you: Do not appear before me unless you bring
Saul’s daughter Michal when you come to see me.”
14 Then David sent messengers to say to Ish-bosheth son of Saul, “Give
me back my wife, Michal, whom I betrothed to myself for a hundred
Philistine foreskins.”
15 So Ish-bosheth sent and took Michal from her husband Paltiel† son of
Laish.
16 Her husband followed her, weeping all the way to Bahurim. Then
Abner said to him, “Go back.” So he returned home.
17 Now Abner conferred with the elders of Israel and said, “In the past
you sought David as your king.
18 Now take action, because the LORD has said to David, ‘Through my
servant David I will save my people Israel from the hands of the
Philistines and of all their enemies.’ ”
19 Abner also spoke to the Benjamites. Then he went to Hebron to tell
David all that seemed good to Israel and to the whole house of Benjamin.
20 When Abner and twenty of his men came to David at Hebron, David
held a feast for them.
21 Then Abner said to David, “Let me go at once, and I will gather all
Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and
that you may rule over all that your heart desires.”
So David dismissed Abner, and he went in peace.
22 Just then David’s soldiers and Joab returned from a raid, bringing
with them a great plunder. But Abner was not with David in Hebron,
because David had sent him on his way in peace.
23 When Joab and all his troops arrived, he was informed, “Abner son of
Ner came to see the king, who sent him on his way in peace.”
24 So Joab went to the king and said, “What have you done? Look, Abner
came to you. Why did you dismiss him? Now he is getting away!
25 Surely you realize that Abner son of Ner came to deceive you and to
track your movements and all that you are doing.”
26 As soon as Joab had left David, he sent messengers after Abner, who
brought him back from the well of Sirah. But David was unaware of it.
27 When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab pulled him aside into the
gateway, as if to speak to him privately, and there Joab stabbed him in the
stomach. So Abner died on account of the blood of Joab’s brother Asahel.
28 Afterward, David heard about this and said, “I and my kingdom are
forever guiltless before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner son of
Ner.
29 May it whirl over the head of Joab and over the entire house of his
father, and may the house of Joab never be without one having a
discharge or skin disease, or one who leans on a staff or falls by the sword
or lacks food.”
30 (Joab and his brother Abishai murdered Abner because he had killed
their brother Asahel in the battle at Gibeon.)
31 Then David ordered Joab and all the people with him, “Tear your
clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourn before Abner.” And King David
himself walked behind the funeral bier.
32 When they buried Abner in Hebron, the king wept aloud at Abner’s
tomb, and all the people wept.

† **3:15 3:15** *Paltiel* is a variant of *Palti*; see 1 Samuel 25:44.

33 And the king sang this lament for Abner:

“Should Abner die
the death of a fool?
34 Your hands were not bound,
your feet were not fettered.
As a man falls before the wicked,
so also you fell.”

And all the people wept over him even more.

35 Then all the people came and urged David to eat something while it was still day, but David took an oath, saying, “May God punish me, and ever so severely, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun sets!”

36 All the people took note and were pleased. In fact, everything the king did pleased them.

37 So on that day all the troops and all Israel were convinced that the king had no part in the murder of Abner son of Ner.

38 Then the king said to his servants, “Do you not realize that a great prince has fallen today in Israel?

39 And I am weak this day, though anointed as king, and these men, the sons of Zeruiah, are too fierce for me. May the LORD repay the evildoer according to his evil!”

4

1 Now when Ish-bosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel was dismayed.

2 Saul’s son had two men who were leaders of raiding parties. One was named Baanah and the other Rechab; they were sons of Rimmon the Beerothite of the tribe of Benjamin—Beeroth is considered part of Benjamin,

3 because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have lived there as foreigners to this day.

4 And Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the report about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she was hurrying to escape, he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

5 Now Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out and arrived at the house of Ish-bosheth in the heat of the day, while the king was taking his midday nap.

6 They entered the interior of the house as if to get some wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and his brother Baanah slipped away.

7 They had entered the house while Ish-bosheth was lying on his bed, and having stabbed and killed him, they beheaded him, took his head, and traveled all night by way of the Arabah.

8 They brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, “Here is the head of Ish-bosheth son of Saul, your enemy who sought your life. Today the LORD has granted vengeance to my lord the king against Saul and his offspring.”

9 But David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, “As surely as the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress,

10 when someone told me, ‘Look, Saul is dead,’ and thought he was a
bearer of good news, I seized him and put him to death at Ziklag. That was
his reward for his news!
11 How much more, when wicked men kill a righteous man in his own
house and on his own bed, shall I not now require his blood from your
hands and remove you from the earth!”
12 So David commanded his young men, and they killed Rechab and
Baanah. They cut off their hands and feet and hung their bodies by the
pool in Hebron, but they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in
Abner’s tomb in Hebron.

5

1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Here
we are, your own flesh and blood.
2 Even in times past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who
led Israel out and brought them back. And to you the LORD said, ‘You will
shepherd my people Israel, and you will be ruler over them.’ ”
3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, where King
David made with them a covenant before the LORD. And they anointed
him king over Israel.
4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty
years.
5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in
Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.
6 Now the king and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites
who inhabited the land. The Jebusites said to David: “You will never get in
here. Even the blind and lame can repel you.” For they thought, “David
cannot get in here.”
7 Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion (that is, the City of
David).
8 On that day he said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites must use the water
shaft to reach the lame and blind who are despised by David.*” That is
why it is said, “The blind and the lame will never enter the palace.”
9 So David took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of
David. He built it up all the way around, from the supporting terraces†
inward.
10 And David became greater and greater, for the LORD God of Hosts was
with him.
11 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs,
carpenters, and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David.
12 And David realized that the LORD had established him as king over
Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.
13 After he had arrived from Hebron, David took more concubines and
wives from Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him.
14 These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem:
Shammua,‡ Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,
15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,
16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

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* **5:8 5:8** Qere; Ketiv *who hate David* † **5:9 5:9** Hebrew *the Millo* ‡ **5:14 5:14** *Shammua* is a variant of *Shimea*; see 1 Chronicles 3:5.

17 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over
Israel, they all went in search of him; but David learned of this and went
down to the stronghold.
18 Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.
19 So David inquired of the LORD, “Should I go up against the Philistines?
Will you deliver them into my hand?”
“Go up,” replied the LORD, “for I will surely deliver the Philistines into
your hand.”
20 So David went to Baal-perazim, where he defeated the Philistines and
said, “Like a bursting flood, the LORD has burst out against my enemies
before me.” So he called that place Baal-perazim.§
21 There the Philistines abandoned their idols, and David and his men
carried them away.
22 Once again the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of
Rephaim.
23 So David inquired of the LORD, who answered, “Do not march straight
up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam
trees.*
24 As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam
trees, move quickly, because this will mean that the LORD has gone out
before you to strike the camp of the Philistines.”
25 So David did as the LORD had commanded him, and he struck down
the Philistines all the way from Geba† to Gezer.

6

1 David again assembled the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand in all.
2 And he and all his troops set out from Baale of Judah* to bring up from
there the ark of God, which is called by the Name—† the name of the LORD
of Hosts, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on it.
3 They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of
Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab,
were guiding the new cart,
4 bringing it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, with the
ark of God.‡ And Ahio was walking in front of the ark.
5 David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD
with all kinds of wood instruments,§ harps, stringed instruments,
tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.
6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon,* Uzzah reached out
and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen had stumbled.
7 And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him
down on the spot for his irreverence,† and he died there beside the ark of
God.
8 Then David became angry because the LORD had burst forth against
Uzzah. So he named that place Perez-uzzah,‡ as it is called to this day.

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§ **5:20 5:20** *Baal-perazim* means *The Lord Bursts Out.* * **5:23 5:23** Or *aspen trees* or *poplar trees*; also in verse 24 † **5:25 5:25** LXX (see also 1 Chronicles 14:16) *Gibeon* * **6:2 6:2** That is, Kiriath-jearim; 1 Chronicles 13:6 *went up to Baalah* † **6:2 6:2** LXX and Vulgate do not include *the Name—* ‡ **6:4 6:4** DSS and some LXX manuscripts omit *from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill* § **6:5 6:5** Literally *before the LORD with all woods of cypress*; LXX *playing before the Lord on well-tuned instruments mightily, and with songs*; some of the instruments in this verse are uncertain; see 1 Chronicles 13:8. * **6:6 6:6** *Nacon* is a variant of *Chidon*; see 1 Chronicles 13:9. † **6:7 6:7** DSS *for this* ‡ **6:8 6:8** *Perez-uzzah* means *outbreak against Uzzah.*

9 That day David feared the LORD and asked, “How can the ark of the
LORD ever come to me?”
10 So he was unwilling to move the ark of the LORD to the City of David;
instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.
11 Thus the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the
Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and all his household.
12 Now it was reported to King David, “The LORD has blessed the house
of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.”
So David went and had the ark of God brought up from the house of
Obed-edom into the City of David with rejoicing.
13 When those carrying the ark of the LORD had advanced six paces, he
sacrificed an ox and a fattened calf.
14 And David, wearing a linen ephod, danced with all his might before
the LORD,
15 while he and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD
with shouting and the sounding of the ram’s horn.
16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Saul’s daughter
Michal looked down from a window and saw King David leaping and
dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.
17 So they brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the
tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and
peace offerings before the LORD.
18 When David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and peace
offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Hosts.
19 Then he distributed to every man and woman among the multitude of
Israel a loaf of bread, a date cake,§ and a raisin cake. And all the people
departed, each to his own home.
20 When David returned home to bless his own household, Saul’s
daughter Michal came out to meet him. “How the king of Israel has
distinguished himself today!” she said. “He has uncovered himself today in
the sight of the maidservants of his subjects, like a vulgar person would
do.”
21 But David said to Michal, “I was dancing before the LORD, who chose
me over your father and all his house when he appointed me ruler over
the LORD’s people Israel. I will celebrate before the LORD,
22 and I will humiliate and humble myself even more than this. Yet I will
be honored by the maidservants of whom you have spoken.”
23 And Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her
death.

7

1 After the king had settled into his palace and the LORD had given him
rest from all his enemies around him,
2 he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar,
while the ark of God remains in a tent.”
3 And Nathan replied to the king, “Go and do all that is in your heart, for
the LORD is with you.”
4 But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,
5 “Go and tell my servant David that this is what the LORD says: Are you
the one to build for me a house to dwell in?

§ **6:19 6:19** Or *a portion of meat*

6 For I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up
out of Egypt until this day, but I have moved about with a tent as my
dwelling.
7 In all my journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever asked any of the
tribes of Israel* I appointed to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why haven't
you built me a house of cedar?'
8 Now then, you are to tell my servant David that this is what the LORD
of Hosts says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be
the ruler over my people Israel.
9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all
your enemies from before you. Now I will make for you a name like that
of the greatest in the land.
10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so
that they may dwell in a place of their own and be disturbed no more. No
longer will the sons of wickedness oppress them as they did at the
beginning
11 and have done since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel.
I will give you rest from all your enemies.
The LORD declares to you that he himself will establish a house for you.
12 And when your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will
raise up your descendant after you, who will come from your own body,
and I will establish his kingdom.
13 He will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of
his kingdom forever.
14 I will be his Father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will
discipline him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.
15 But my loving devotion will never be removed from him as I removed
it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.
16 Your house and kingdom will endure forever before you,† and your
throne will be established forever."
17 So Nathan relayed to David all the words of this entire revelation.
18 Then King David went in, sat before the LORD, and said, "Who am I, O
Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far?
19 And as if this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD, you have
also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. And this is your
instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD.‡
20 What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord
GOD.
21 For the sake of your word and according to your own heart, you have
accomplished this great thing and revealed it to your servant.
22 How great you are, O Lord GOD!§ For there is none like you, and there
is no God but you, according to everything we have heard with our own
ears.
23 And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth whom
God went out to redeem as a people for himself and to make a name for
himself, and to perform for you* great and awesome wonders for your

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* **7:7 7:7** 1 Chronicles 17:6 *judges* † **7:16 7:16** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *me* ‡ **7:19 7:19** Or *Is this your custom with man, O Lord GOD?* § **7:22 7:22** Leningrad Codex; Aleppo Codex *O LORD God* * **7:23 7:23** Hebrew *you* is plural, apparently referring to Israel

land, before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, from nations and their gods?†
24 For you have established your people Israel as your very own forever,
and you, O LORD, have become their God.
25 And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word you have spoken
concerning your servant and his house. Do as you have promised,
26 so that your name will be magnified forever when it is said, 'The
LORD of Hosts is God over Israel.' And the house of your servant David
will be established before you.
27 For you, O LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, have revealed this to your
servant‡ when you said, 'I will build a house for you.' Therefore your
servant has found the courage to offer this prayer to you.
28 And now, O Lord GOD, you are God! Your words are true, and you
have promised this goodness to your servant.
29 Now therefore, may it please you to bless the house of your servant,
that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have
spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed
forever."

8

1 Some time later, David defeated the Philistines, subdued them, and
took Metheg-ammah* from the hand of the Philistines.
2 David also defeated the Moabites, made them lie down on the ground,
and measured them off with a cord. He measured off with two lengths
those to be put to death, and with one length those to be spared. So the
Moabites became subject to David and brought him tribute.
3 David also defeated Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah, who had
marched out to restore his dominion along the Euphrates River.†
4 David captured from him seventeen hundred charioteers,‡ and twenty
thousand foot soldiers, and he hamstrung all the horses except a hundred
he kept for the chariots.
5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to help King Hadadezer of
Zobah, David struck down twenty-two thousand of their men.
6 Then he placed garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Arameans
became subject to David and brought him tribute. So the LORD made
David victorious wherever he went.
7 And David took the gold shields that belonged to the officers of
Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem.
8 And from Betah§ and Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a
large amount of bronze.
9 When King Toi* of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire
army of Hadadezer,

† **7:23 7:23** LXX (see also 1 Chronicles 17:21) *you performed great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt* ‡ **7:27 7:27** Literally *have uncovered the ear of your servant* * **8:1 8:1** *Metheg-ammah* means *bridle of the mother city*. † **8:3 8:3** Qere (see also LXX, Syriac, Vulgate, and 1 Chronicles 18:3); Ketiv *along the River* ‡ **8:4 8:4** LXX (see also DSS and 1 Chronicles 18:4) *captured from him a thousand chariots, seven thousand charioteers* § **8:8 8:8** Some LXX manuscripts *Tebah*; see 1 Chronicles 18:8. * **8:9 8:9** *Toi* is a variant of *Tou*; also in verse 10; see 1 Chronicles 18:9.

10 he sent his son Joram† to greet King David and bless him for fighting
and defeating Hadadezer, who had been at war with Toi. Joram brought
with him articles of silver and gold and bronze,
11 and King David dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and
gold he had dedicated from all the nations he had subdued—
12 from Aram‡ and Moab, from the Ammonites and Philistines and
Amalekites, and from the spoil of Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah.
13 And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking
down eighteen thousand Arameans§ in the Valley of Salt.
14 He placed garrisons throughout Edom, and all the Edomites were
subject to David. So the LORD made David victorious wherever he went.
15 Thus David reigned over all Israel and administered justice and
righteousness for all his people:

16 Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army;
Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the recorder;
17 Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests;
Seraiah* was the scribe;
18 Benaiah son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and Pelethites;†
and David's sons were priests.‡

9

1 Then David asked, "Is there anyone left from the house of Saul to
whom I can show kindness for the sake of Jonathan?"
2 And there was a servant of the house of Saul named Ziba. They
summoned him to David, and the king inquired, "Are you Ziba?"
"I am your servant," he replied.
3 So the king asked, "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I
can show the kindness of God?"
Ziba answered, "There is still Jonathan's son, who is lame in both feet."
4 "Where is he?" replied the king.
And Ziba said, "Indeed, he is in Lo-debar at the house of Machir son of
Ammiel."
5 So King David had him brought from the house of Machir son of
Ammiel in Lo-debar.
6 And when Mephibosheth* son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to
David, he fell facedown in reverence.
Then David said, "Mephibosheth!"
"I am your servant," he replied.
7 "Do not be afraid," said David, "for surely I will show you kindness for
the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land of your
grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

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† **8:10 8:10** *Joram* is a variant of *Hadoram*; see 1 Chronicles 18:10. ‡ **8:12 8:12** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also verse 14 and 1 Chronicles 18:11) *Edom* § **8:13 8:13** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also verse 14 and 1 Chronicles 18:12) *Edomites* * **8:17 8:17** *Seraiah* is also called *Sheva*, *Shisha*, and *Shavsha*; see 2 Samuel 20:25, 1 Kings 4:3, and 1 Chronicles 18:16. † **8:18 8:18** Probably meaning that Benaiah was over the Cherethites and Pelethites; compare 2 Samuel 20:23 and 1 Chronicles 18:17. ‡ **8:18 8:18** Or *priestly leaders*, or possibly *chief officials*; see LXX, Targum Yonaton, and 1 Chronicles 18:17. * **9:6 9:6** *Mephibosheth* is also called *Merib-baal*; see 1 Chronicles 8:34.

8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you
should show regard for a dead dog like me?”
9 Then the king summoned Saul’s servant Ziba and said to him, “I have
given to your master’s grandson all that belonged to Saul and to all his
house.
10 You and your sons and servants are to work the ground for him and
bring in the harvest, so that your master’s grandson may have food to eat.
But Mephibosheth, your master’s grandson, is always to eat at my table.”
Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.
11 And Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do all that my lord the
king has commanded.”
“So Mephibosheth will eat at my table like one of the king’s own sons.”†
12 And Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica,‡ and all who dwelt
in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth.
13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the
king’s table, and he was lame in both feet.

10

1 Some time later, the king of the Ammonites died and was succeeded by
his son Hanun.
2 And David said, “I will show kindness to Hanun son of Nahash, just as
his father showed kindness to me.”
So David sent some of his servants to console Hanun concerning his
father. But when they arrived in the land of the Ammonites,
3 the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, “Just because
David has sent you comforters, do you really believe he is showing respect
for your father? Has not David instead sent his servants to explore the
city, spy it out, and overthrow it?”
4 So Hanun took David’s servants, shaved off half of each man’s beard,
cut off their garments at the hips, and sent them away.
5 When this was reported to David, he sent messengers to meet the men,
since they had been thoroughly humiliated. The king told them, “Stay in
Jericho until your beards have grown back, and then return.”
6 When the Ammonites realized that they had become a stench to David,
they hired twenty thousand Aramean foot soldiers from Beth-rehob and
Zoba, as well as a thousand men from the king of Maacah and twelve
thousand men from Tob.
7 On hearing this, David sent Joab and the entire army of mighty men.
8 The Ammonites marched out and arrayed themselves for battle at the
entrance of the city gate, while the Arameans of Zobah and Rehob and the
men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the open country.
9 When Joab saw the battle lines before him and behind him, he selected
some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the Arameans.
10 And he placed the rest of the troops under the command of his
brother Abishai, who arrayed them against the Ammonites.
11 “If the Arameans are too strong for me,” said Joab, “then you will come
to my rescue. And if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will
come to your rescue.
12 Be strong and let us fight bravely for our people and for the cities of
our God. May the LORD do what is good in his sight.”

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† **9:11 9:11** Continuing the king’s words; LXX *So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table* ‡ **9:12 9:12** *Mica* is a variant of *Micah*; see 1 Chronicles 8:34.

13 So Joab and his troops advanced to fight the Arameans, who fled
before him.
14 When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they too fled
before Abishai, and they entered the city. So Joab returned from fighting
against the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.
15 When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they
regrouped.
16 Hadadezer sent messengers to bring more Arameans from beyond the
Euphrates,* and they came to Helam with Shobach† the commander of
Hadadezer's army leading them.
17 When this was reported to David, he gathered all Israel, crossed the
Jordan, and went to Helam. Then the Arameans arrayed themselves
against David and fought against him.
18 But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed seven hundred
charioteers and forty thousand horsemen.‡ He also struck down Shobach
the commander of their army, who died there.
19 When all the kings who were subject to Hadadezer saw that they had
been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became subject
to them. So the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites anymore.

11

1 At the turn of the year,* at the time when kings march out to war,
David sent out Joab and his servants with the whole army of Israel. They
destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah, but David remained in
Jerusalem.
2 One evening David got up from his bed and strolled around on the roof
of the palace. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing—a very
beautiful woman.
3 So David sent and inquired about the woman, and he was told, "This is
Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam† and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."
4 Then David sent messengers to get her, and when she came to him, he
slept with her. (Now she had just purified herself from her uncleanness.)
Then she returned home.
5 And the woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am
pregnant."
6 At this, David sent orders to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab
sent him to David.
7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the troops were
doing and how the war was going.
8 Then he said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet."
So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king followed him.
9 But Uriah slept at the door of the palace with all his master's servants;
he did not go down to his house.
10 And David was told, "Uriah did not go home."
"Haven't you just arrived from a journey?" David asked Uriah. "Why
didn't you go home?"
11 Uriah answered, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying at
Sukkoth,‡ and my master Joab and his soldiers are camped in the open

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* **10:16 10:16** Hebrew *the River* † **10:16 10:16** *Shobach* is a variant of *Shophach*; see 1 Chronicles 19:16. ‡ **10:18 10:18** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 19:18) *foot soldiers* * **11:1 11:1** Or *In the spring* † **11:3 11:3** *Eliam* is a variant of *Ammiel*; see 1 Chronicles 3:5. ‡ **11:11 11:11** Or *dwelling in tents*

field. How can I go to my house to eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As surely as you live, and by your life, I will not do such a thing!"
12 "Stay here one more day," David said to Uriah, "and tomorrow I will
send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next.
13 Then David invited Uriah to eat and drink with him, and he got Uriah
drunk. And in the evening Uriah went out to lie down on his cot with his
master's servants, but he did not go home.
14 The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.
15 In the letter he wrote: "Put Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle;
then withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and killed."
16 So as Joab besieged the city, he assigned Uriah to a place where he
knew the strongest enemy soldiers were.
17 And when the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some
of David's servants fell, and Uriah the Hittite also died.
18 Joab sent to David a full account of the battle
19 and instructed the messenger, "When you have finished giving the
king a full account of the battle,
20 if the king's anger flares, he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to
the city to fight? Did you not realize they would shoot from atop the wall?
21 Who struck Abimelech son of Jerubbesheth§? Was it not a woman
who dropped an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in
Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?'
If he asks you this, then you are to say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is
dead as well.' "
22 So the messenger set out and reported to David all that Joab had sent
him to say.
23 The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out
against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.
24 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall, and some of the
king's servants were killed. And your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead as
well."
25 Then David told the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Do not let this matter
upset you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your
attack against the city and demolish it.' Encourage him with these words."
26 When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned
for him.
27 And when the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to
his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.
But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.

12

1 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David, and when he arrived, he said,
"There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor.
2 The rich man had a great number of sheep and cattle,
3 but the poor man had nothing except one small ewe lamb that he had
bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared
his food and drank from his cup; it slept in his arms* and was like a
daughter to him.

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§ **11:21 11:21** *Jerubbesheth* is also known as *Jerubbaal*, that is, Gideon. * **12:3 12:3** Hebrew *in his bosom*; also in verse 8

4 Now a traveler came to the rich man, who refrained from taking one of
his own sheep or cattle to prepare for the traveler who had come to him.
Instead, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for his guest."
5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan: "As
surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die!
6 Because he has done this thing and has shown no pity, he must pay for
the lamb four times over."
7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! This is what the LORD,
the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered
you from the hand of Saul.
8 I gave your master's house to you and your master's wives into your
arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah, and if that was not
enough, I would have given you even more.
9 Why then have you despised the command of the LORD by doing evil
in his sight?† You put Uriah the Hittite to the sword and took his wife as
your own. You have slain him with the sword of the Ammonites.
10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because
you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be
your own.'
11 This is what the LORD says: 'I will raise up adversity against you from
your own house. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give
them to another, and he will lie with them in broad daylight.
12 You have acted in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight
before all Israel.' "
13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."
"The LORD has taken away your sin," Nathan replied. "You will not die.
14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have brought utter contempt
from the enemies of the LORD,‡ the son born to you will surely die."
15 After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's
wife had borne to David, and he became ill.
16 David pleaded with God for the boy. He fasted and went into his
house and spent the night lying on the ground.§
17 The elders of his household stood beside him to help him up from the
ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat anything with them.
18 On the seventh day the child died. But David's servants were afraid to
tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Look, while the child was
alive, we spoke to him, and he would not listen to us. So how can we tell
him the child is dead? He may even harm himself."
19 When David saw that his servants were whispering to one another, he
perceived that the child was dead. So he asked his servants, "Is the child
dead?"
"He is dead," they replied.
20 Then David got up from the ground, washed and anointed himself,
changed his clothes,* and went into the house of the LORD and worshiped.
Then he went to his own house, and at his request they set food before
him, and he ate.
21 "What is this you have done?" his servants asked. "While the child was
alive, you fasted and wept, but when he died, you got up and ate."

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† **12:9 12:9** Ketiv; Qere *in my sight* ‡ **12:14 12:14** DSS *you have shown utter contempt for the word of the LORD* § **12:16 12:16** DSS and LXX add *in sackcloth* * **12:20 12:20** Qere; Ketiv *his garment*

22 David answered, “While the child was alive, I fasted and wept, for I
said, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let him live.’
23 But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back
again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”
24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay
with her. So she gave birth to a son, and she† named him Solomon.
Now the LORD loved the child
25 and sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah
because of the LORD.‡
26 Meanwhile, Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and
captured the royal fortress.
27 Then Joab sent messengers to David to say, “I have fought against
Rabbah and have captured the city of waters.§
28 Now, therefore, assemble the rest of the troops, lay siege to the city,
and capture it. Otherwise I will capture the city, and it will be named after
me.”
29 So David assembled all the troops and went to Rabbah; and he fought
against it and captured it.
30 Then he took the crown from the head of their king.* It weighed a
talent of gold† and was set with precious stones, and it was placed on
David’s head. And David took a great amount of plunder from the city.
31 David brought out the people who were there and put them to work
with saws,‡ iron picks, and axes, and he made them work at the brick
kilns.§* He did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all his
troops returned to Jerusalem.

13

1 After some time, David’s son Amnon fell in love with Tamar, the
beautiful sister of David’s son Absalom.
2 Amnon was sick with frustration over his sister Tamar, for she was a
virgin, and it seemed implausible for him to do anything to her.
3 Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab, the son of David’s brother
Shimeah.* Jonadab was a very shrewd man,
4 and he asked Amnon, “Why are you, the son of the king, so depressed
morning after morning? Won’t you tell me?”
Amnon replied, “I am in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom’s sister.”
5 Jonadab told him, “Lie down on your bed and pretend you are ill.
When your father comes to see you, say to him, ‘Please let my sister Tamar
come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare it in my sight so I
may watch her and eat it from her hand.’ ”
6 So Amnon lay down and feigned illness. When the king came to see
him, Amnon said, “Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of
cakes in my sight, so that I may eat from her hand.”

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† **12:24 12:24** Qere; Ketiv *he*; or *they* ‡ **12:25 12:25** Or *because the LORD loved him; Jedidiah* means *beloved of the LORD* § **12:27 12:27** Or *and have captured the water supply of the city* * **12:30 12:30** Or *from the head of Milcom.* Milcom, also called Molech, was god of the Ammonites; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7. † **12:30 12:30** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold. ‡ **12:31 12:31** Literally *put them under saws* § **12:31 12:31** Qere; Ketiv *Malken*, perhaps *their king* or *Molech* * **12:31 12:31** Literally *and he made them pass through the brick kilns.* * **13:3 13:3** *Shimeah* is a variant of *Shammah*, *Shimea*, and *Shimei*; see 1 Samuel 16:9, 2 Samuel 21:21, and 1 Chronicles 2:13.

7 Then David sent word to Tamar at the palace: “Please go to the house
of Amnon your brother and prepare a meal for him.”
8 So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying
down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and
baked them.
9 Then she brought the pan and set it down before him, but he refused
to eat. “Send everyone away!” said Amnon. And everyone went out.
10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the food into the bedroom, so that I
may eat it from your hand.”
Tamar took the cakes she had made and went to her brother Amnon’s
bedroom.
11 And when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her
and said, “Come lie with me, my sister!”
12 “No, my brother!” she cried. “Do not violate me, for such a thing
should never be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing!
13 Where could I ever take my shame? And you would be like one of the
fools in Israel! Please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from
you.”
14 But Amnon refused to listen to her, and being stronger, he violated her
and lay with her.
15 Then Amnon hated Tamar with such intensity that his hatred was
greater than the love he previously had. “Get up!” he said to her. “Be gone!”
16 “No,” she replied, “sending me away is worse than this great wrong
you have already done to me!”
But he refused to listen to her.
17 Instead, he called to his attendant and said, “Throw this woman out
and bolt the door behind her!”
18 So Amnon’s attendant threw her out and bolted the door behind her.
Now Tamar was wearing a robe of many colors,† because this is what the
king’s virgin daughters wore.
19 And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the robe of many colors
she was wearing. And putting her hand on her head, she went away
crying aloud.
20 Her brother Absalom said to her, “Has your brother Amnon been with
you? Be quiet for now, my sister. He is your brother. Do not take this thing
to heart.”
So Tamar lived as a desolate woman in the house of her brother
Absalom.
21 When King David heard all this, he was furious.‡
22 And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad,
because he hated Amnon for violating his sister Tamar.
23 Two years later, when Absalom’s sheepshearers were at Baal-hazor
near Ephraim, he invited all the sons of the king.
24 And he went to the king and said, “Your servant has just hired
shearers. Will the king and his servants please come with me?”
25 “No, my son,” the king replied, “we should not all go, or we would be a
burden to you.” Although Absalom urged him, he was not willing to go,
but gave him his blessing.
26 “If not,” said Absalom, “please let my brother Amnon go with us.”
“Why should he go with you?” the king asked.

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† **13:18 13:18** Or *a robe with long sleeves*; see also Genesis 37:3. ‡ **13:21 13:21** DSS and LXX include *But he would not punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, since he was his firstborn.*

27 But Absalom urged him, so the king sent Amnon and the rest of his sons.§
28 Now Absalom had ordered his young men, “Watch Amnon until his heart is merry with wine, and when I order you to strike Amnon down, you are to kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant!”
29 So Absalom’s young men did to Amnon just as Absalom had ordered. Then all the other sons of the king got up, and each one fled on his mule.
30 While they were on the way, a report reached David: “Absalom has struck down all the sons of the king; not one of them is left!”
31 Then the king stood up, tore his clothes, and lay down on the ground. And all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.
32 But Jonadab, the son of David’s brother Shimeah, spoke up: “My lord must not think they have killed all the sons of the king, for only Amnon is dead. In fact, Absalom has planned this since the day Amnon violated his sister Tamar.
33 So now, my lord the king, do not take to heart the report that all the sons of the king are dead. Only Amnon is dead.”
34 Meanwhile, Absalom had fled. When the young man standing watch looked up, he saw many people coming down the road behind him,* along the side of the hill.†
35 So Jonadab said to the king, “Look, the sons of the king have arrived! It is just as your servant said.”
36 And as he finished speaking, the sons of the king came in, wailing loudly. Then the king and all his servants also wept very bitterly.
37 Now Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud,‡ the king of Geshur. But David mourned for his son every day.
38 After Absalom had fled and gone to Geshur, he stayed there three years.
39 And King David§ longed to go to Absalom,* for he had been consoled over Amnon’s death.

14

1 Now Joab son of Zeruiah perceived that the king’s heart longed for Absalom.
2 So Joab sent to Tekoa to bring a wise woman from there. He told her, “Please pretend to be a mourner; put on clothes for mourning and do not anoint yourself with oil. Act like a woman who has mourned for the dead a long time.
3 Then go to the king and speak these words to him.” And Joab put the words in her mouth.
4 When the woman from Tekoa spoke to the king,* she fell facedown in homage and said, “Help me, O king!”
5 “What troubles you?” the king asked her.
“Indeed,” she said, “I am a widow, for my husband is dead.
6 And your maidservant had two sons who were fighting in the field with no one to separate them, and one struck the other and killed him.

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§ **13:27 13:27** LXX and Vulgate include *And Absalom prepared a feast fit for a king.* * **13:34 13:34** Or *west of him* † **13:34 13:34** LXX adds *And the watchman went and reported to the king, “I see men coming from the direction of Horonaim, along the side of the hill.”* ‡ **13:37 13:37** Qere; Ketiv *Ammihur* § **13:39 13:39** DSS and LXX *And the spirit of the king* * **13:39 13:39** Or *ceased to go out after Absalom* * **14:4 14:4** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many manuscripts and editions *came*

7 Now the whole clan has risen up against your maidservant and said,
‘Hand over the one who struck down his brother, that we may put him to
death for the life of the brother whom he killed. Then we will cut off the
heir as well!’ So they would extinguish my one remaining ember by not
preserving my husband’s name or posterity on the earth.”
8 “Go home,” the king said to the woman, “and I will give orders on your
behalf.”
9 But the woman of Tekoa said to the king, “My lord the king, may any
blame be on me and on my father’s house, and may the king and his
throne be guiltless.”
10 “If anyone speaks to you,” said the king, “bring him to me, and he will
not trouble you again!”
11 “Please,” she replied, “may the king invoke the LORD your God to
prevent the avenger of blood from increasing the devastation, so that my
son may not be destroyed!”
“As surely as the LORD lives,” he vowed, “not a hair of your son’s head
will fall to the ground.”
12 Then the woman said, “Please, may your servant speak a word to my
lord the king?”
“Speak,” he replied.
13 The woman asked, “Why have you devised a thing like this against the
people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, since
he has not brought back his own banished son?
14 For we will surely die and be like water poured out on the ground,
which cannot be recovered. Yet God does not take away a life, but he
devises ways that the banished one may not be cast out from him.
15 Now therefore, I have come to present this matter to my lord the king
because the people have made me afraid. Your servant thought, ‘I will
speak to the king. Perhaps he will grant the request of his maidservant.
16 For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of
the man who would cut off both me and my son from God’s inheritance.’
17 And now your servant says, ‘May the word of my lord the king bring
me rest, for my lord the king is able to discern good and evil, just like the
angel of God. May the LORD your God be with you.’ ”
18 Then the king said to the woman, “I am going to ask you something;
do not conceal it from me!”
“Let my lord the king speak,” she replied.
19 So the king asked, “Is the hand of Joab behind all this?”
The woman answered, “As surely as you live, my lord the king, no one
can turn to the right or to the left from anything that my lord the king
says. Yes, your servant Joab is the one who gave me orders; he told your
maidservant exactly what to say.
20 Joab your servant has done this to bring about this change of affairs,
but my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know
everything that happens in the land.”
21 Then the king said to Joab, “I hereby grant this request. Go, bring back
the young man Absalom.”
22 Joab fell facedown in homage and blessed the king. “Today,” said Joab,
“your servant knows that he has found favor in your eyes, my lord the
king, because the king has granted his request.”†

† **14:22 14:22** Ketiv; Qere *the request of your servant*

23 So Joab got up, went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.
24 But the king added, “He may return to his house, but he must not see
my face.” So Absalom returned to his own house, but he did not see the
face of the king.
25 Now there was not a man in all Israel as handsome and highly praised
as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the top of his head, he did not
have a single flaw.
26 And when he cut the hair of his head—he shaved it every year
because his hair got so heavy—he would weigh it out to be two hundred
shekels,‡ according to the royal standard.
27 Three sons were born to Absalom, and a daughter named Tamar, who
was a beautiful woman.
28 Now Absalom lived in Jerusalem two years without seeing the face of
the king.
29 Then he sent for Joab to send him to the king, but Joab refused to
come to him.
So Absalom sent a second time, but Joab still would not come.
30 Then Absalom said to his servants, “Look, Joab’s field is next to mine,
and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire!§”
And Absalom’s servants set the field on fire.*
31 Then Joab came to Absalom’s house and demanded, “Why did your
servants set my field on fire?”
32 “Look,” said Absalom, “I sent for you and said, ‘Come here. I want to
send you to the king to ask: Why have I come back from Geshur? It would
be better for me if I were still there.’ So now, let me see the king’s face,
and if there is iniquity in me, let him kill me.”
33 So Joab went and told the king, and David summoned Absalom, who
came to him and bowed facedown before him. Then the king kissed
Absalom.

15

1 Some time later, Absalom provided for himself a chariot with horses
and fifty men to run ahead of him.
2 He would get up early and stand beside the road leading to the city
gate.
Whenever anyone had a grievance to bring before the king for a
decision, Absalom would call out and ask, “What city are you from?” And
if he replied, “Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel,”
3 Absalom would say, “Look, your claims are good and right, but the king
has no deputy to hear you.”
4 And he would add, “If only someone would appoint me judge in the
land, then everyone with a grievance or dispute could come to me, and I
would give him justice.”
5 Also, when anyone approached to bow down to him, Absalom would
reach out his hand, take hold of him, and kiss him.
6 Absalom did this to all the Israelites who came to the king for justice.
In this way he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

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‡ **14:26 14:26** *200 shekels* is approximately 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of hair. § **14:30 14:30** Qere; Ketiv possibly *I will set it on fire* * **14:30 14:30** LXX includes *So the servants of Joab came to him with their clothes torn and said to him, “The servants of Absalom have set your field on fire.”*

7 After forty* years had passed, Absalom said to the king, “Please let me
go to Hebron to fulfill a vow I have made to the LORD.
8 For your servant made a vow while dwelling in Geshur of Aram,
saying: ‘If indeed the LORD brings me back to Jerusalem, I will worship
the LORD.’†”
9 “Go in peace,” said the king. So Absalom got up and went to Hebron.
10 Then Absalom sent spies throughout the tribes of Israel with this
message: “When you hear the sound of the horn, you are to say, ‘Absalom
reigns in Hebron!’ ”
11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem accompanied Absalom. They had
been invited as guests and they went along innocently, for they knew
nothing about the matter.
12 While Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the
Gilonite, David’s counselor, to come from his hometown of Giloh.
So the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom’s following kept
increasing.
13 Then a messenger came to David and reported, “The hearts of the men
of Israel are with Absalom.”
14 And David said to all the servants with him in Jerusalem, “Arise and let
us flee, or we will not escape from Absalom! We must leave quickly, or he
will soon overtake us, heap disaster on us, and put the city to the sword.”
15 The king’s servants replied, “Whatever our lord the king decides, we
are your servants.”
16 Then the king set out, and his entire household followed him. But he
left behind ten concubines to take care of the palace.
17 So the king set out with all the people following him. He stopped at
the last house,
18 and all his servants marched past him—all the Cherethites and
Pelethites, and six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath.
19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why should you also go with
us? Go back and stay with the new king, since you are both a foreigner
and an exile from your homeland.
20 In fact, you arrived only yesterday; should I make you wander around
with us today while I do not know where I am going? Go back and take
your brothers with you. May loving devotion and faithfulness be with
you.‡”
21 But Ittai answered the king, “As surely as the LORD lives, and as my
lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means
life or death, there will your servant be!”
22 “March on then,” said David to Ittai. So Ittai the Gittite marched past
with all his men and all the little ones who were with him.
23 Everyone in the countryside was weeping loudly as all the people
passed by. And as the king crossed the Kidron Valley, all the people also
passed toward the way of the wilderness.
24 Zadok was also there, and all the Levites with him were carrying the
ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and
Abiathar went up§ until all the people had passed out of the city.

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* **15:7 15:7** Syriac and some LXX manuscripts *four* † **15:8 15:8** Some LXX manuscripts add *in Hebron* ‡ **15:20 15:20** LXX *May the LORD show you loving devotion and faithfulness* § **15:24 15:24** Or *Abiathar offered sacrifices*

25 Then the king said to Zadok, “Return the ark of God to the city. If I find
favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it
and his dwelling place again.
26 But if he should say, ‘I do not delight in you,’ then here I am; let him
do to me whatever seems good to him.”
27 The king also said to Zadok the priest, “Are you not a seer?* Return to
the city in peace—you with your son Ahimaaz, and Abiathar with his son
Jonathan.†
28 See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness‡ until word comes from
you to inform me.”
29 So Zadok and Abiathar returned the ark of God to Jerusalem and
stayed there.
30 But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went up.
His head was covered, and he was walking barefoot. And all the people
with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went.
31 Now someone told David: “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with
Absalom.”
So David pleaded, “O LORD, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into
foolishness!”
32 When David came to the summit, where he used to worship God,
Hushai the Archite was there to meet him with his robe torn and dust on
his head.
33 David said to him, “If you go on with me, you will be a burden to me.
34 But you can thwart the counsel of Ahithophel for me if you return to
the city and say to Absalom: ‘I will be your servant, my king; in the past I
was your father’s servant, but now I will be your servant.’
35 Will not Zadok and Abiathar the priests be there with you? Report to
them everything you hear from the king’s palace.
36 Indeed, their two sons, Ahimaaz son of Zadok and Jonathan son of
Abiathar, are there with them. Send them to me with everything you hear.”
37 So David’s friend Hushai arrived in Jerusalem just as Absalom was
entering the city.

16

1 When David had gone a little beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of
Mephibosheth was there to meet him. He had a pair of saddled donkeys
loaded with two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred clusters of raisins, a
hundred summer fruits, and a skin of wine.
2 “Why do you have these?” asked the king.
Ziba replied, “The donkeys are for the king’s household to ride, the
bread and summer fruit are for the young men to eat, and the wine is to
refresh those who become exhausted in the wilderness.”
3 “Where is your master’s grandson?” asked the king.
And Ziba answered, “Indeed, he is staying in Jerusalem, for he has said,
‘Today, the house of Israel will restore to me the kingdom of my
grandfather.’ ”
4 So the king said to Ziba, “All that belongs to Mephibosheth is now
yours!”
“I humbly bow before you,” said Ziba. “May I find favor in your eyes, my
lord the king!”

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* **15:27 15:27** LXX *Behold,* † **15:27 15:27** Literally *your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar, your two sons with you* ‡ **15:28 15:28** Qere; Ketiv *at the fords*

5 As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the family of the
house of Saul was just coming out. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and
as he approached, he kept yelling out curses.
6 He threw stones at David and at all the servants of the king, though the
troops and all the mighty men were on David's right and left.
7 And as he yelled curses, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you worthless
man of bloodshed!
8 The LORD has paid you back for all the blood of the house of Saul, in
whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has delivered the kingdom
into the hand of your son Absalom. See, you have come to ruin because
you are a man of bloodshed!"
9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead
dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head!"
10 But the king replied, "What have I to do with you, O sons of Zeruiah?
Let him curse,* for† the LORD told him, 'Curse David,' and who can ask,
'Why did you do this?' "
11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own
son, my own flesh and blood, seeks my life. How much more, then, this
Benjamite! Leave him alone and let him curse me, for the LORD has told
him so.
12 Perhaps the LORD will see my affliction and repay me with good for
the cursing I receive today."
13 So David and his men proceeded along the road as Shimei went along
the ridge of the hill opposite him. As Shimei went, he yelled curses, threw
stones, and flung dust at David.
14 Finally, the king and all the people with him arrived,‡ exhausted. And
there he refreshed himself.
15 Then Absalom and all the men of Israel came to Jerusalem, and
Ahithophel was with him.
16 And David's friend Hushai the Archite went to Absalom and said to
him, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"
17 "Is this the loyalty you show your friend?" Absalom replied. "Why did
you not go with your friend?"
18 "Not at all," Hushai answered. "For the one chosen by the LORD, by
this people, and by all the men of Israel—his§ I will be, and with him I will
remain.
19 Furthermore, whom should I serve if not his son? As I served in your
father's presence, so also I will serve in yours."
20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give me counsel. What should we
do?"
21 Ahithophel replied, "Sleep with your father's concubines, whom he
has left to take care of the palace. When all Israel hears that you have
become a stench to your father, then the hands of all who are with you
will be strengthened."
22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he slept with his
father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.
23 Now in those days the advice of Ahithophel was like the consultation
of the word of God. Such was the regard that both David and Absalom had
for Ahithophel's advice.

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* **16:10 16:10** Qere; Ketiv *If he curses* † **16:10 16:10** Qere; Ketiv *and if* ‡ **16:14 16:14** Some LXX manuscripts *arrived at the Jordan* § **16:18 16:18** Qere; Ketiv *not*

17

1 Furthermore, Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Let me choose twelve
thousand men and set out tonight in pursuit of David.
2 I will attack him while he is weak and weary; I will throw him into a
panic, and all the people with him will flee; I will strike down only the king
3 and bring all the people back to you. When everyone returns except
the man you seek,* then all the people will be at peace.”
4 This proposal seemed good to Absalom and all the elders of Israel.
5 Then Absalom said, “Summon Hushai the Archite as well, and let us
hear what he too has to say.”
6 So Hushai came to Absalom, who told him, “Ahithophel has spoken this
proposal. Should we carry it out? If not, what do you say?”
7 Hushai replied, “This time the advice of Ahithophel is not sound.”
8 He continued, “You know your father and his men. They are mighty
men, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs. Moreover, your
father is a man of war who will not spend the night with the troops.
9 Surely by now he is hiding in a cave or some other location. If some of
your troops fall first,† whoever hears of it will say, ‘There has been a
slaughter among the troops who follow Absalom.’
10 Then even the most valiant soldier with the heart of a lion will melt
with fear, because all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man who
has valiant men with him.
11 Instead, I advise that all Israel from Dan to Beersheba—a multitude
like the sand on the seashore—be gathered to you, and that you yourself
lead them into battle.
12 Then we will attack David wherever we find him, and we will descend
on him like dew on the ground. And of all the men with him, not even one
will remain.
13 If he retreats to a city, all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we
will drag it down to the valley until not even a pebble can be found there.”
14 Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai
the Archite is better than that of Ahithophel.” For the LORD had purposed
to thwart the good counsel of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on
Absalom.
15 So Hushai told Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, “This is what
Ahithophel has advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and this is what I
have advised.
16 Now send quickly and tell David, ‘Do not spend the night at the fords
of the wilderness, but be sure to cross over. Otherwise the king and all the
people with him will be swallowed up.’ ”
17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at En-rogel, where a servant
girl would come and pass along information to them. They in turn would
go and inform King David, for they dared not be seen entering the city.
18 But a young man did see them and told Absalom. So the two left
quickly and came to the house of a man in Bahurim. He had a well in his
courtyard, and they climbed down into it.
19 Then the man’s wife took a covering, spread it over the mouth of the
well, and scattered grain over it so nobody would know a thing.
20 When Absalom’s servants came to the woman at the house, they
asked, “Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?”

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* **17:3 17:3** LXX (see also DSS) *and bring all the people back to you as a bride returning to her husband. You seek the life of only one man;* † **17:9 17:9** Or *If he should attack your troops first*

"They have crossed over the brook," she replied. The men searched but did not find them, so they returned to Jerusalem.
21 After the men had gone, Ahimaaz and Jonathan climbed up out of the well and went to inform King David, saying, "Get up and cross over the river at once, for Ahithophel has given this advice against you."
22 So David and all the people with him got up and crossed the Jordan. By daybreak, there was no one left who had not crossed the Jordan.
23 When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his house in his hometown. He put his affairs in order and hanged himself. So he died and was buried in his father's tomb.
24 Then David went to Mahanaim, and Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel.
25 Absalom had appointed Amasa over the army in place of Joab. Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra,‡ the Israelite§ who had married Abigal,* the daughter of Nahash† and sister of Zeruiah the mother of Joab.
26 So the Israelites and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.
27 When David came to Mahanaim, he was met by Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, Machir son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim.
28 They brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, as well as wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils, roasted seeds,‡
29 honey, curds, sheep, and cheese from the herd for David and his people to eat. For they said, "The people have become hungry, exhausted, and thirsty in the wilderness."

18

1 Then David reviewed his troops and appointed over them commanders of thousands and of hundreds.
2 He sent out the troops, a third under Joab, a third under Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruiah, and a third under Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the troops, "I will surely march out with you as well."
3 But the people pleaded, "You must not go out! For if we have to flee, they will not care about us. Even if half of us die, they will not care. For now there are ten thousand like us.* It is better now if you support us from the city."
4 "I will do whatever seems best to you," the king replied. So he stood beside the gate, while all the troops marched out by hundreds and by thousands.
5 Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, "Treat the young man Absalom gently for my sake." And all the people heard the king's orders to each of the commanders regarding Absalom.
6 So David's army marched into the field to engage Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim.
7 There the people of Israel were defeated by David's servants, and the slaughter was great that day—twenty thousand men.

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‡ **17:25 17:25** *Ithra* is a variant of *Jether*; see 1 Kings 2:5. § **17:25 17:25** MT and other LXX manuscripts; some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 2:17) *Ishmaelite* * **17:25 17:25** *Abigal* is a variant of *Abigail* † **17:25 17:25** DSS (see also 1 Chronicles 2:13–16) *of Jesse* ‡ **17:28 17:28** Most LXX manuscripts and Syriac omit *roasted seeds* * **18:3 18:3** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; two Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Vulgate *But you are worth ten thousand of us*

8 The battle spread over the whole countryside, and that day the forest
devoured more people than the sword.
9 Now Absalom was riding on his mule when he met the servants of
David, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large
terebinth,† Absalom's head was caught fast in the tree. The mule under
him kept going, so that he was suspended in midair.
10 When one of the men saw this, he told Joab, "I just saw Absalom
hanging in a terebinth!"
11 "You just saw him!" Joab exclaimed. "Why did you not strike him to
the ground right there? I would have given you ten shekels of silver‡ and a
warrior's belt!"
12 The man replied, "Even if a thousand shekels of silver§ were weighed
out into my hands, I would not raise my hand against the son of the king.
For we heard the king command you and Abishai and Ittai, 'Whoever you
may be, protect the young man Absalom.'*
13 If I had jeopardized my own life†—and nothing is hidden from the
king—you would have abandoned me."
14 But Joab declared, "I am not going to wait like this with you!" And he
took three spears in his hand and thrust them through the heart of
Absalom while he was still alive in the terebinth tree.
15 And ten young men who carried Joab's armor surrounded Absalom,
struck him, and killed him.
16 Then Joab blew the ram's horn, and the troops broke off their pursuit
of Israel because Joab had restrained them.
17 They took Absalom, cast him into a large pit in the forest, and piled a
huge mound of stones over him. Meanwhile, all the Israelites fled, each to
his home.
18 During his lifetime, Absalom had set up for himself a pillar in the
King's Valley, for he had said, "I have no son to preserve the memory of my
name." So he gave the pillar his name, and to this day it is called
Absalom's Monument.
19 Then Ahimaaz son of Zadok said, "Please let me run and tell the king
the good news that the LORD has avenged him of his enemies."
20 But Joab replied, "You are not the man to take good news today. You
may do it another day, but you must not do so today, because the king's
son is dead."
21 So Joab said to a Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The
Cushite bowed to Joab and took off running.
22 Ahimaaz son of Zadok, however, persisted and said to Joab, "No
matter what, please let me also run behind the Cushite!"
"My son," Joab replied, "why do you want to run, since you will not
receive a reward?"
23 "No matter what, I want to run!" he replied.
"Then run!" Joab told him.
So Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain‡ and outran the Cushite.

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† **18:9 18:9** Or *large oak* or *very great tree*; similarly in verses 10 and 14 ‡ **18:11 18:11** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams of silver. § **18:12 18:12** *1,000 shekels* is approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver. * **18:12 18:12** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts (or *Let no one touch the young man Absalom*); a few Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *Protect the young man Absalom for my sake* † **18:13 18:13** Qere; Ketiv *If I had dealt treacherously against his life* ‡ **18:23 18:23** That is, the plain of the Jordan

24 Now David was sitting between the two gates when the watchman
went up to the roof of the gateway by the wall, looked out, and saw a man
running alone.
25 So he called out and told the king.
"If he is alone," the king replied, "he bears good news."
As the first runner drew near,
26 the watchman saw another man running, and he called out to the
gatekeeper, "Look! Another man is running alone!"
"This one also brings good news," said the king.
27 The watchman said, "The first man appears to me to be running like
Ahimaaz son of Zadok."
"This is a good man," said the king. "He comes with good news."
28 Then Ahimaaz called out to the king, "All is well!" And he bowed
facedown before the king.
He continued, "Blessed be the LORD your God! He has delivered up the
men who raised their hands against my lord the king."
29 The king asked, "Is the young man Absalom all right?"
And Ahimaaz replied, "When Joab sent the king's servant and your
servant, I saw a great tumult, but I do not know what it was."
30 "Move aside," said the king, "and stand here."
So he stepped aside.
31 Just then the Cushite came and said, "May my lord the king hear the
good news: Today the LORD has avenged you of all who rose up against
you!"
32 The king asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom all right?"
And the Cushite replied, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all
who rise up against you to harm you be like that young man."

19

1 The king was shaken and went up to the chamber over the gate and
wept. And as he walked, he cried out, "O my son Absalom! My son, my son
Absalom! If only I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"
2 Then it was reported to Joab, "The king is weeping and mourning over
Absalom."
3 And that day's victory was turned into mourning for all the people,
because on that day they were told, "The king is grieving over his son."
4 So they returned to the city quietly that day, as people steal away in
humiliation after fleeing a battle.
5 But the king covered his face and cried out at the top of his voice, "O
my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"
6 Then Joab went into the house and said to the king, "Today you have
disgraced all your servants who have saved your life and the lives of your
sons and daughters, of your wives, and of your concubines.
7 You love those who hate you and hate those who love you! For you
have made it clear today that the commanders and soldiers mean nothing
to you. I know today that if* Absalom were alive and all of us were dead,
it would have pleased you!
8 Now therefore get up! Go out and speak comfort to your servants, for I
swear by the LORD that if you do not go out, not a man will remain with
you tonight. This will be worse for you than all the adversity that has
befallen you from your youth until now!"

* **19:7 19:7** Qere; Ketiv *not*

9 So the king got up and sat in the gate, and all the people were told:
“Behold, the king is sitting in the gate.” So they all came before the king.

Meanwhile, the Israelites had fled, each man to his home.
10 And all the people throughout the tribes of Israel were arguing, “The
king rescued us from the hand of our enemies and delivered us from the
hand of the Philistines, but now he has fled the land because of Absalom.
11 But Absalom, the man we anointed over us, has died in battle. So why
do you say nothing about restoring the king?”

12 Then King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests:
“Say to the elders of Judah, ‘Why should you be the last to restore the king
to his palace, since the talk of all Israel has reached the king at his
quarters?
13 You are my brothers, my own flesh and blood. So why should you be
the last to restore the king?’
14 And say to Amasa, ‘Aren’t you my flesh and blood? May God punish
me, and ever so severely, if from now on you are not the commander of
my army in place of Joab!’ ”

15 So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah as though they were
one man, and they sent word to the king: “Return, you and all your
servants.”
16 So the king returned, and when he arrived at the Jordan, the men of
Judah came to Gilgal to meet him and escort him across the Jordan.

17 Then Shimei son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, hurried down
with the men of Judah to meet King David,
18 along with a thousand men of Benjamin, as well as Ziba the steward
of the house of Saul and his fifteen sons and twenty servants.

They rushed down to the Jordan before the king
19 and crossed at the ford to carry over the king’s household and to do
what was good in his sight.

When Shimei son of Gera crossed the Jordan, he fell down before the
king
20 and said, “My lord, do not hold me guilty, and do not remember your
servant’s wrongdoing on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the
king not take it to heart.
21 For your servant knows that I have sinned, so here I am today as the
first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king.”

22 But Abishai son of Zeruiah said, “Shouldn’t Shimei be put to death for
this, because he cursed the LORD’s anointed?”

23 And David replied, “Sons of Zeruiah, what have I to do with you, that
you should be my adversaries today? Should any man be put to death in
Israel today? Am I not indeed aware that today I am king over Israel?”

24 So the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” And the king swore an
oath to him.
25 Then Mephibosheth, Saul’s grandson, went down to meet the king. He
had not cared for his feet or trimmed his mustache or washed his clothes
from the day the king had left until the day he returned safely.
26 When he came to Jerusalem† to meet the king, the king asked him,
“Mephibosheth, why did you not go with me?”

† **19:26 19:26** Hebrew *came Jerusalem*; often understood as *came from Jerusalem*

27 “My lord the king,” he replied, “because I am lame, I said, ‘I will saddle
a donkey for myself‡ so that I may ride on it and go with the king.’ But my
servant Ziba deceived me,
28 and he has slandered your servant to my lord the king.
Yet my lord the king is like the angel of God, so do what is good in your
eyes.
29 For all the house of my grandfather deserves death from my lord the
king, yet you have set your servant among those who eat at your table.
What further right, then, do I have to keep appealing to the king?”
30 The king replied, “Why say any more? I hereby declare that you and
Ziba are to divide the land.”
31 And Mephibosheth said to the king, “Instead, since my lord the king
has safely come to his own house, let Ziba take it all!”
32 Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim to cross the
Jordan with the king and send him on his way from there.
33 Barzillai was quite old, eighty years of age, and since he was a very
wealthy man, he had provided for the king while he stayed in Mahanaim.
34 The king said to Barzillai, “Cross over with me, and I will provide for
you at my side in Jerusalem.”
35 But Barzillai replied, “How many years of my life remain, that I should
go up to Jerusalem with the king?
36 I am now eighty years old. Can I discern what is good and what is
not? Can your servant taste what he eats or drinks? Can I still hear the
voice of singing men and women? Why should your servant be an added
burden to my lord the king?
37 Your servant will go with the king only a short distance past the
Jordan; why should the king repay me with such a reward?
38 Please let your servant return, that I may die in my own city near the
tomb of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham. Let
him cross over with my lord the king, and do for him what is good in your
sight.”
39 The king replied, “Chimham will cross over with me, and I will do for
him what is good in your sight, and I will do for you whatever you desire
of me.”
40 So all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the king crossed over.
The king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and Barzillai returned home.
41 Then the king crossed over to Gilgal, and Chimham crossed over with
him. All the troops of Judah and half the troops of Israel escorted the
king.§
42 Soon all the men of Israel came to the king and asked, “Why did our
brothers, the men of Judah, take you away secretly and bring the king and
his household across the Jordan, together with all of David’s men?”
43 And all the men of Judah replied to the men of Israel, “We did this
because the king is our relative. Why does this anger you? Have we ever
eaten at the king’s expense or received anything for ourselves?”
44 “We have ten shares in the king,” answered the men of Israel, “so we
have more claim to David than you. Why then do you despise us? Were
we not the first to speak of restoring our king?”
But the men of Judah spoke more fiercely than the men of Israel.

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‡ **19:27 19:27** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Saddle a donkey for me*
§ **19:41 19:41** Qere; Ketiv *crossed over with the king*

20

1 Now a worthless man named Sheba son of Bichri, a Benjamite,
happened to be there, and he blew the ram's horn and shouted:

"We have no share in David,
no inheritance in Jesse's son.
Every man to his tent,
O Israel!"
2 So all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba son of Bichri.
But the men of Judah stayed by their king all the way from the Jordan to
Jerusalem.
3 When David returned to his palace in Jerusalem, he took the ten
concubines he had left to take care of the palace, and he placed them in a
house under guard. He provided for them, but he no longer slept with
them. They were confined until the day of their death, living as widows.
4 Then the king said to Amasa, "Summon the men of Judah to come to
me within three days, and be here yourself."
5 So Amasa went to summon Judah, but he took longer than the time
allotted him.
6 And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us
more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, or
he will find fortified cities and elude us.*"
7 So Joab's men, along with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the
mighty men, marched out of Jerusalem in pursuit of Sheba son of Bichri.
8 And while they were at the great stone in Gibeon, Amasa joined them.
Now Joab was dressed in military attire, and over it was a belt around
his waist with a dagger in its sheath. And as he stepped forward, it fell
out.†
9 "Are you well, my brother?" Joab asked Amasa. And with his right
hand Joab grabbed Amasa by the beard to kiss him.
10 Amasa was not on guard against the dagger in Joab's hand, and Joab
stabbed him in the stomach and spilled out his intestines on the ground.
And Joab did not need to strike him again, for Amasa was dead. Then Joab
and his brother Abishai pursued Sheba son of Bichri.
11 One of Joab's young men stood near Amasa and said, "Whoever favors
Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab!"
12 But Amasa wallowed in his blood in the middle of the road, and when
the man saw that all the troops were stopping there, he dragged the body
off the road into a field and threw a garment over it.
13 As soon as Amasa's body was removed from the road, all the men
went on with Joab to pursue Sheba son of Bichri.
14 Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth-maacah‡
and through the entire region of the Berites,§ who gathered together and
followed him.
15 And Joab's troops came and besieged Sheba in Abel-beth-maacah and
built a siege ramp against the outer rampart of the city.
As all the troops with Joab were battering the wall to topple it,
16 a wise woman called out from the city, "Listen! Listen! Please tell Joab
to come here so that I may speak with him."

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* **20:6 20:6** Or *and snatch away our eyes* or *and do us serious harm* † **20:8 20:8** Or *Now Joab was dressed in military attire, with a dagger strapped to his belt. And as he stepped forward, he slipped the dagger from its sheath.* ‡ **20:14 20:14** Or *Abel-beth-maacah*, as in verse 15 § **20:14 20:14** LXX and Vulgate *Bicrites*

17 When he had come near to her, the woman asked, “Are you Joab?”
“I am,” he replied.
“Listen to the words of your servant,” she said.
“I am listening,” he answered.
18 Then the woman said, “Long ago they used to say, ‘Seek counsel at
Abel,’ and that is how disputes were settled.
19 I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel, but you are trying to
destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the
LORD's inheritance?”
20 “Far be it!” Joab declared. “Far be it from me to swallow up or destroy!
21 That is not the case. But a man named Sheba son of Bichri, from the
hill country of Ephraim, has lifted up his hand against the king, against
David. Deliver him alone, and I will depart from the city.”
“Look,” the woman replied, “his head will be thrown to you over the
wall.”
22 Then the woman went to all the people with her wise counsel, and
they cut off the head of Sheba son of Bichri and threw it to Joab. So he
blew the ram’s horn and his men dispersed from the city, each to his own
home. And Joab returned to the king in Jerusalem.
23 Now Joab was over the whole army of Israel; Benaiah son of Jehoiada
was over the Cherethites* and Pelethites;
24 Adoram† was in charge of the forced labor; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud
was the recorder;
25 Sheva‡ was the scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were priests;
26 and Ira the Jairite§ was David’s priest.

21

1 During the reign of David there was a famine for three successive
years, and David sought the face of the LORD.
And the LORD said, “It is because of the blood shed by Saul and his
family, because he killed the Gibeonites.”
2 At this, David summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the
Gibeonites were not Israelites, but a remnant of the Amorites. The
Israelites had taken an oath concerning them, but in his zeal for Israel and
Judah, Saul had sought to kill them.)
3 So David asked the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? How can I
make amends so that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?”
4 The Gibeonites said to him, “We need* no silver or gold from Saul or
his house, nor should you put to death anyone in Israel for us.”
“Whatever you ask, I will do for you,” he replied.
5 And they answered the king, “As for the man who consumed us and
plotted against us to exterminate us from existing within any border of
Israel,
6 let seven of his male descendants be delivered to us so that we may
impale them† before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD.”
“I will give them to you,” said the king.

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* **20:23 20:23** Qere; Ketiv *Carites* † **20:24 20:24** *Adoram* is a variant of *Adoniram* and *Hadoram*; see 1 Kings 4:6 and 2 Chronicles 10:18. ‡ **20:25 20:25** *Sheva* is also called *Seraiah*, *Shisha*, and *Shavsha*; see 2 Samuel 8:17, 1 Kings 4:3, and 1 Chronicles 18:16. § **20:26 20:26** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Ithrite*; see 2 Samuel 23:38. * **21:4 21:4** Qere; Ketiv *I need* † **21:6 21:6** Or *expose them* or *execute them* or *hang them*; similarly in verse 9

7 Now the king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul,
because of the oath before the LORD between David and Jonathan son of
Saul.
8 But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons whom
Rizpah daughter of Aiah had borne to Saul, as well as the five sons whom
Michal‡ daughter of Saul had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the
Meholathite.
9 And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they
impaled them on the hill before the LORD. So all seven of them§ fell
together; they were put to death in the first days of the harvest, at the
beginning of the barley harvest.
10 And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for
herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest until the rain from
heaven poured down on the bodies, she did not allow the birds of the air
to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.
11 When David was told what Saul's concubine Rizpah, daughter of Aiah,
had done,
12 he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the
men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of
Beth-shan where the Philistines had hung the bodies after they had struck
down Saul at Gilboa.
13 So David had the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan brought from
there, and they also gathered the bones of those who had been impaled.
14 And they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in Zela in the
land of Benjamin, in the tomb of Saul's father Kish.
After they had done everything the king had commanded, God
answered their prayers for the land.
15 Once again the Philistines waged war against Israel, and David and
his servants went down and fought against the Philistines. But David
became exhausted.
16 Then Ishbi-benob,* a descendant of Rapha,† whose bronze spear
weighed three hundred shekels‡ and who was bearing a new sword,
resolved to kill David.
17 But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to his aid, struck the Philistine, and
killed him.
Then David's men swore to him, "You must never again go out with us to
battle, so that the lamp of Israel may not be extinguished."
18 Some time later at Gob, there was another battle with the Philistines.
At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph,§ a descendant of Rapha.
19 Once again there was a battle with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan
son of Jaare-oregim* the Bethlehemite killed Goliath† the Gittite, the shaft
of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.
20 And there was also a battle at Gath, where there was a man of great
stature with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each
foot—twenty-four in all. He too was descended from Rapha,

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‡ **21:8 21:8** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew and LXX manuscripts; two Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also 1 Samuel 18:19) *Merab* § **21:9 21:9** Qere; Ketiv *sevenfold* * **21:16 21:16** Qere; Ketiv *they stayed in Nob* † **21:16 21:16** Or *the giant*; also in verses 18, 20, and 22 ‡ **21:16 21:16** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms. § **21:18 21:18** *Saph* is a variant of *Sippai*; see 1 Chronicles 20:4. * **21:19 21:19** See 1 Chronicles 20:5 *Jair* † **21:19 21:19** 1 Chronicles 20:5 *the brother of Goliath*

21 and when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of David's brother
Shimei‡ killed him.
22 So these four descendants of Rapha in Gath fell at the hands of David
and his servants.

22

1 And David sang this song to the LORD on the day the LORD had
delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.
2 He said:

"The LORD is my rock,
my fortress, and my deliverer.
3 My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my deliverance.
My stronghold, my refuge, and my Savior,
you save me from violence.
4 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
so shall I be saved from my enemies.

5 For the waves of death engulfed me;
the torrents of chaos overwhelmed me.
6 The cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
7 In my distress I called upon the LORD;
I cried out to my God.
And from his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry for help reached his ears.

8 Then the earth shook and quaked;
the foundations of the heavens* trembled;
they were shaken because he burned with anger.
9 Smoke rose from his nostrils,
and consuming fire came from his mouth;
glowing coals blazed forth.

10 He parted the heavens and came down
with dark clouds beneath his feet.
11 He mounted a cherub and flew;
he was seen† on the wings of the wind.
12 He made darkness a canopy around him,
a gathering of water and thick clouds of the sky.
13 From the brightness of his presence
coals of fire‡ blazed forth.

14 The LORD thundered from heaven;
the voice of the Most High resounded.
15 He shot his arrows and scattered the foes;
he hurled lightning and routed them.
16 The channels of the sea appeared,

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‡ **21:21 21:21** Ketiv; Qere *Shimeah*; *Shimei* is a variant of *Shammah* and *Shimea*; see 1 Samuel 16:9, 2 Samuel 13:3, and 1 Chronicles 2:13. * **22:8 22:8** Most Hebrew sources; Vulgate, Syriac, and two Hebrew manuscripts (see also Psalm 18:8) *mountains* † **22:11 22:11** Many Hebrew manuscripts (see also Psalm 18:11) *he soared* ‡ **22:13 22:13** Or *bolts of lightning*

and the foundations of the world were exposed
at the rebuke of the LORD,
at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

17 He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.
18 He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from foes too mighty for me.
19 They confronted me in my day of calamity,
but the LORD was my support.
20 He brought me out into the open;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

21 The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness;
he has repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands.
22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD
and have not wickedly departed from my God.
23 For all his ordinances§ are before me;
I have not disregarded his statutes.
24 And I have been blameless before him
and kept myself from iniquity.
25 So the LORD has repaid me according to my righteousness,
according to my cleanness in his sight.*

26 To the faithful you show yourself faithful,
to the blameless you show yourself blameless;
27 to the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
28 You save an afflicted people,
but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.

29 For you, O LORD, are my lamp;
the LORD lights up my darkness.
30 For in you I can charge an army;
with my God I can scale a wall.
31 As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD is flawless.
He is a shield to all
who take refuge in him.

32 For who is God besides the LORD?
And who is the Rock except our God?
33 God is my strong fortress,
and he makes my way† clear.
34 He makes my feet‡ like those of a deer
and stations me upon the heights.
35 He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

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§ **22:23 22:23** Qere; Ketiv *his ordinance* * **22:25 22:25** LXX and Vulgate (see also Psalm 18:25) *according to the cleanness of my hands* † **22:33 22:33** Qere; Ketiv *his way* ‡ **22:34 22:34** Qere; Ketiv *his feet*

36 You have given me your shield of deliverance,
and your help exalts me.§
37 You broaden the path beneath me
so that my ankles do not give way.
38 I pursued my enemies and destroyed them;
I did not turn back until they were consumed.
39 I devoured and crushed them so they could not rise;
they have fallen under my feet.

40 You have armed me with strength for battle;
you have subdued my foes beneath me.
41 You have made my enemies retreat before me;
I destroyed those who hated me.
42 They looked, but there was no one to save them—
to the LORD, but he did not answer.
43 I ground them as the dust of the earth;
I crushed and trampled them like mud in the streets.

44 You have delivered me from the strife of my people;
you have preserved me as the head of nations;
a people I had not known shall serve me.
45 Foreigners cower before me;
when they hear me, they obey me.
46 Foreigners lose heart
and arm themselves* from their strongholds.

47 The LORD lives, and blessed be my Rock!
And may God, the Rock of my deliverance, be exalted—
48 the God who avenges me
and brings down nations beneath me,
49 who frees me from my enemies.
You exalt me above my foes;
you rescue me from violent men.
50 Therefore I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations;
I will sing praises to your name.

51 Great victories he brings to his king.
He shows loving devotion to his anointed,
to David and his descendants forever."

23

1 These are the last words of David:

"The oracle of David son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man raised on high,
the one anointed by the God of Jacob,
and the hero of the songs of Israel:*

§ **22:36 22:36** Or *and your gentleness exalts me* or *and you stoop down to make me great* * **22:46 22:46** Some LXX manuscripts and Vulgate (see also Psalm 18:46) *and come trembling* * **23:1 23:1** Or *the sweet psalmist of Israel* or *the favorite of the Strong One of Israel*

2 The spirit of the LORD spoke through me;
his word was on my tongue.
3 The God of Israel spoke;
the Rock of Israel said to me,
'He who rules the people with justice,
who rules in the fear of God,
4 is like the light of the morning
at sunrise of a cloudless dawn,
the glistening after the rain
on the sprouting grass of the earth.'

5 Is not my house right with God?
For he has established with me
an everlasting covenant,
ordered and secured in every part.
Will he not bring about my full deliverance
and my every desire?

6 But the worthless are all like thorns raked aside,
for they can never be gathered by hand.
7 The man who touches them must be armed with iron
or with the shaft of a spear.
The fire burns them to ashes
in the place where they lie."
8 These are the names of David's mighty men:

Josheb-basshebeth the Tahchemonite† was chief among the captains.‡
He was Adino the Eznite,§ who went against eight hundred men,
whom he killed at one time.*
9 Next in command was Eleazar son of Dodo† the Ahohite. As one of the
three mighty men, he went with David to taunt the Philistines who
had gathered there for battle.‡ The men of Israel retreated,
10 but Eleazar stood his ground and struck the Philistines until his hand
grew weary and stuck to his sword. The LORD brought about a great
victory that day. Then the troops returned to him, but only to plunder the
dead.
11 And after him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the
Philistines had banded together near a field full of lentils, Israel's
troops fled from them.
12 But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field, defended it,
and struck down the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great
victory.
13 At harvest time, three§ of the thirty chief men went down to David at
the cave of Adullam, while a company of Philistines was encamped in the
Valley of Rephaim.
14 At that time David was in the stronghold, and the garrison of the
Philistines was at Bethlehem.

† **23:8 23:8** *Tahchemonite* is probably a variant of *Hachmonite*; see 1 Chronicles 11:11. ‡ **23:8 23:8** Or *chief of the Three* § **23:8 23:8** Qere; Ketiv *ha-Etsno* * **23:8 23:8** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 11:11) *he wielded his spear against eight hundred men* † **23:9 23:9** Qere; Ketiv *Dodai*; see 1 Chronicles 27:4. ‡ **23:9 23:9** Compare 1 Chronicles 11:13, *at Pas-dammim* § **23:13 23:13** Qere; Ketiv *thirty*

15 David longed for water and said, “Oh, that someone would get me a
drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!”
16 So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine camp, drew
water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem, and brought it back to
David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out to the LORD,
17 saying, “Far be it from me, O LORD, to do this! Is this not the blood of
the men who risked their lives?” So he refused to drink it.
Such were the exploits of the three mighty men.
18 Now Abishai, the brother of Joab and son of Zeruiah, was chief of the
Three,*† and he wielded his spear against three hundred men, killed them,
and won a name along with the Three.
19 Was he not more honored than the Three?‡ And he became their
commander, even though he was not included among the Three.
20 And Benaiah son of Jehoiada was a man of valor§ from Kabzeel, a
man of many exploits. He struck down two Ariels* of Moab, and on a
snowy day he went down into a pit and killed a lion.
21 He also struck down an Egyptian, a huge man. Although the Egyptian
had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club, snatched
the spear from his hand, and killed the Egyptian with his own spear.
22 These were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada, who won a name
along with the three mighty men.
23 He was most honored among the Thirty, but he did not become one of
the Three. And David appointed him over his guard.
24 Now these were members of the Thirty:†

Asahel the brother of Joab,
Elhanan son of Dodo of Bethlehem,
25 Shammah the Harodite,
Elika the Harodite,
26 Helez the Paltite,
Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,
27 Abiezer the Anathothite,
Mebunnai‡ the Hushathite,
28 Zalmon the Ahohite,
Maharai the Netophathite,
29 Heleb§ son of Baanah the Netophathite,
Ittai* son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjamites,
30 Benaiah the Pirathonite,
Hiddai† from the brooks‡ of Gaash,
31 Abi-albon the Arbathite,
Azmaveth the Barhumite,
32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite,
the sons of Jashen,§

* **23:18 23:18** Qere; Ketiv *the officer* † **23:18 23:18** Most Hebrew manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 11:20); two Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *the Thirty* ‡ **23:19 23:19** Syriac *the Thirty* § **23:20 23:20** Qere; Ketiv *Benaiah son of Jehoiada was the son of Ishhai* (or *of a living man*) * **23:20 23:20** Or *two champions*; LXX *the two sons of Ariel* † **23:24 23:24** Literally *In the Thirty (were):* ‡ **23:27 23:27** Some LXX manuscripts *Sibbecai*; see 2 Samuel 21:18 and 1 Chronicles 11:29. § **23:29 23:29** Leningrad Codex and most MT manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate (see also 1 Chronicles 11:30) *Heled* * **23:29 23:29** *Ittai* is a variant of *Ithai*; see 1 Chronicles 11:31. † **23:30 23:30** *Hiddai* is a variant of *Hurai*; see 1 Chronicles 11:32. ‡ **23:30 23:30** Or *from the ravines* § **23:32 23:32** *Jashen* is a variant of *Hashem*; see 1 Chronicles 11:34.

Jonathan,
33 Shammah* the Hararite,
Ahiam son of Sharar† the Hararite,
34 Eliphelet son of Ahasbai the Maacathite,
Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,
35 Hezrai the Carmelite,‡
Paarai the Arbite,
36 Igal son of Nathan of Zobah,
Bani the Gadite,
37 Zelek the Ammonite,
Naharai the Beerothite, the armor-bearer§ of Joab son of Zeruiah,
38 Ira the Ithrite,
Gareb the Ithrite,
39 and Uriah the Hittite.
There were thirty-seven in all.

24

1 Again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he stirred up
David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah."
2 So the king said to Joab the commander of his army, who was with
him,* "Go now throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and
register the troops, so that I may know their number."
3 But Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the
troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it.
But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?"
4 Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the
commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army
departed from the presence of the king to register the troops of Israel.
5 They crossed the Jordan and camped near Aroer, south of the town in
the middle of the valley, and proceeded toward Gad and Jazer.
6 Then they went to Gilead and the land of Tahtim-hodshi,† and on to
Dan-jaan and around to Sidon.
7 They went toward the fortress of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites
and Canaanites. Finally, they went on to the Negev of Judah,‡ to Beersheba.
8 At the end of nine months and twenty days, having gone through the
whole land, they returned to Jerusalem.
9 And Joab reported to the king the total number of the troops. In Israel
there were 800,000 men of valor who drew the sword, and in Judah there
were 500,000.
10 After David had numbered the troops, his conscience was stricken
and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now,
O LORD, I beg you to take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have
acted very foolishly."
11 When David got up in the morning, the word of the LORD had come to
Gad the prophet, David's seer:
12 "Go and tell David that this is what the LORD says: 'I am offering you
three options. Choose one of them, and I will carry it out against you.' "

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* **23:33 23:33** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 11:34) *Jonathan son of Shammah*
† **23:33 23:33** Some LXX manuscripts *Sachar*; see 1 Chronicles 11:35. ‡ **23:35 23:35** Qere; Ketiv *Hezro*
§ **23:37 23:37** Qere; Ketiv *armor-bearers* * **24:2 24:2** LXX *to Joab and the army commanders with him*
† **24:6 24:6** Some LXX manuscripts *to Gilead and to the land of the Hittites* ‡ **24:7 24:7** Or *to the south of Judah*

13 So Gad went and said to David, “Do you choose to endure seven§ years
of famine in your land, three months of fleeing the pursuit of your
enemies, or three days of plague upon your land? Now then, think it over
and decide how I should reply to him who sent me.”
14 David answered Gad, “I am deeply distressed. Please, let us fall into
the hand of the LORD, for his mercies are great; but do not let me fall into
the hands of men.”
15 So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from that morning until the
appointed time, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to
Beersheba died.*
16 But when the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the
LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was
destroying the people, “Enough! Withdraw your hand now!” At that time
the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah† the Jebusite.
17 When David saw the angel striking down the people, he said to the
LORD, “Surely I‡ have sinned and acted wickedly. But these sheep, what
have they done? Please, let your hand fall upon me and my father’s house.”
18 And that day Gad came to David and said to him, “Go up and build an
altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah§ the Jebusite.”
19 So David went up at the word of Gad, just as the LORD had
commanded.
20 When Araunah looked out and saw the king and his servants coming
toward him, he went out and bowed facedown before the king.
21 “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” Araunah said.
“To buy your threshing floor,” David replied, “that I may build an altar to
the LORD, so that the plague upon the people may be halted.”
22 Araunah said to David, “May my lord the king take whatever seems
good to him and offer it up. Here are the oxen for a burnt offering and the
threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood.
23 O king, Araunah gives all these to the king.” He also said to the king,
“May the LORD your God accept you.”
24 “No,” replied the king, “I insist on paying a price, for I will not offer to
the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”
So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of
silver.*
25 And there he built an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings
and peace offerings.
Then the LORD answered the prayers on behalf of the land, and the
plague upon Israel was halted.

§ **24:13 24:13** LXX (see also 1 Chronicles 21:12) *three* * **24:15 24:15** Literally *and of the people from Dan to Beersheba, seventy thousand men died* † **24:16 24:16** *Araunah* is a variant of *Ornan*; see 1 Chronicles 21:15 and 2 Chronicles 3:1. ‡ **24:17 24:17** DSS and LXX add *the shepherd* § **24:18 24:18** Qere; Ketiv *Araniah* * **24:24 24:24** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver.

1 Kings

1 Now King David was old and well along in years, and though they
covered him with blankets, he could not keep warm.
2 So his servants said to him, “Let us search for a young virgin for our
lord the king, to attend to him and care for him and lie by his side to keep
him warm.”
3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl, and they
found Abishag the Shunammite and brought her to the king.
4 The girl was unsurpassed in beauty; she cared for the king and served
him, but he had no relations with her.
5 At that time Adonijah, David’s son by Haggith, began to exalt himself,
saying, “I will be king!” And he acquired chariots and horsemen and fifty
men to run ahead of him.
6 (his father had never once reprimanded him by saying, “Why do you
act this way?” Adonijah was also very handsome, born next after
Absalom.)
7 So Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the
priest, who supported him.
8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet,
Shimei, Rei, and David’s mighty men would not join Adonijah.
9 And Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened calves near the
stone of Zoheleth,* which is next to En-rogel. He invited all his royal
brothers and all the men of Judah who were servants of the king.
10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or
his brother Solomon.
11 Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, “Have you not
heard that Adonijah son of Haggith has become king, and our lord David
does not know it?
12 Now please, come and let me advise you. Save your own life and the
life of your son Solomon.
13 Go at once to King David and say, ‘My lord the king, did you not swear
to your maidservant, “Surely your son Solomon will reign after me, and he
will sit on my throne”? Why then has Adonijah become king?’
14 Then, while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in
after you and confirm your words.”
15 So Bathsheba went to see the king in his bedroom. Since the king was
very old, Abishag the Shunammite was serving him.
16 And Bathsheba bowed down in homage to the king, who asked, “What
is your desire?”
17 “My lord,” she replied, “you yourself swore to your maidservant by the
LORD your God: ‘Surely your son Solomon will reign after me, and he will
sit on my throne.’
18 But now, behold, Adonijah has become king, and now, my lord the
king, you do not know it.†
19 And he has sacrificed an abundance of oxen, fattened calves, and
sheep, and has invited all the other sons of the king, as well as Abiathar

* **1:9 1:9** Or *the Serpent's Stone* † **1:18 1:18** Leningrad Codex and most manuscripts; many manuscripts and ancient versions *and you, my lord the king*

the priest and Joab the commander of the army. But he has not invited
your servant Solomon.
20 And as for you, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are upon you to
tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.
21 Otherwise, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, I and my son
Solomon will be counted as criminals."
22 And just then, while Bathsheba was still speaking with the king,
Nathan the prophet arrived.
23 So the king was told, "Nathan the prophet is here." And Nathan went
in and bowed facedown before the king.
24 "My lord the king," said Nathan, "did you say, 'Adonijah will reign after
me, and he will sit on my throne'?
25 For today he has gone down and sacrificed an abundance of oxen,
fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the sons of the king, the
commanders‡ of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are
eating and drinking before him, saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'
26 But me your servant he has not invited, nor Zadok the priest, nor
Benaiah son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon.
27 Has my lord the king let this happen without informing your servant§
who should sit on the throne after my lord the king?"
28 Then King David said, "Call in Bathsheba for me." So she came into the
king's presence and stood before him.
29 And the king swore an oath, saying, "As surely as the LORD lives, who
has redeemed my life from all distress,
30 I will carry out this very day exactly what I swore to you by the LORD,
the God of Israel: Surely your son Solomon will reign after me, and he will
sit on my throne in my place."
31 Bathsheba bowed facedown in homage to the king and said, "May my
lord King David live forever!"
32 Then King David said, "Call in for me Zadok the priest, Nathan the
prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.
33 "Take my servants with you," said the king. "Set my son Solomon on
my own mule and take him down to Gihon.
34 There Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet are to anoint him king
over Israel. You are to blow the ram's horn and declare, 'Long live King
Solomon!'
35 Then you shall go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne
and reign in my place. For I have appointed him ruler over Israel and
Judah."
36 "Amen," replied Benaiah son of Jehoiada. "May the LORD, the God of
my lord the king, so declare it.
37 Just as the LORD was with my lord the king, so may he be with
Solomon and make his throne even greater than that of my lord King
David."
38 Then Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of
Jehoiada, along with the Cherethites and Pelethites, went down and set
Solomon on King David's mule, and they escorted him to Gihon.
39 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed
Solomon. Then they blew the ram's horn, and all the people proclaimed,
"Long live King Solomon!"

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‡ **1:25 1:25** LXX *Joab the commander* § **1:27 1:27** Qere; Ketiv *your servants*

40 All the people followed him, playing flutes and rejoicing with such a
great joy that the earth was split by the sound.
41 Now Adonijah and all his guests were finishing their feast when they
heard the sound of the ram's horn. “Why is the city in such a loud
uproar?” asked Joab.
42 As he was speaking, suddenly Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest
arrived. “Come in,” said Adonijah, “for you are a man of valor. You must be
bringing good news.”
43 “Not at all,” Jonathan replied. “Our lord King David has made Solomon
king.
44 And with Solomon, the king has sent Zadok the priest, Nathan the
prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, along with the Cherethites and
Pelethites, and they have set him on the king's mule.
45 Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at
Gihon, and they have gone up from there with rejoicing that rings out in
the city. That is the noise you hear.
46 Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.
47 The king's servants have also gone to congratulate our lord King
David, saying, ‘May God* make the name of Solomon more famous than
your own name, and may he make his throne greater than your throne.’
And the king has bowed in worship on his bed,
48 saying, ‘Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel! Today he has provided
one† to sit on my throne, and my eyes have seen it.’ ”
49 At this, all the guests of Adonijah arose in terror and scattered.
50 But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, got up and went to take hold of the
horns of the altar.
51 It was reported to Solomon: “Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon,
and he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon
first swear to me not to put his servant to the sword.’ ”
52 And Solomon replied, “If he is a man of character, not a single hair of
his will fall to the ground. But if evil is found in him, he will die.”
53 So King Solomon summoned Adonijah down from the altar, and he
came and bowed down before King Solomon, who said to him, “Go to your
home.”

2

1 As the time drew near for David to die, he charged his son Solomon,
2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth. So be strong and prove
yourself a man.
3 And keep the charge of the LORD your God to walk in his ways and to
keep his statutes, commandments, ordinances, and decrees, as written in
the Teaching of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and
wherever you turn,
4 and so that the LORD may fulfill his promise to me: ‘If your
descendants take heed to walk faithfully before me with all their heart
and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’
5 Moreover, you know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did
to Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether,* the two commanders of the
armies of Israel. He killed them in peacetime to avenge the blood of war.

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* **1:47 1:47** Qere; Ketiv *your God* † **1:48 1:48** LXX *one of my offspring* * **2:5 2:5** *Jether* is a variant of *Ithra*; also in verse 32; see 2 Samuel 17:25.

He stained with the blood of war the belt around his waist and the sandals
on his feet.†
6 So act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray head go down
to Sheol in peace.
7 But show loving devotion‡ to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let
them be among those who eat at your table, because they stood by me
when I fled from your brother Absalom.
8 Keep an eye on Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim
who is with you. He called down bitter curses against me on the day I
went to Mahanaim, but when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I
swore to him by the LORD: 'I will never put you to the sword.'
9 Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You
know what you ought to do to him to bring his gray head down to Sheol in
blood."
10 Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of
David.
11 The length of David's reign over Israel was forty years—seven years
in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.
12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his kingdom
was firmly established.
13 Now Adonijah son of Haggith went to Bathsheba the mother of
Solomon, and she asked, "Do you come in peace?"
"Yes, in peace," he replied.
14 Then he said, "I have something to tell you."
"Say it," she answered.
15 "You know that the kingship was mine," he said. "All Israel expected
that I should reign, but the kingship has turned to my brother, for it has
come to him from the LORD.
16 So now I have just one request of you; do not deny me."
"State your request," she told him.
17 Adonijah replied, "Please speak to King Solomon, since he will not
turn you down. Let him give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife."
18 "Very well," Bathsheba replied. "I will speak to the king for you."
19 So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah. The
king stood up to greet her, bowed to her, and sat down on his throne. Then
the king had a throne brought for his mother, who sat down at his right
hand.
20 "I have just one small request of you," she said. "Do not deny me."
"Make your request, my mother," the king replied, "for I will not deny
you."
21 So Bathsheba said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to your
brother Adonijah as his wife."
22 King Solomon answered his mother, "Why do you request Abishag the
Shunammite for Adonijah? Since he is my older brother, you might as well
request the kingdom for him and for Abiathar the priest and for Joab son
of Zeruiah!"
23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD: "May God punish me, and
ever so severely, if Adonijah has not made this request at the expense of
his life.

† **2:5 2:5** LXX *he stained with innocent blood the belt around my waist and the sandals on my feet.*
‡ **2:7 2:7** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

24 And now, as surely as the LORD lives—the One who established me,
who set me on the throne of my father David, and who founded for me a
dynasty as he promised—surely Adonijah shall be put to death today!"
25 So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he
struck down Adonijah and he died.
26 Then the king said to Abiathar the priest, "Go back to your fields in
Anathoth. Even though you deserve to die, I will not put you to death at
this time, since you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father
David, and you suffered through all that my father suffered."
27 So Solomon banished Abiathar from the priesthood of the LORD and
thus fulfilled the word that the LORD had spoken at Shiloh against the
house of Eli.
28 When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah but
not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of the LORD and took hold of the
horns of the altar.
29 It was reported to King Solomon: "Joab has fled to the tent of the
LORD and is now beside the altar."
So Solomon sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down!"
30 And Benaiah entered the tent of the LORD and said to Joab, "The king
says, 'Come out!' "
But Joab replied, "No, I will die here."
So Benaiah relayed the message to the king, saying, "This is how Joab
answered me."
31 And the king replied, "Do just as he says. Strike him down and bury
him, and so remove from me and from the house of my father the
innocent blood that Joab shed.
32 The LORD will bring his bloodshed back upon his own head, for
without the knowledge of my father David he struck down two men more
righteous and better than he when he put to the sword Abner son of Ner,
commander of Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of
Judah's army.
33 Their blood will come back upon the heads of Joab and his
descendants forever; but for David, his descendants, his house, and his
throne, there shall be peace from the LORD forever."
34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up, struck down Joab, and killed
him. He was buried at his own home in the wilderness.
35 And the king appointed Benaiah son of Jehoiada in Joab's place over
the army, and he appointed Zadok the priest in Abiathar's place.
36 Then the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build a house for
yourself in Jerusalem and live there, but do not go anywhere else.
37 On the day you go out and cross the Kidron Valley, know for sure that
you will die; your blood will be on your own head."
38 "The sentence is fair," Shimei replied. "Your servant will do as my lord
the king has spoken." And Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time.
39 After three years, however, two of Shimei's slaves ran away to Achish
son of Maacah,§ king of Gath. And Shimei was told, "Look, your slaves are
in Gath."
40 So Shimei saddled his donkey and set out to Achish at Gath in search
of his slaves, and he brought them back from Gath.
41 When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath
and had returned,

§ **2:39 2:39** *Maacah* is a variant of *Maoch*; see 1 Samuel 27:2.

42 the king summoned Shimei and said to him, “Did I not make you
swear by the LORD and warn you, ‘On the day you leave and go
elsewhere, know for sure that you will die’? And you told me, ‘The
sentence is fair; I will comply.’
43 So why have you not kept your oath to the LORD and the command
that I gave you?”
44 The king also said, “You know in your heart all the evil that you did to
my father David. Therefore the LORD will bring your evil back upon your
head.
45 But King Solomon will be blessed and David’s throne will remain
secure before the LORD forever.”
46 Then the king commanded Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out
and struck Shimei down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was firmly
established in the hand of Solomon.

3

1 Later, Solomon formed an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt by
marrying his daughter. Solomon brought her to the City of David until he
had finished building his palace and the house of the LORD, as well as the
wall around Jerusalem.
2 The people, however, were still sacrificing on the high places because a
house for the Name of the LORD had not yet been built.
3 And Solomon loved the LORD and walked in the statutes of his father
David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.
4 Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for it was the great
high place. Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar there.
5 One night at Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and
God said, “Ask, and I will give it to you!”
6 Solomon replied, “You have shown much loving devotion to your
servant, my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness,
righteousness, and uprightness of heart. And you have maintained this
loving devotion by giving him a son to sit on his throne this very day.
7 And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in my
father David’s place. But I am only a little child, not knowing how to go
out or come in.
8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a people too
numerous to count or number.
9 Therefore give your servant an understanding heart to judge your
people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to govern
this great people of yours?”
10 Now it pleased the Lord* that Solomon had made this request.
11 So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this instead of
requesting long life or wealth for yourself or death for your enemies—but
you have asked for discernment to administer justice—
12 behold, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and
discerning heart, so that there will never have been another like you, nor
will there ever be.
13 Moreover, I will give you what you did not request—both riches and
honor—so that during all your days no man in any kingdom will be your
equal.

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* **3:10 3:10** Hebrew *Adonai*; also in verse 15

14 So if you walk in my ways and keep my statutes and commandments,
just as your father David did, I will prolong your days."
15 Then Solomon awoke, and indeed it had been a dream. So he
returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord,
and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Then he held a feast for
all his servants.
16 At that time two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.
17 One woman said, "Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same
house, and I gave birth while she was in the house.
18 On the third day after I gave birth, this woman also had a baby. We
were alone, with no one in the house but the two of us.
19 During the night this woman's son died because she rolled over on
him.
20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side
while I was asleep. She laid him in her bosom and put her dead son at my
bosom.
21 The next morning, when I got up to nurse my son, I discovered he was
dead. But when I examined him, I realized that he was not the son I had
borne."
22 "No," said the other woman, "the living one is my son and the dead one
is your son."
But the first woman insisted, "No, the dead one is yours and the living
one is mine." So they argued before the king.
23 Then the king replied, "This woman says, 'My son is alive and yours is
dead,' but that woman says, 'No, your son is dead and mine is alive.' "
24 The king continued, "Bring me a sword." So they brought him a sword,
25 and the king declared, "Cut the living child in two and give half to one
and half to the other."
26 Then the woman whose son was alive spoke to the king because she
yearned with compassion for her son. "Please, my lord," she said, "give her
the living baby. Do not kill him!"
But the other woman said, "He will be neither mine nor yours. Cut him
in two!"
27 Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first
woman. By no means should you kill him; she is his mother."
28 When all Israel heard of the judgment the king had given, they stood
in awe of him, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to
administer justice.

4

1 So King Solomon ruled over Israel,
2 and these were his chief officials:

Azariah son of Zadok was the priest;
3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha,* were secretaries;
Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the recorder;
4 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was in charge of the army;
Zadok and Abiathar were priests;
5 Azariah son of Nathan was in charge of the governors;
Zabud son of Nathan was a priest and adviser to the king;
6 Ahishar was in charge of the palace;

* **4:3 4:3** *Shisha* is also called *Seraiah*, *Sheva*, and *Shavsha*; see 2 Samuel 8:17, 2 Samuel 20:25, and 1 Chronicles 18:16.

and Adoniram† son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor.
7 Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel to provide food for the king and his household. Each one would arrange provisions for one month of the year,
8 and these were their names:

Ben-hur in the hill country of Ephraim;
9 Ben-deker in Makaz, in Shaalbim, in Beth-shemesh, and in Elon-beth-hanan;
10 Ben-hesed in Arubboth (Socoh and all the land of Hepher belonged to him);
11 Ben-abinadab in Naphath-dor‡ (Taphath, a daughter of Solomon, was his wife);
12 Baana son of Ahilud in Taanach, in Megiddo, and in all of Beth-shean next to Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah and on past Jokmeam;
13 Ben-geber in Ramoth-gilead (the villages of Jair son of Manasseh in Gilead belonged to him, as well as the region of Argob in Bashan with its sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars);
14 Ahinadab son of Iddo in Mahanaim;
15 Ahimaaz in Naphtali (he had married Basemath, a daughter of Solomon);
16 Baana son of Hushai in Asher and in Aloth;
17 Jehoshaphat son of Paruah in Issachar;
18 Shimei son of Ela in Benjamin;
19 Geber son of Uri in the land of Gilead, including the territories of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan.
And he was the one governor in the land.§
20 The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore, and they were eating and drinking and rejoicing.

5

1 And Solomon reigned over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates* to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These kingdoms offered tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.
2 Solomon's provisions for a single day were thirty cors of fine flour,† sixty cors of meal,‡
3 ten fat oxen, twenty range oxen, and a hundred sheep, as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened poultry.
4 For Solomon had dominion over everything west of the Euphrates§—over all the kingdoms from Tiphsah to Gaza—and he had peace on all sides.
5 Throughout the days of Solomon, Judah and Israel dwelt securely from Dan to Beersheba, each man under his own vine and his own fig tree.
6 Solomon had 40,000* stalls for his chariot horses and 12,000

† **4:6 4:6** *Adoniram* is a variant of *Adoram* and *Hadoram*; see 2 Samuel 20:24 and 2 Chronicles 10:18.
‡ **4:11 4:11** Or *in all the heights of Dor*; *Naphath-dor* is a variant of *Naphoth-dor*; see Joshua 11:2.
§ **4:19 4:19** Some LXX manuscripts *There was also one governor in the land of Judah* * **5:1 5:1** Hebrew *the River*; also in verse 4 † **5:2 5:2** *30 cors* is approximately 187 bushels or 6,600 liters (probably about 5.5 tons or 5 metric tons of flour). ‡ **5:2 5:2** *60 cors* is approximately 375 bushels or 13,200 liters (probably about 11 tons or 10 metric tons of meal). § **5:4 5:4** Or *beyond the River*
* **5:6 5:6** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Chronicles 9:25) *4,000*

horsemen.†
7 Each month the governors in turn provided food for King Solomon and
all who came to his table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking.
8 Each one also brought to the required place their quotas of barley and
straw for the chariot horses and other horses.
9 And God gave Solomon wisdom, exceedingly deep insight, and
understanding beyond measure, like the sand on the seashore.
10 Solomon's wisdom was greater than that of all the men of the East,
greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.
11 He was wiser than all men—wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and wiser
than Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread
throughout the surrounding nations.
12 Solomon composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered
a thousand and five.
13 He spoke of trees, from the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing in
the wall, and he taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.
14 So men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all
the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.
15 Now when Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed
king in his father's place, he sent envoys to Solomon; for Hiram had
always been a friend of David.
16 And Solomon relayed this message to Hiram:
17 "As you are well aware, due to the wars waged on all sides against my
father David, he could not build a house for the Name of the LORD his God
until the LORD had put his enemies under his feet.‡
18 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there
is no adversary or crisis.
19 So behold, I plan to build a house for the Name of the LORD my God,
according to what the LORD said to my father David: 'I will put your son
on your throne in your place, and he will build the house for my Name.'
20 Now therefore, order that cedars of Lebanon be cut down for me. My
servants will be with your servants, and I will pay your servants whatever
wages you set, for you know that there are none among us as skilled in
logging as the Sidonians."
21 When Hiram received Solomon's message, he rejoiced greatly and
said, "Blessed be the LORD this day! He has given David a wise son over
this great people!"
22 Then Hiram sent a reply to Solomon, saying:
"I have received your message; I will do all you desire regarding the
cedar and cypress§ timber.
23 My servants will haul the logs from Lebanon to the Sea,* and I will
float them as rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate the
logs, and you can take them away. And in exchange, you can meet my
needs by providing my household with food."
24 So Hiram provided Solomon with all the cedar and cypress timber he
wanted,

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† **5:6 5:6** Or *horses* or *charioteers* ‡ **5:17 5:17** Ketiv; Qere *under my feet* § **5:22 5:22** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; also in verse 24 * **5:23 5:23** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

25 and year after year Solomon would provide Hiram with 20,000 cors of
wheat† as food for his household, as well as twenty cors of pure oil.‡
26 And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he had promised him. There
was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a
treaty.§
27 Then King Solomon conscripted a labor force of 30,000 men from all
Israel.
28 He sent them to Lebanon in monthly shifts of 10,000 men, so that they
would spend one month in Lebanon and two months at home. And
Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.
29 Solomon had 70,000 porters and 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains,
30 not including his 3,300* foremen who supervised the workers.
31 And the king commanded them to quarry large, costly stones to lay
the foundation of the temple with dressed stones.
32 So Solomon's and Hiram's builders, along with the Gebalites, quarried
the stone and prepared the timber and stone for the construction of the
temple.

6

1 In the four hundred and eightieth* year after the Israelites had come
out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel,
in the month of Ziv,† the second month, he began to build the house of the
LORD.
2 The house that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long,
twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high.‡
3 The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple was twenty
cubits§ long, extending across the width of the temple and projecting out
ten cubits* in front of the temple.
4 He also had narrow windows framed high in the temple.
5 Against the walls of the temple and the inner sanctuary, Solomon built
a chambered structure around the temple, in which he constructed the
side rooms.
6 The bottom floor was five cubits wide,† the middle floor six cubits,‡ and
the third floor seven cubits.§ He also placed offset ledges around the
outside of the temple, so that nothing would be inserted into its walls.
7 The temple was constructed using finished stones cut at the quarry, so
that no hammer or chisel or any other iron tool was heard in the temple
while it was being built.
8 The entrance to the middle* floor was on the south side of the temple.
A stairway led up to the middle level, and from there to the third floor.

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† **5:25 5:25** *20,000 cors* is approximately 124,800 bushels or 4.4 million liters (probably about 3,800 tons or 3,400 metric tons of wheat). ‡ **5:25 5:25** MT (or *twenty cors of pressed oil*); LXX (see also 2 Chronicles 2:9) *20,000 baths of pure olive oil* § **5:26 5:26** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*. * **5:30 5:30** Some LXX manuscripts *3,600*; see 2 Chronicles 2:17. * **6:1 6:1** LXX *four hundred and fortieth* † **6:1 6:1** *Ziv* was the second month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of April and May; also in verse 37. ‡ **6:2 6:2** The house was approximately 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high (27.4 meters long, 9.1 meters wide, and 13.7 meters high). § **6:3 6:3** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters; also in verses 16 and 20. * **6:3 6:3** *10 cubits* is approximately 15 feet or 4.6 meters; also in verses 23–26. † **6:6 6:6** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters; also in verses 10 and 24. ‡ **6:6 6:6** *6 cubits* is approximately 9 feet or 2.7 meters. § **6:6 6:6** *7 cubits* is approximately 10.5 feet or 3.2 meters. * **6:8 6:8** LXX and Targum *bottom*

9 So Solomon built the temple and finished it, roofing it with beams and
planks of cedar.
10 He built chambers all along the temple, each five cubits high and
attached to the temple with beams of cedar.
11 Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying:
12 "As for this temple you are building, if you walk in my statutes, carry
out my ordinances, and keep all my commandments by walking in them, I
will fulfill through you the promise I made to your father David.
13 And I will dwell among the Israelites and will not abandon my people
Israel."
14 So Solomon built the temple and finished it.
15 He lined the interior walls with cedar paneling from the floor of the
temple to the ceiling, and he covered the floor with cypress† boards.
16 He partitioned off the twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with
cedar boards from the floor to the walls‡ to form within the temple an
inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies.§
17 And the main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long.*
18 The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with gourds and
open flowers. Everything was cedar; not a stone could be seen.
19 Solomon also prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set
the ark of the covenant of the LORD there.
20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and
twenty cubits high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also
overlaid the altar of cedar.†
21 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he
extended gold chains‡ across the front of the inner sanctuary, which was
overlaid with gold.
22 So he overlaid with gold the whole interior of the temple, until
everything was completely finished. He also overlaid with gold the entire
altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.
23 In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim, each ten cubits high,
out of olive wood.
24 One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing
was five cubits long as well. So the full wingspan was ten cubits.
25 The second cherub also measured ten cubits; both cherubim had the
same size and shape,
26 and the height of each cherub was ten cubits.
27 And he placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple.
Since their wings were spread out, the wing of the first cherub touched
one wall, while the wing of the second cherub touched the other wall, and
in the middle of the room their wingtips touched.
28 He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.
29 Then he carved the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and
outer sanctuaries, with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and
open flowers.
30 And he overlaid the temple floor with gold in both the inner and outer
sanctuaries.

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† **6:15 6:15** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; also in verse 34 ‡ **6:16 6:16** That is, to the top of the walls; LXX *to the rafters* § **6:16 6:16** Or *the Most Holy Place* * **6:17 6:17** *40 cubits* is approximately 60 feet or 18.3 meters. † **6:20 6:20** Or *with cedar* ‡ **6:21 6:21** Or *made gold chains to draw (the curtains)*

31 For the entrance to the inner sanctuary, Solomon constructed doors of
olive wood with five-sided doorposts.
32 The double doors were made of olive wood, and he carved into them
cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers and overlaid the cherubim and
palm trees with hammered gold.
33 In the same way he made four-sided doorposts of olive wood for the
sanctuary entrance.
34 The two doors were made of cypress wood, and each had two folding
panels.
35 He carved into them cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and he
overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.
36 Solomon built the inner courtyard with three rows of dressed stone
and one row of trimmed cedar beams.
37 The foundation of the house of the LORD was laid in the fourth year
of Solomon's reign, in the month of Ziv.
38 In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul,§ the eighth month, the
temple was finished in every detail and according to every specification.
So he built the temple in seven years.

7

1 Solomon, however, took thirteen years to complete the construction of
his entire palace.
2 He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty
cubits wide, and thirty cubits high,* with four rows of cedar pillars
supporting the cedar beams.
3 The house was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the
pillars—forty-five beams, fifteen per row.
4 There were three rows of high windows facing one another in three
tiers.
5 All the doorways and doorposts had rectangular frames, with the
openings facing one another in three tiers.
6 Solomon made his colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty cubits wide,†
with a portico in front of it and a canopy with pillars in front of the
portico.
7 In addition, he built a hall for the throne, the Hall of Justice, where he
was to judge. It was paneled with cedar from floor to floor.‡
8 And the palace where Solomon would live, set further back, was of
similar construction. He also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's
daughter, whom he had married.
9 All these buildings were constructed with costly stones, cut to size and
trimmed with saws inside and out from the foundation to the eaves, and
from the outside to the great courtyard.
10 The foundations were laid with large, costly stones, some ten cubits
long§ and some eight cubits long.*
11 Above these were costly stones, cut to size, and cedar beams.

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§ **6:38 6:38** *Bul* was the eighth month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of October and November. * **7:2 7:2** The house was approximately 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (45.7 meters long, 22.9 meters wide, and 13.7 meters high). † **7:6 7:6** The colonnade was approximately 75 feet long and 45 feet wide (22.9 meters long and 13.7 meters wide). ‡ **7:7 7:7** Syriac and Vulgate *from floor to ceiling* § **7:10 7:10** *10 cubits* is approximately 15 feet or 4.6 meters. * **7:10 7:10** *8 cubits* is approximately 12 feet or 3.7 meters.

12 The great courtyard was surrounded by three rows of dressed stone
and a row of trimmed cedar beams, as were the inner courtyard and
portico of the house of the LORD.
13 Now King Solomon sent to bring Huram† from Tyre.
14 He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father
was a man of Tyre, a craftsman in bronze. Huram had great skill,
understanding, and knowledge for every kind of bronze work. So he came
to King Solomon and carried out all his work.
15 He cast two pillars of bronze, each eighteen cubits high and twelve
cubits in circumference.‡
16 He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on top of the pillars,
each capital five cubits high.§
17 For the capitals on top of the pillars he made a network of lattice, with
wreaths of chainwork, seven for each capital.*
18 He made the pillars, and two rows around the one grating to cover the
capitals atop the pomegranates;† and he did the same for the second
capital.
19 And the capitals atop the pillars in the portico were shaped like lilies,
four cubits high.‡
20 On the capitals of both pillars, just above the rounded projection next
to the network, were the two hundred pomegranates in rows encircling
each capital.
21 Thus he set up the pillars at the portico of the temple. The pillar to the
south he named Jachin,§ and the pillar to the north he named Boaz.*
22 And the tops of the pillars were shaped like lilies. So the work of the
pillars was completed.
23 He also made the Sea of cast metal. It was circular in shape,
measuring ten cubits from rim to rim, five cubits in height, and thirty
cubits in circumference.†
24 Below the rim, ornamental buds encircled it, ten per cubit all the way
around the Sea, cast in two rows as a part of the Sea.
25 The Sea stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west,
three facing south, and three facing east. The Sea rested on them, with all
their hindquarters toward the center.
26 It was a handbreadth thick,‡ and its rim was fashioned like the brim
of a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold two thousand baths.§
27 In addition, he made ten movable stands of bronze, each four cubits
long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high.*

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† **7:13 7:13** Hebrew *Hiram*, a variant of *Huram*; also in verses 40 and 45; see 2 Chronicles 4:11. Note that this is not Hiram king of Tyre mentioned in 1 Kings 5:15. ‡ **7:15 7:15** Each pillar was approximately 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference (8.2 meters high and 5.5 meters in circumference). § **7:16 7:16** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters. * **7:17 7:17** LXX *one for each capital* † **7:18 7:18** Some Hebrew manuscripts *he made the pomegranates … atop the pillars* ‡ **7:19 7:19** *4 cubits* is approximately 6 feet or 1.8 meters; also in verse 38. § **7:21 7:21** *Jachin* probably means *he establishes.* * **7:21 7:21** *Boaz* probably means *in him is strength.* † **7:23 7:23** The Sea was approximately 15 feet from rim to rim, 7.5 feet in height, and 45 feet in circumference (4.6 meters from rim to rim, 2.3 meters in height, and 13.7 meters in circumference). ‡ **7:26 7:26** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters. § **7:26 7:26** *2,000 baths* is approximately 11,600 gallons or 44,000 liters; LXX does not include this sentence. * **7:27 7:27** The stands were approximately 6 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (1.8 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high).

28 This was the design of the stands: They had side panels attached to
uprights,
29 and on the panels between the uprights were lions, oxen, and
cherubim. On the uprights was a pedestal above, and below the lions and
oxen were wreaths of beveled work.
30 Each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles and a basin
resting on four cast supports, with wreaths at each side.
31 The opening to each stand inside the crown at the top was one cubit
deep,† with a round opening like the design of a pedestal, a cubit and a
half wide.‡ And around its opening were engravings, but the panels of the
stands were square, not round.
32 There were four wheels under the panels, and the axles of the wheels
were attached to the stand; each wheel was a cubit and a half in diameter.
33 The wheels were made like chariot wheels; their axles, rims, spokes,
and hubs were all of cast metal.
34 Each stand had four handles, one for each corner, projecting from the
stand.
35 At the top of each stand was a circular band half a cubit high.§ The
supports and panels were cast as a unit with the top of the stand.
36 He engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees on the surfaces of the
supports and panels, wherever each had space, with wreaths all around.
37 In this way he made the ten stands, each with the same casting,
dimensions, and shape.
38 He also made ten bronze basins, each holding forty baths* and
measuring four cubits across, one basin for each of the ten stands.
39 He set five stands on the south side of the temple and five on the north,
and he put the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner of the temple.
40 Additionally, Huram made the basins,† shovels, and sprinkling bowls.
So Huram finished all the work that he had undertaken for King
Solomon in the house of the LORD:

41 the two pillars;
the two bowl-shaped capitals atop the pillars;
the two sets of network covering both bowls of the capitals atop the
pillars;
42 the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows
of pomegranates for each network covering both the bowl-shaped
capitals atop the pillars);
43 the ten stands;
the ten basins on the stands;
44 the Sea;
the twelve oxen underneath the Sea;
45 and the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls.
All these articles‡ that Huram made for King Solomon in the house of
the LORD were made of burnished bronze.

† **7:31 7:31** *One cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters. ‡ **7:31 7:31** *A cubit and a half* is approximately 2.25 feet or 68.6 centimeters wide; similarly in verse 32. § **7:35 7:35** *Half a cubit* is approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters high. * **7:38 7:38** *40 baths* is approximately 232 gallons or 880 liters. † **7:40 7:40** Leningrad Codex and many other Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also verse 45 and 2 Chronicles 4:11) *pots* ‡ **7:45 7:45** Qere; Ketiv *the articles of the tent*

46 The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan
between Succoth and Zarethan.§
47 Solomon left all these articles unweighed, because there were so
many. The weight of the bronze could not be determined.
48 Solomon also made all the furnishings for the house of the LORD:

the golden altar;
the golden table on which was placed the Bread of the Presence;
49 the lampstands of pure gold in front of the inner sanctuary, five on
the right side and five on the left;
the gold flowers, lamps, and tongs;
50 the pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, ladles, and
censers;
and the gold hinges for the doors of the inner temple (that is, the Holy of
Holies*) as well as for the doors of the main hall of the temple.
51 So all the work that King Solomon had performed for the house of the
LORD was completed.
Then Solomon brought in the items his father David had dedicated—the
silver, the gold, and the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries
of the house of the LORD.

8

1 At that time Solomon assembled before him in Jerusalem the elders of
Israel—all the tribal heads and family leaders of the Israelites—to bring
up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Zion, the City of David.
2 And all the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the feast in
the seventh month,* the month of Ethanim.†
3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark,
4 and they brought up the ark of the LORD and the Tent of Meeting with
all its sacred furnishings. So the priests and Levites carried them up.
5 There, before the ark, King Solomon and the whole congregation of
Israel who had assembled with him sacrificed so many sheep and oxen
that they could not be counted or numbered.
6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its
place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Holy of Holies,‡ beneath the
wings of the cherubim.
7 For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and
overshadowed the ark and its poles.
8 The poles extended far enough that their ends were visible from the
Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy
Place;§ and they are there to this day.
9 There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses
had placed in it at Horeb,* where the LORD had made a covenant with the
Israelites after they had come out of the land of Egypt.
10 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, the cloud filled the
house of the LORD

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§ **7:46 7:46** *Zarethan* is a variant of *Zeredah*; see 2 Chronicles 4:17. * **7:50 7:50** Or *the Most Holy Place* * **8:2 8:2** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); similarly in verse 65; see Leviticus 23:33–36. † **8:2 8:2** *Ethanim* was the seventh month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of September and October. ‡ **8:6 8:6** Or *the Most Holy Place* § **8:8 8:8** Literally *not from outside* * **8:9 8:9** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

11 so that the priests could not stand there to minister because of the
cloud. For the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.
12 Then Solomon declared:

"The LORD† has said that he would dwell
in the thick cloud.
13 I have indeed built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell forever."
14 And as the whole assembly of Israel stood there, the king turned
around and blessed them all
15 and said:
"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has fulfilled with his own
hand what he spoke with his mouth to my father David, saying,
16 'Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not
chosen a city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house so that my
Name would be there. But I have chosen David to be over my people
Israel.'
17 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the
Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
18 But the LORD said to my father David, 'Since it was in your heart to
build a house for my Name, you have done well to have this in your heart.
19 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build it; but your son, your own
offspring, will build the house for my Name.'
20 Now the LORD has fulfilled the word that he spoke. I have succeeded
my father David, and I sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised. I
have built the house for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
21 And there I have provided a place for the ark, which contains the
covenant of the LORD that he made with our fathers when he brought
them out of the land of Egypt."
22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole
assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven,
23 and said:
"O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on
earth below, keeping your covenant of loving devotion with your servants
who walk before you with all their hearts.
24 You have kept your promise to your servant, my father David. What
you spoke with your mouth you have fulfilled with your hand this day.
25 Therefore now, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant, my
father David, what you promised when you said: 'You will never fail to
have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your
descendants guard their way to walk before me as you have done.'
26 And now, O God of Israel, please confirm what you promised to your
servant, my father David.
27 But will God indeed dwell upon the earth? The heavens, even the
highest heavens, cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built.
28 Yet regard the prayer and plea of your servant, O LORD my God, so
that you may hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying
before you today.
29 May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, toward the
place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you may hear
the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.

† **8:12 8:12** Some LXX manuscripts *The Lord has set the sun in the heavens, but*

30 Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they
pray toward this place. May you hear from heaven, your dwelling place.
May you hear and forgive.
31 When a man sins against his neighbor and is required to take an oath,
and he comes to take an oath before your altar in this temple,
32 then may you hear from heaven and act. May you judge your
servants, condemning the wicked man by bringing down on his own head
what he has done, and justifying the righteous man by rewarding him
according to his righteousness.
33 When your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they
have sinned against you, and they return to you and confess your name,
praying and pleading with you in this temple,
34 then may you hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people
Israel. May you restore them to the land you gave to their fathers.
35 When the skies are shut and there is no rain because your people
have sinned against you, and they pray toward this place and confess your
name, and they turn from their sins because you have afflicted them,
36 then may you hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants,
your people Israel, so that you may teach them the good way in which
they should walk. May you send rain on the land that you gave your
people as an inheritance.
37 When famine or plague comes upon the land, or blight or mildew or
locusts or grasshoppers, or when their enemy besieges them in their cities,
whatever plague or sickness may come,
38 then may whatever prayer or petition is made by anyone among all
your people Israel—each knowing his own afflictions and spreading out
his hands toward this temple—
39 be heard by you from heaven, your dwelling place. And may you
forgive and act, and repay each man according to all his ways, since you
know his heart—for you alone know the hearts of all men—
40 so that they may fear you all the days they live in the land that you
gave to our fathers.
41 And as for the foreigner who is not of your people Israel but has come
from a distant land because of your name—
42 for they will hear of your great name and mighty hand and
outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple,
43 then may you hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do
according to all for which the foreigner calls to you. Then all the peoples
of the earth will know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel,
and they will know that this house I have built is called by your Name.
44 When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you
send them, and when they pray to the LORD in the direction of the city
you have chosen and the house I have built for your Name,
45 then may you hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and may
you uphold their cause.
46 When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and
you become angry with them and deliver them to an enemy who takes
them as captives to his own land, whether far or near,
47 and when they come to their senses in the land to which they were
taken, and they repent and plead with you in the land of their captors,
saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong; we have acted wickedly,’

48 and when they return to you with all their heart and soul in the land
of the enemies who took them captive, and when they pray to you in the
direction of the land that you gave to their fathers, the city you have
chosen, and the house I have built‡ for your Name,
49 then may you hear from heaven, your dwelling place, their prayer
and petition, and may you uphold their cause.
50 May you forgive your people who have sinned against you and all the
transgressions they have committed against you, and may you grant them
compassion in the eyes of their captors to show them mercy.
51 For they are your people and your inheritance; you brought them out
of Egypt, out of the furnace for iron.
52 May your eyes be open to the pleas of your servant and of your people
Israel, and may you listen to them whenever they call to you.
53 For you, O Lord GOD, have set them apart from all the peoples of the
earth as your inheritance, as you spoke through your servant Moses when
you brought our fathers out of Egypt."
54 Now when Solomon had finished praying this entire prayer and
petition to the LORD, he got up before the altar of the LORD, where he had
been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven.
55 And he stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice,
saying:
56 "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel
according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good
promises he made through his servant Moses.
57 May the LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he
never leave us or forsake us.
58 May he incline our hearts to himself, to walk in all his ways and to
keep the commandments and statutes and ordinances he commanded our
fathers.
59 And may these words with which I have made my petition before the
LORD be near to the LORD our God day and night, so that he may uphold
the cause of his servant and of his people Israel as each day requires,
60 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God.
There is no other!
61 So let your heart be fully devoted to the LORD our God, as it is this
day, to walk in his statutes and to keep his commandments."
62 Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the
LORD.
63 And Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and
120,000 sheep. So the king and all the Israelites dedicated the house of the
LORD.
64 On that same day the king consecrated the middle of the courtyard in
front of the house of the LORD, and there he offered the burnt offerings,
the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, since the bronze
altar before the LORD was too small to contain all these offerings.
65 So at that time Solomon and all Israel with him—a great assembly of
people from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt—kept the feast before the
LORD our God for seven days and seven more days—fourteen days in all.

‡ **8:48 8:48** Qere; Ketiv *you have built*

66 On the eighth day§ Solomon sent the people away. So they blessed the
king and went home, joyful and glad in heart for all the good things that
the LORD had done for his servant David and for his people Israel.

9

1 Now when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and
the royal palace, and had achieved all that he had desired to do,
2 the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at
Gibeon.
3 And the LORD said to him:
"I have heard your prayer and petition before me. I have consecrated
this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever; my
eyes and my heart will be there for all time.
4 And as for you, if you walk before me as your father David walked,
with a heart of integrity and uprightness, doing all I have commanded
you, and if you keep my statutes and ordinances,
5 then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I
promised your father David when I said, 'You will never fail to have a man
on the throne of Israel.'
6 But if indeed you or your sons turn away from following me and do
not keep the commandments and statutes I have set before you, and if you
go off to serve and worship other gods,
7 then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and I will
banish from my presence this temple I have sanctified for my Name. Then
Israel will become an object of scorn and ridicule among all peoples.
8 And though this temple is now exalted,* all who pass by it will be
appalled and will hiss and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to
this land and to this temple?'
9 And others will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their
God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have
embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—because of this, the
LORD has brought all this disaster upon them.' "
10 Now at the end of the twenty years during which Solomon built these
two houses, the house of the LORD and the royal palace,
11 King Solomon gave twenty towns in the land of Galilee to Hiram king
of Tyre, who had supplied him with cedar and cypress† logs and gold for
his every desire.
12 So Hiram went out from Tyre to inspect the towns that Solomon had
given him, but he was not pleased with them.
13 "What are these towns you have given me, my brother?" asked Hiram,
and he called them the Land of Cabul,‡ as they are called to this day.
14 And Hiram had sent the king 120 talents of gold.§
15 This is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon imposed to
build the house of the LORD, his own palace, the supporting terraces,* and
the wall of Jerusalem, as well as Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer.

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§ **8:66 8:66** Probably the day following the seven-day feast; compare 2 Chronicles 7:9–10. * **9:8 9:8** Some LXX manuscripts, Syriac, and Arabic *And when this temple has become a heap of rubble* † **9:11 9:11** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir* ‡ **9:13 9:13** *Cabul* sounds like the Hebrew for *good-for-nothing*.
§ **9:14 9:14** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold. * **9:15 9:15** Hebrew *the Millo*; also in verse 24

16 Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He had set it
on fire, killed the Canaanites who lived in the city, and given it as a dowry
to his daughter, Solomon's wife.
17 So Solomon rebuilt Gezer, Lower Beth-horon,
18 Baalath, and Tadmor† in the wilderness, in the land,‡
19 as well as all the store cities that Solomon had, the cities for his
chariots, and the cities for his horsemen§—whatever he desired to build
in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout the land of his dominion.
20 As for all the people who remained of the Amorites, Hittites,
Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites (the people who were not Israelites)—
21 their descendants who remained in the land, those whom the
Israelites were unable to devote to destruction*—Solomon conscripted
these people to be forced laborers, as they are to this day.
22 But Solomon did not consign any of the Israelites to slavery, because
they were his men of war, his servants, his officers, his captains, and the
commanders of his chariots and cavalry.
23 They were also the chief officers over Solomon's projects: 550
supervisors over the people who did the work.
24 As soon as Pharaoh's daughter had come up from the City of David to
the palace that Solomon had built for her, he built the supporting terraces.
25 Three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace
offerings on the altar he had built for the LORD, burning incense with
them before the LORD. So he completed the temple.
26 King Solomon also assembled a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is
near Eloth† in Edom, on the shore of the Sea of Reeds.‡
27 And Hiram sent his servants, sailors who knew the sea, to serve in the
fleet with Solomon's servants.
28 They sailed to Ophir and imported gold from there—420
talents§—and delivered it to Solomon.

10

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon
concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with difficult
questions.
2 She arrived in Jerusalem with a very large caravan—with camels
bearing spices, gold in great abundance, and precious stones.
And she came to Solomon and spoke to him all that was on her mind.
3 And Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for
the king to explain.
4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, the palace
he had built,
5 the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the service and attire
of his attendants,* his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he presented at
the house of the LORD, it took her breath away.
6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your
words and wisdom is true.

† **9:18 9:18** Qere; Ketiv *Tamar* ‡ **9:18 9:18** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; some translations *in the Wilderness of Judah* § **9:19 9:19** Or *horses* or *charioteers* * **9:21 9:21** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. † **9:26 9:26** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6. ‡ **9:26 9:26** Or *the Red Sea* § **9:28 9:28** *420 talents* is approximately 15.8 tons or 14.4 metric tons of gold. * **10:5 10:5** Qere; Ketiv *attendant*

7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own
eyes. Indeed, not even half was told to me. Your wisdom and prosperity
have far exceeded the report I heard.
8 How blessed are your men![†] How blessed are these servants of yours
who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!
9 Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you to set you on
the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has
made you king to carry out justice and righteousness."
10 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold,[‡] a great quantity of spices,
and precious stones. Never again were spices in such abundance brought
in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.
11 (The fleet of Hiram that brought gold from Ophir also brought from
Ophir a great cargo of almug[§] wood and precious stones.
12 The king made the almug wood into steps for the house of the LORD
and for the king's palace, and into lyres and harps for the singers. Never
before had such almug wood been brought in, nor has such been seen
again to this day.)
13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired—whatever she
asked—besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she
left and returned to her own country, along with her servants.
14 The weight of gold that came to Solomon each year was 666 talents,[*]
15 not including the revenue from the merchants, traders, and all the
Arabian kings and governors of the land.
16 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six
hundred shekels of gold[†] went into each shield.
17 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; three
minas of gold[‡] went into each shield. And the king put them in the House
of the Forest of Lebanon.
18 Additionally, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it
with pure gold.
19 The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. There were
armrests on both sides of the seat, with a lion standing beside each
armrest.
20 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step.
Nothing like this had ever been made for any kingdom.
21 All King Solomon's drinking cups were gold, and all the utensils of the
House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. There was no silver,
because it was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.
22 For the king had the ships of Tarshish[§] at sea with Hiram's fleet, and
once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing gold,
silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.[*]
23 So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and
wisdom.
24 The whole world sought an audience with Solomon to hear the
wisdom that God had put in his heart.

[†] **10:8 10:8** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *your wives* [‡] **10:10 10:10** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold. [§] **10:11 10:11** *Almug* is probably a variant of *algum*; also in verse 12; see 2 Chronicles 2:7. [*] **10:14 10:14** *666 talents* is approximately 25.1 tons or 22.8 metric tons of gold. [†] **10:16 10:16** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold. [‡] **10:17 10:17** *3 minas* is approximately 3.77 pounds or 1.71 kilograms of gold; possibly a reference to double minas, that is, approximately 7.54 pounds or 3.42 kilograms. [§] **10:22 10:22** Or *a fleet of trading ships*; twice in this verse [*] **10:22 10:22** Or *baboons*

25 Year after year, each visitor would bring his tribute: articles of silver
and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.
26 Solomon accumulated† 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses,‡ which he
stationed in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.
27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as
abundant as sycamore in the foothills.§
28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue;* the royal
merchants purchased them from Kue.
29 A chariot could be imported from Egypt for six hundred shekels of
silver,† and a horse for a hundred and fifty.‡ Likewise, they exported them
to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Aram.

11

1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women along with the
daughter of Pharaoh—women of Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Sidon, as well
as Hittite women.
2 These women were from the nations about which the LORD had told
the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, for surely they will
turn your hearts after their gods." Yet Solomon clung to these women in
love.
3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred
concubines—and his wives turned his heart away.
4 For when Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other
gods, and he was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God, as his
father David had been.
5 Solomon followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and Milcom*
the abomination of the Ammonites.
6 So Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD; unlike his father David,
he did not follow the LORD completely.
7 At that time on a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for
Chemosh the abomination of Moab and for Molech the abomination of the
Ammonites.
8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and
sacrificed to their gods.
9 Now the LORD grew angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned
away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.
10 Although he had warned Solomon explicitly not to follow other gods,
Solomon did not keep the LORD's command.
11 Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this and
have not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded
you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.
12 Nevertheless, for the sake of your father David, I will not do it during
your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.
13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom away from him. I will give one
tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of
Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

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† **10:26 10:26** Literally *Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had* ‡ **10:26 10:26** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers* § **10:27 10:27** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea * **10:28 10:28** Probably an area in Cilicia, a province in the southeast of Asia Minor † **10:29 10:29** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of silver. ‡ **10:29 10:29** *150 shekels* is approximately 3.8 pounds or 1.7 kilograms of silver. * **11:5 11:5** *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; also in verse 33; see verse 7 and Leviticus 18:21.

14 Then the LORD raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the
Edomite, from the royal line of Edom.
15 Earlier, when David was in Edom, Joab the commander of the army
had gone to bury the dead and had struck down every male in Edom.
16 Joab and all Israel had stayed there six months, until he had killed
every male in Edom.
17 But Hadad, still just a young boy, had fled to Egypt, along with some
Edomites who were servants of his father.
18 Hadad and his men set out from Midian and went to Paran. They took
men from Paran with them and went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt,
who gave Hadad a house and land and provided him with food.
19 There Hadad found such great favor in the sight of Pharaoh that he
gave to him in marriage the sister of Queen Tahpenes, his own wife.
20 And the sister of Tahpenes bore Hadad a son named Genubath.
Tahpenes herself weaned him in Pharaoh's palace, and Genubath lived
there among the sons of Pharaoh.
21 When Hadad heard in Egypt that David had rested with his fathers
and that Joab, the commander of the army, was dead, he said to Pharaoh,
"Let me go, that I may return to my own country."
22 But Pharaoh asked him, "What have you lacked here with me that you
suddenly want to go back to your own country?"
"Nothing," Hadad replied, "but please let me go."
23 And God raised up against Solomon another adversary, Rezon the son
of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah,
24 and had gathered men to himself. When David killed the Zobaites,
Rezon captained a band of raiders and went to Damascus, where they
settled and gained control.
25 Rezon was Israel's enemy throughout the days of Solomon, adding to
the trouble caused by Hadad. So Rezon ruled over Aram with hostility
toward Israel.
26 Now Jeroboam son of Nebat was an Ephraimite from Zeredah whose
mother was a widow named Zeruah. Jeroboam was a servant of Solomon,
but he rebelled against the king,
27 and this is the account of his rebellion against the king.
Solomon had built the supporting terraces† and repaired the gap in the
wall of the city of his father David.
28 Now Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor. So when Solomon noticed
that the young man was industrious, he put him in charge of the whole
labor force of the house of Joseph.
29 During that time, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met Jeroboam on
the road as he was going out of Jerusalem. Now Ahijah had wrapped
himself in a new cloak, and the two of them were alone in the open field.
30 And Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing, tore it into
twelve pieces,
31 and said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the
LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the
hand of Solomon, and I will give you ten tribes.
32 But one tribe will remain for the sake of my servant David and for the
sake of Jerusalem, the city I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel.

† **11:27 11:27** Hebrew *the Millo*

33 For they have‡ forsaken me to worship Ashtoreth the goddess of the
Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the
Ammonites. They have not walked in my ways, nor done what is right in
my eyes, nor kept my statutes and judgments, as Solomon's father David
did.
34 Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's
hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of
David my servant, whom I chose because he kept my commandments and
statutes.
35 But I will take ten tribes of the kingdom from the hand of his son and
give them to you.
36 I will give one tribe to his son, so that my servant David will always
have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my
Name.
37 But as for you, I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your
heart desires, and you will be king over Israel.
38 If you listen to all that I command you, walk in my ways, and do what
is right in my sight in order to keep my statutes and commandments as my
servant David did, then I will be with you. I will build you a lasting
dynasty just as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.
39 Because of this, I will humble David's descendants—but not forever.' "
40 Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and
fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, where he remained until the death
of Solomon.
41 As for the rest of the acts of Solomon—all that he did, as well as his
wisdom—are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon?
42 Thus the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was
forty years.
43 And Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his
father David. And his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

12

1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to
make him king.
2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about this, he was still* in Egypt
where he had fled from King Solomon and had been living ever since.
3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel
came to Rehoboam and said,
4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us. But now you must lighten the
burden of your father's service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we
will serve you."
5 Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then return to me."
So the people departed.
6 Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his
father Solomon during his lifetime. "How do you advise me to respond to
these people?" he asked.
7 They replied,† "If you will be a servant to these people and serve them
this day, and if you will respond by speaking kind words to them, they will
be your servants forever."

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‡ **11:33 11:33** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *he has*; twice in this verse
† **12:7 12:7** Qere; Ketiv *he replied*
* **12:2 12:2** Or *he remained*

8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders; instead, he consulted
the young men who had grown up with him and served him.
9 He asked them, “What message do you advise that we send back to
these people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke your father
put on us’?”
10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, “This is how you
should answer these people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke
heavy, but you must make it lighter.’ This is what you should tell them:
‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist!
11 Whereas my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to
your yoke. Whereas my father scourged you with whips, I will scourge
you with scorpions.’ ”
12 After three days, Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam,
since the king had said, “Come back to me on the third day.”
13 And the king answered the people harshly. He rejected the advice of
the elders
14 and spoke to them as the young men had advised, saying, “Whereas
my father made your yoke heavy, I will add to your yoke. Whereas my
father scourged you with whips, I will scourge you with scorpions.”
15 So the king did not listen to the people, and indeed this turn of events
was from the LORD, to fulfill the word he had spoken to Jeroboam son of
Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.
16 When all Israel saw that the king had refused to listen to them, they
answered the king:

“What portion do we have in David,
and what inheritance in the son of Jesse?
To your tents, O Israel!
Look now to your own house, O David!”
So the Israelites went home,
17 but Rehoboam still reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of
Judah.
18 Then King Rehoboam sent out Adoram,‡ who was in charge of the
forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam
mounted his chariot in haste and escaped to Jerusalem.
19 So to this day Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David.
20 When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they summoned
him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of
Judah followed the house of David.
21 And when Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem,§ he mobilized the whole
house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin—180,000 chosen warriors—to
fight against the house of Israel and restore the kingdom to Rehoboam son
of Solomon.
22 But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God:
23 “Tell Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah, all the house of Judah
and Benjamin, and the rest of the people
24 that this is what the LORD says: ‘You are not to go up and fight against
your brothers, the Israelites. Each of you must return home, for this is my
doing.’ ”

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‡ **12:18 12:18** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Adoniram*; see 1 Kings 4:6 and 1 Kings 5:28. § **12:21 12:21** Qere; Ketiv *they arrived*

So they listened to the word of the LORD and turned back according to the word of the LORD.
25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And from there he went out and built Penuel.*
26 Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom might revert to the house of David.
27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, their hearts will return to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah; then they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”
28 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves and said to the people,† “Going up to Jerusalem is too much for you. Here, O Israel, are your gods, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.”
29 One calf he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan.
30 And this thing became a sin; the people walked before the one as far as Dan.‡
31 Jeroboam also built shrines on the high places and appointed from every class of people priests who were not Levites.
32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month,§ like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar; he made this offering in Bethel to sacrifice to the calves he had set up, and he installed priests in Bethel for the high places he had set up.
33 On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing,* Jeroboam offered sacrifices on the altar he had set up in Bethel. So he ordained a feast for the Israelites, offered sacrifices on the altar, and burned incense.

13

1 Suddenly, as Jeroboam was standing beside the altar to burn incense, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD.
2 And he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, “O altar, O altar, this is what the LORD says: ‘A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David, and upon you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and human bones will be burned upon you.’ ”*
3 That day the man of God gave a sign, saying, “The LORD has spoken this sign: ‘Surely the altar will be split apart, and the ashes upon it will be poured out.’ ”
4 Now when King Jeroboam, who was at the altar in Bethel, heard the word that the man of God had cried out against it, he stretched out his hand and said, “Seize him!” But the hand he stretched out toward him withered, so that he could not pull it back.
5 And the altar was split apart, and the ashes poured out, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.
6 Then the king responded to the man of God, “Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored.”
So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him as it was before.

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* **12:25 12:25** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; see Genesis 32:31. † **12:28 12:28** Hebrew *to them* ‡ **12:30 12:30** A proposed emendation reads *the people walked as far as Dan to worship before one of the calves*; LXX *the people went to the one at Bethel and to the other as far as Dan* § **12:32 12:32** This feast was exactly one month after the annual Feast of Tabernacles in Judah; see Leviticus 23:34.
* **12:33 12:33** Qere; Ketiv *by himself* * **13:2 13:2** See 2 Kings 23:16.

7 Then the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and
refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.”
8 But the man of God replied, “If you were to give me half your
possessions, I still would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink
water in this place.
9 For this is what I was commanded by the word of the LORD: ‘You must
not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.’ ”
10 So the man of God went another way and did not return by the way
he had come to Bethel.
11 Now a certain old prophet was living in Bethel, and his son† came and
told him all the deeds that the man of God had done that day in Bethel.
They also told their father the words that the man had spoken to the king.
12 “Which way did he go?” their father asked.
And his sons had seen‡ the way taken by the man of God, who had come
from Judah.
13 So the prophet said to his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.”
Then they saddled the donkey for him, and he mounted it
14 and went after the man of God. He found him sitting under a
terebinth§ and asked, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?”
“I am,” he replied.
15 So the prophet said to the man of God, “Come home with me and eat
some bread.”
16 But the man replied, “I cannot go home with you, and I will not eat
bread or drink water with you in this place.
17 For I have been told by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread
or drink water there or return by the way you came.’ ”
18 Then the prophet replied, “I too am a prophet like you, and an angel
spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, ‘Bring him back with you to
your house, so that he may eat bread and drink water.’ ”
The old prophet was lying to him,
19 but the man of God went back with him, ate bread in his house, and
drank water.
20 While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the
prophet who had brought him back,
21 and the prophet cried out to the man of God who had come from
Judah, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Because you have defied the word of
the LORD and have not kept the commandment that the LORD your God
gave you,
22 but you went back and ate bread and drank water in the place where
he told you not to do so, your body shall never reach the tomb of your
fathers.’ ”
23 And after the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the old
prophet who had brought him back saddled the donkey for him.
24 As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and
his body was left lying in the road, with the donkey and the lion standing
beside it.
25 And there were men passing by who saw the body lying in the road
with the lion standing beside it, and they went and reported this in the
city where the old prophet lived.

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† **13:11 13:11** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *sons* ‡ **13:12 13:12** LXX *showed him* § **13:14 13:14** Or *an oak tree* or *a great tree*

26 When the prophet who had brought him back from his journey heard
this, he said, “It is the man of God who disobeyed the command of the
LORD. Therefore the LORD has delivered him to the lion, and it has
mauled him and killed him, according to the word that the LORD had
spoken to him.”
27 Then the old prophet instructed his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.”
So they saddled it,
28 and he went and found the body lying in the road, with the donkey
and the lion standing beside it. The lion had not eaten the body or mauled
the donkey.
29 So the old prophet lifted up the body of the man of God, laid it on the
donkey, and brought it back to his own city to mourn for him and bury
him.
30 Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and they lamented over him,
“Oh, my brother!”
31 After he had buried him, the prophet said to his sons, “When I die, you
must bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried. Lay my bones
beside his bones,
32 for the message that he cried out by the word of the LORD against the
altar in Bethel and against all the shrines on the high places in the cities of
Samaria will surely come to pass.”
33 Even after these events, Jeroboam did not repent of his evil ways, but
again he appointed priests for the high places from every class of people.
He ordained* anyone who desired to be a priest of the high places.
34 And this was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its
extermination and destruction from the face of the earth.

14

1 At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill,
2 and Jeroboam said to his wife, “Now get up, disguise yourself so they
will not recognize you as my wife, and go to Shiloh. For Ahijah the
prophet is there; it was he who spoke about my kingship over this people.
3 Take with you ten loaves of bread, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and
go to him. He will tell you what will become of the boy.”
4 Jeroboam’s wife did as instructed; she arose and went to Shiloh and
arrived at Ahijah’s house. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim
because of his age.
5 But the LORD had said to Ahijah, “Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is
coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill. You are to say such and such
to her, because when she arrives, she will be disguised.”
6 So when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet entering the door, he said,
“Come in, wife of Jeroboam! Why are you disguised? For I have been sent
to you with bad news.
7 Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I
raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my
people Israel.
8 I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you.
But you have not been like my servant David, who kept my
commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was
right in my eyes.

* **13:33 13:33** Hebrew *filled the hand of*

9 You have done more evil than all who came before you. You have
proceeded to make for yourself other gods and molten images to provoke
me, and you have flung me behind your back.
10 Because of all this, behold, I am bringing disaster on the house of
Jeroboam:

I will cut off from Jeroboam every male,*
both slave and free,
in Israel;
I will burn up the house of Jeroboam
as one burns up dung until it is gone!
11 Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city
will be eaten by dogs,
and anyone who dies in the field
will be eaten by the birds of the air.'
For the LORD has spoken.
12 As for you, get up and go home. When your feet enter the city, the
child will die.
13 All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. For this is the only one
belonging to Jeroboam who will receive a proper burial,† because only in
him has the LORD, the God of Israel, found any good in the house of
Jeroboam.
14 Moreover, the LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel who
will cut off the house of Jeroboam. This is the day—yes, even today!
15 For the LORD will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water. He will
uproot Israel from this good land that he gave their fathers, and he will
scatter them beyond the Euphrates,‡ because they have made their
Asherah poles, provoking the LORD to anger.
16 So he will give Israel over on account of the sins Jeroboam has
committed and has caused Israel to commit."
17 Then Jeroboam's wife got up and departed for Tirzah, and as soon as
she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died.
18 And they buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, according to the
word that the LORD had spoken through his servant Ahijah the prophet.
19 As for the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he waged war and how he
reigned, they are indeed written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings
of Israel.
20 And the length of Jeroboam's reign was twenty-two years, and he
rested with his fathers, and his son Nadab reigned in his place.
21 Meanwhile, Rehoboam son of Solomon reigned in Judah. He was
forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years
in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel in
which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite.
22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and by the sins they
committed they provoked him to jealous anger more than all their fathers
had done.
23 They also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and Asherah
poles on every high hill and under every green tree.

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* **14:10 14:10** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall* † **14:13 14:13** Literally *who will come to the grave* ‡ **14:15 14:15** Hebrew *the River*

24 There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land. They imitated all
the abominations of the nations the LORD had driven out before the
Israelites.
25 In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, Shishak king of Egypt attacked
Jerusalem.
26 He seized the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the royal
palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields that Solomon
had made.
27 Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place and
committed them to the care of the captains of the guard on duty at the
entrance to the royal palace.
28 And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards
would bear the shields, and later they would return them to the
guardroom.
29 As for the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, along with all that he did, are
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
30 There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam throughout their
days.
31 And Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried with them in
the City of David; his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. And his
son Abijam§ reigned in his place.

15

1 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijam*
became king of Judah,
2 and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was
Maacah daughter of Abishalom.†
3 And Abijam walked in all the sins that his father before him had
committed, and his heart was not as fully devoted to the LORD his God as
the heart of David his forefather had been.
4 Nevertheless, for the sake of David, the LORD his God gave him a lamp
in Jerusalem by raising up a son to succeed him and to make Jerusalem
strong.
5 For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had
not turned aside from anything the LORD commanded all the days of his
life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.
6 And there was war between the houses of Rehoboam‡ and Jeroboam
all the days of his life.§
7 As for the rest of the acts of Abijam, along with all his
accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.
8 And Abijam rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David,
and his son Asa reigned in his place.
9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam's reign over Israel, Asa became king
of Judah,

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§ **14:31 14:31** *Abijam* is a variant of *Abijah*; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *Abijah*; see 2 Chronicles 12:16. * **15:1 15:1** *Abijam* is a variant of *Abijah*; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *Abijah*; also in verses 3, 6, 7, and 8; see 2 Chronicles 12:16. † **15:2 15:2** *Abishalom* is a variant of *Absalom*; also in verse 10; see 2 Chronicles 11:20. ‡ **15:6 15:6** Literally *war between Rehoboam* (most Hebrew manuscripts); some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *war between Abijam* (that is, Abijah); most LXX texts do not contain this verse. § **15:6 15:6** Or *of Abijam's life*

10 and he reigned in Jerusalem forty-one years. His mother's* name was
Maacah daughter of Abishalom.
11 And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father
David had done.
12 He banished the male shrine prostitutes from the land and removed
all the idols that his fathers had made.
13 He also removed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen
mother because she had made a detestable Asherah pole. Asa chopped
down the pole and burned it in the Kidron Valley.
14 The high places were not removed, but Asa's heart was fully devoted
to the LORD all his days.
15 And he brought into the house of the LORD the silver and gold and the
articles that he and his father had dedicated.†
16 Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel
throughout their days.
17 Baasha king of Israel went to war against Judah and fortified Ramah
to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of
Judah.
18 So Asa withdrew all the silver and gold that remained in the
treasuries of the house of the LORD and the royal palace. He entrusted it
to his servants and sent them with this message to Ben-hadad son of
Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, the king of Aram, who was ruling in
Damascus:
19 "Let there be a treaty‡ between me and you as there was between my
father and your father. See, I have sent you a gift of silver and gold. Now
go and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will
withdraw from me."
20 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his
armies against the cities of Israel, conquering Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah,
and the whole land of Naphtali, including the region of Chinnereth.
21 When Baasha learned of this, he stopped fortifying Ramah and
withdrew to Tirzah.
22 Then King Asa summoned all the men of Judah,§ with no exceptions,
and they carried away the stones of Ramah and the timbers Baasha had
used for building. And with these materials King Asa built up Geba of
Benjamin, as well as Mizpah.
23 Now the rest of the acts of Asa, along with all his might, all his
accomplishments, and the cities he built, are they not written in the Book
of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? In his old age, however, he
became diseased in his feet.
24 And Asa rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the city
of his father David, and his son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place.
25 In the second year of Asa's reign over Judah, Nadab son of Jeroboam
became king of Israel, and he reigned two years.
26 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his
father and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

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* **15:10 15:10** Or *his grandmother's* or *The queen mother's*; see verses 2 and 13. † **15:15 15:15** Ketiv; Qere *the things his father had dedicated and the dedicated things of the house of the LORD* ‡ **15:19 15:19** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse. § **15:22 15:22** Or *Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah*

27 Then Baasha son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against
Nadab, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon of the Philistines while
Nadab and all Israel were besieging the city.
28 In the third year of Asa's reign over Judah, Baasha killed Nadab and
reigned in his place.
29 As soon as Baasha became king, he struck down the entire household
of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone who breathed, but
destroyed them all according to the word that the LORD had spoken
through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite,
30 because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to
commit, and because he had provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to
anger.
31 As for the rest of the acts of Nadab, along with all his
accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel?
32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout
their days.
33 In the third year of Asa's reign over Judah, Baasha son of Ahijah
became king of all Israel, and he reigned in Tirzah twenty-four years.
34 And Baasha did evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of
Jeroboam and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

16

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu son of Hanani against
Baasha, saying:
2 "Even though I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over my
people Israel, you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have caused
my people Israel to sin and to provoke me to anger by their sins.
3 So now I will consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your
house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat:

4 Anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the city
will be eaten by dogs,
and anyone who dies in the field
will be eaten by the birds of the air."
5 As for the rest of the acts of Baasha, along with his accomplishments
and might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings
of Israel?
6 And Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah, and his
son Elah reigned in his place.
7 Moreover, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Jehu son of
Hanani against Baasha and his house, because of all the evil he had done
in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger with the work of his
hands and becoming like the house of Jeroboam, and also because Baasha
had struck down the house of Jeroboam.
8 In the twenty-sixth year of Asa's reign over Judah, Elah son of Baasha
became king of Israel, and he reigned in Tirzah two years.
9 However, while Elah was in Tirzah getting drunk in the house of Arza
the steward of his household there, Elah's servant Zimri, the commander
of half his chariots, conspired against him.
10 So in the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign over Judah, Zimri went
in, struck Elah down, and killed him. And Zimri reigned in his place.

11 As soon as Zimri began to reign and was seated on the throne, he
struck down the entire household of Baasha. He did not leave a single
male, whether a kinsman or friend.
12 So Zimri destroyed the entire household of Baasha, according to the
word that the LORD had spoken against Baasha through Jehu the prophet.
13 This happened because of all the sins Baasha and his son Elah had
committed and had caused Israel to commit, provoking the LORD, the God
of Israel, to anger with their worthless idols.
14 As for the rest of the acts of Elah, along with all his accomplishments,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
15 In the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign over Judah, Zimri reigned in
Tirzah for seven days. Now the troops were encamped against Gibbethon
of the Philistines,
16 and the people in the camp heard that Zimri had conspired against
the king and struck him down. So there in the camp that very day, all
Israel proclaimed Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel.
17 Then Omri and all the Israelites marched up from Gibbethon and
besieged Tirzah.
18 When Zimri saw that the city was captured, he entered the citadel of
the royal palace and burned it down upon himself. So he died
19 because of the sins* he had committed, doing evil in the sight of the
LORD and following the example of Jeroboam and the sin he had
committed and had caused Israel to commit.
20 As for the rest of the acts of Zimri and the treason he committed, are
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
21 At that time the people of Israel were divided: Half of the people
supported Tibni son of Ginath as king, and half supported Omri.
22 But the followers of Omri proved stronger than those of Tibni son of
Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri became king.
23 In the thirty-first year of Asa's reign over Judah, Omri became king of
Israel, and he reigned twelve years, six of them in Tirzah.
24 He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver†
and built a city there, calling it Samaria after the name of Shemer, who
had owned the hill.
25 But Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD and acted more wickedly
than all who were before him.
26 For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat and in his
sins,‡ which he caused Israel to commit, provoking the LORD, the God of
Israel, to anger with their worthless idols.
27 As for the rest of the acts of Omri, along with his accomplishments
and the might he exercised, are they not written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
28 And Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria, and his
son Ahab reigned in his place.
29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa's reign over Judah, Ahab son of Omri
became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria twenty-two years.
30 However, Ahab son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more
than all who were before him.

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* **16:19 16:19** Qere; Ketiv *sin* † **16:24 16:24** *2 talents* is approximately 151 pounds or 68.4 kilograms of silver. ‡ **16:26 16:26** Ketiv; Qere *his sin*

31 And as if it were not enough for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam
son of Nebat, he even married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the
Sidonians, and he then proceeded to serve and worship Baal.
32 First, Ahab set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he had
built in Samaria.
33 Then he set up an Asherah pole. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the
LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.
34 In Ahab's days, Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho. At the cost of Abiram
his firstborn he laid its foundation, and at the cost of Segub his youngest
he set up its gates, according to the word that the LORD had spoken
through Joshua son of Nun.§

17

1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was among the settlers of Gilead,* said to
Ahab, "As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand,
there will be neither dew nor rain in these years except at my word!"
2 Then a revelation from the LORD came to Elijah:
3 "Leave here, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Brook of Cherith,
east of the Jordan.†
4 And you are to drink from the brook, and I have commanded the
ravens to feed you there."
5 So Elijah did what the LORD had told him, and he went and lived by
the Brook of Cherith, east of the Jordan.
6 The ravens would bring him bread and meat in the morning and
evening, and he would drink from the brook.
7 Some time later, however, the brook dried up because there had been
no rain in the land.
8 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah:
9 "Get up and go to Zarephath of Sidon, and stay there. Behold, I have
commanded a widow there to provide for you."
10 So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the city
gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Elijah called to her and said,
"Please bring me a little water in a cup, so that I may drink."
11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring
me a piece of bread in your hand."
12 But she replied, "As surely as the LORD your God lives, I have no
bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. Look, I am
gathering a couple of sticks to take home and prepare a meal for myself
and my son, so that we may eat it and die."
13 "Do not be afraid," Elijah said to her. "Go and do as you have said. But
first make me a small cake of bread from what you have, and bring it out
to me. Afterward, make some for yourself and your son,
14 for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will
not be exhausted and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD
sends rain upon the face of the earth.' "
15 So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and there was
food every day for the woman and Elijah‡ and her household.
16 The jar of flour was not exhausted and the jug of oil did not run dry,
according to the word that the LORD had spoken through Elijah.

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§ **16:34 16:34** See Joshua 6:26. * **17:1 17:1** LXX *who was from Tishbe in Gilead* † **17:3 17:3** Or *the Cherith Ravine, near the Jordan*; also in verse 5 ‡ **17:15 17:15** Qere; Ketiv *for Elijah and the woman*

17 Later, the son of the woman who owned the house became ill, and his
sickness grew worse and worse, until no breath remained in him.
18 "O man of God," said the woman to Elijah, "what have you done to me?
Have you come to remind me of my iniquity and cause the death of my
son?"
19 But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son."
So he took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he
was staying, and laid him on his own bed.
20 Then he cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you also
brought tragedy on this widow who has opened her home to me, by
causing her son to die?"
21 Then he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out
to the LORD, "O LORD my God, please let this boy's life return to him!"
22 And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah, and the child's life
returned to him, and he lived.
23 Then Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper room
into the house, and gave him to his mother. "Look, your son is alive," Elijah
declared.
24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of
God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is truth."

18

1 After a long time, in the third year of the drought,* the word of the
LORD came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send
rain upon the face of the earth."
2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. The famine was severe in
Samaria,
3 and Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace.
(Now Obadiah greatly feared the LORD,
4 for when Jezebel had slaughtered the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah
had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty men per cave,
providing them with food and water.)
5 Then Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go throughout the land to every spring
and every valley. Perhaps we will find grass to keep the horses and mules
alive so that we will not have to destroy any livestock."
6 So they divided the land to explore. Ahab went one way by himself,
and Obadiah went the other way by himself.
7 Now as Obadiah went on his way, Elijah suddenly met him. When
Obadiah recognized him, he fell facedown and said, "Is it you, my lord
Elijah?"
8 "It is I," he answered. "Go tell your master, 'Elijah is here!' "
9 But Obadiah replied, "How have I sinned, that you are handing your
servant over to Ahab to put me to death?
10 As surely as the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom
where my lord has not sent someone to search for you. When they said,
'He is not here,' he made that kingdom or nation swear that they had not
found you.
11 And now you say, 'Go tell your master that Elijah is here!'
12 I do not know where the spirit of the LORD may carry you off when I
leave you. Then when I go and tell Ahab and he does not find you, he will
kill me. But I, your servant, have feared the LORD from my youth.

* **18:1 18:1** Literally *And the days were many, and in the third year,*

13 Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel slaughtered
the prophets of the LORD? I hid a hundred prophets of the LORD, fifty men
per cave, and I provided them with food and water.
14 And now you say, 'Go tell your lord that Elijah is here!' He will kill me!"
15 Then Elijah said, "As surely as the LORD of Hosts lives, before whom I
stand, I will present myself to Ahab today."
16 So Obadiah went to inform Ahab, who went to meet Elijah.
17 When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of
Israel?"
18 "I have not troubled Israel," Elijah replied, "but you and your father's
house have, for you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and
have followed the Baals.
19 Now summon all Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel, along with the
four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of
Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."
20 So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and assembled the prophets on
Mount Carmel.
21 Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you
waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him. But if Baal
is God, follow him."
But the people did not answer a word.
22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of the
LORD, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.
23 Get two bulls for us. Let the prophets of Baal choose one bull for
themselves, cut it into pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the
fire. And I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not
light the fire.
24 Then you may call on the name of your god, and I will call on the
name of the LORD. The God who answers by fire, he is God."
And all the people answered, "What you say is good."
25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Since you are so numerous,
choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name
of your god, but do not light the fire."
26 And they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on
the name of Baal from morning until noon, shouting, "O Baal, answer us!"
But there was no sound, and no one answered as they leaped around
the altar they had made.
27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them, saying, "Shout louder, for he is a
god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or occupied, or on a journey. Perhaps
he is sleeping and must be awakened!"
28 So they shouted louder and cut themselves with knives and lances, as
was their custom, until the blood gushed over them.
29 Midday passed, and they kept on raving until the time of the evening
sacrifice. But there was no response; no one answered, no one paid
attention.
30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people
approached him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn
down.
31 And Elijah took twelve stones, one for each tribe of the sons of Jacob,
to whom the word of the LORD had come and said, "Israel shall be your
name."

32 And with the stones, Elijah built an altar in the name of the LORD.
Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of
seed.†
33 Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull, placed it on the wood.
34 Then he said, “Fill four waterpots and pour the water on the offering
and on the wood.”
“Do it a second time,” he said, and they did it a second time.
“Do it a third time,” he said, and they did it a third time.
35 So the water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.
36 At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached the
altar and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known
this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have
done all these things at your command.
37 Answer me, O LORD! Answer me, so that this people will know that
you, the LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back again.”
38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood,
the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water in the trench.
39 When all the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, “The LORD,
he is God! The LORD, he is God!”
40 Then Elijah ordered them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a
single one escape.” So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to
the Kishon Valley and slaughtered them there.
41 And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound
of a heavy rain.”
42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the summit of
Carmel, bent down on the ground, and put his face between his knees.
43 “Go and look toward the sea,” he said to his servant.
So the servant went and looked, and he said, “There is nothing there.”
Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.”
44 On the seventh time the servant reported, “There is a cloud as small as
a man’s hand rising from the sea.”
And Elijah replied, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down
before the rain stops you.’ ”
45 Meanwhile, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a heavy rain
began to fall. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.
46 And the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah, and he tucked his cloak
into his belt‡ and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

19

1 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done and how he
had killed all the prophets with the sword.
2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “May the gods deal with
me, and ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I have not made your
life like the lives of those you killed!”
3 When Elijah saw this, he ran for his life.* When he came to Beersheba
in Judah, he left his servant there,
4 while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He sat
down under a broom tree and prayed that he might die. “I have had
enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”

† **18:32 18:32** *2 seahs* is approximately 13.2 dry quarts or 14.6 liters (probably about 25.4 pounds or 11.5 kilograms of seed). ‡ **18:46 18:46** Hebrew *he girded up his loins* * **19:3 19:3** MT vowels; many Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *was afraid*

5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep.
Suddenly an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”
6 And he looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread
baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down
again.
7 A second time the angel of the LORD returned and touched him,
saying, “Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you.”
8 So he got up and ate and drank. And strengthened by that food, he
walked forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb,† the mountain
of God.
9 There Elijah entered a cave and spent the night. And the word of the
LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
10 “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Hosts,” he replied,
“but the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars,
and killed your prophets with the sword. I am the only one left, and they
are seeking my life as well.”
11 Then the LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the
LORD. Behold, the LORD is about to pass by.”
And a great and mighty wind tore into the mountains and shattered the
rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.
After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the
earthquake.
12 After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.
And after the fire came a still, small voice.
13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out
and stood at the mouth of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him and
said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
14 “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Hosts,” he replied,
“but the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars,
and killed your prophets with the sword. I am the only one left, and they
are seeking my life as well.”
15 Then the LORD said to him, “Go back by the way you came, and go to
the Desert of Damascus. When you arrive, you are to anoint Hazael as
king over Aram.
16 You are also to anoint Jehu son‡ of Nimshi as king over Israel and
Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel-meholah to succeed you as prophet.
17 Then Jehu will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, and
Elisha will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Jehu.
18 Nevertheless, I have reserved seven thousand in Israel—all whose
knees have not bowed to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”
19 So Elijah departed and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing
with twelve teams of oxen, and he was with the twelfth team. Elijah
passed by him and threw his cloak around him.
20 So Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss
my father and mother goodbye, and then I will follow you.”
“Go on back,” Elijah replied, “for what have I done to you?”
21 So Elisha turned back from him, took his pair of oxen, and slaughtered
them. Using the oxen’s equipment for fuel, he cooked the meat and gave it
to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow and serve Elijah.

† **19:8 19:8** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai
‡ **19:16 19:16** Or *grandson*; see 2 Kings 9:14.

20

1 Now Ben-hadad king of Aram assembled his entire army. Accompanied
by thirty-two kings with their horses and chariots, he marched up,
besieged Samaria, and waged war against it.
2 Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel.
3 And he said to him, "This is what Ben-hadad says: 'Your silver and gold
are mine, and your best wives and children are mine!' "
4 And the king of Israel replied, "Just as you say, my lord the king: I am
yours, along with all that I have."
5 The messengers came back and said, "This is what Ben-hadad says: 'I
have sent to you to demand your silver, your gold, your wives, and your
children.
6 But about this time tomorrow I will send my servants to search your
palace and the houses of your servants. They will seize and carry away all
that is precious to you.' "
7 Then the king of Israel summoned all the elders of the land and said,
"Please take note and see that this man is looking for trouble, for when he
demanded my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold, I did not deny
him."
8 And the elders and the people all said, "Do not listen to him or consent
to his terms."
9 So Ahab answered the messengers of Ben-hadad, "Tell my lord the
king, 'All that you demanded of your servant the first time I will do, but
this thing I cannot do.' "
So the messengers departed and relayed the message to Ben-hadad.
10 Then Ben-hadad sent another message to Ahab: "May the gods deal
with me, and ever so severely, if enough dust remains of Samaria for each
of my men to have a handful."
11 And the king of Israel replied, "Tell him: 'The one putting on his armor
should not boast like one taking it off.' "
12 Ben-hadad received this message while he and the kings were
drinking in Succoth,* and he said to his servants, "Take your positions." So
they stationed themselves against the city.
13 Meanwhile a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and declared,
"This is what the LORD says: 'Do you see this entire great army? Behold, I
will deliver it into your hand this very day, and you will know that I am
the LORD.' "
14 "By whom?" Ahab asked.
And the prophet replied, "This is what the LORD says: 'By the young
officers of the district governors.' "
"Who will start the battle?" asked Ahab.
"You will," answered the prophet.
15 So Ahab assembled the young officers of the district governors, and
there were 232 men. And after them, he assembled the rest of the Israelite
troops, 7,000 in all.
16 They marched out at noon while Ben-hadad and the 32 kings allied
with him were in Succoth getting drunk.
17 And the young officers of the district governors marched out first.
Now Ben-hadad had sent out scouts, who reported to him, "Men are
marching out of Samaria."

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* **20:12 20:12** Or *in their tents*; also in verse 16

18 “If they have marched out in peace,” he said, “take them alive. Even if
they have marched out for war, take them alive.”
19 Meanwhile, these young officers of the district governors marched out
of the city, with the army behind them,
20 and each one struck down his opponent. So the Arameans fled, with
the Israelites in pursuit. But Ben-hadad king of Aram escaped on
horseback with the cavalry.
21 Then the king of Israel marched out and attacked the horses and
chariots, inflicting a great slaughter on the Arameans.
22 Afterward, the prophet approached the king of Israel and said, “Go
and strengthen your position, and take note what you must do, for at the
turn of the year† the king of Aram will come up against you.”
23 Meanwhile, the servants of the king of Aram said to him, “Their gods
are gods of the hills. That is why they prevailed over us. Instead, we
should fight them on the plains; surely then we will prevail.
24 So do this: Dismiss all the kings from their positions and replace them
with other officers.
25 And you must raise an army like the one you have lost—horse for
horse and chariot for chariot—so we can fight the Israelites on the plain,
where we will surely prevail.”
And the king approved their plan and acted accordingly.
26 In the spring, Ben-hadad mobilized the Arameans and went up to
Aphek to fight against Israel.
27 The Israelites also mobilized, gathered supplies, and marched out to
meet them.
The Israelites camped before them like two small flocks of goats, while
the Arameans covered the countryside.
28 Then the man of God approached the king of Israel and said, “This is
what the LORD says: ‘Because the Arameans have said that the LORD is a
god of the hills and not of the valleys, I will deliver all this great army into
your hand. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’ ”
29 For seven days the armies camped opposite each other, and on the
seventh day the battle ensued, and the Israelites struck down the
Arameans—a hundred thousand foot soldiers in one day.
30 The rest of them fled into the city of Aphek, where the wall fell on
twenty-seven thousand of the remaining men. Ben-hadad also fled to the
city and hid in an inner room.
31 Then the servants of Ben-hadad said to him, “Look now, we have
heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful. Let us go out to
the king of Israel with sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our
heads. Perhaps he will spare your life.”
32 So with sackcloth around their waists and ropes around their heads,
they went to the king of Israel and said, “Your servant Ben-hadad says,
‘Please spare my life.’ ”
And the king answered, “Is he still alive? He is my brother.”
33 Now the men were looking for a sign of hope, and they quickly
grasped at this word and replied, “Yes, your brother Ben-hadad.”
“Go and get him!” said the king.
Then Ben-hadad came out, and Ahab had him come up into his chariot.

† **20:22 20:22** Or *in the spring*; similarly in verse 26

34 Ben-hadad said to him, “I will restore the cities my father took from
your father; you may set up your own marketplaces in Damascus, as my
father did in Samaria.”
“By this treaty‡ I release you,” Ahab replied. So he made a treaty with
him and sent him away.
35 Meanwhile, by the word of the LORD, one of the sons of the prophets
said to his companion, “Strike me, please!”
But the man refused to strike him.
36 Then the prophet said to him, “Because you have not obeyed the voice
of the LORD, as soon as you depart from me a lion will kill you.”
And when he left, a lion found him and killed him.
37 Then the prophet found another man and said, “Strike me, please!”
So the man struck him and wounded him,
38 and the prophet went and waited on the road for the king, disguising
himself with a bandage over his eyes.
39 As the king passed by, he cried out to the king: “Your servant had
marched out into the middle of the battle, when suddenly a man came
over with a captive and told me, ‘Guard this man! If he goes missing for
any reason, your life will be exchanged for his life, or you will weigh out a
talent of silver.§’
40 But while your servant was busy here and there, the man
disappeared.”
And the king of Israel said to him, “So shall your judgment be; you have
pronounced it on yourself.”
41 Then the prophet quickly removed the bandage from his eyes, and the
king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets.
42 And the prophet said to the king, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Because
you have let slip from your hand the man I had devoted to destruction,*
your life will be exchanged for his life, and your people for his people.’ ”
43 Sullen and angry, the king of Israel went home to Samaria.

21

1 Some time after these events, Naboth the Jezreelite owned a vineyard
in Jezreel next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.
2 So Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard to use as a vegetable
garden, since it is next to my palace. I will give you a better vineyard in its
place—or if you prefer, I will give you its value in silver.”
3 But Naboth replied, “The LORD forbid that I should give you the
inheritance of my fathers.”
4 So Ahab went to his palace, sullen and angry because Naboth the
Jezreelite had told him, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.”
He lay down on his bed, turned his face away, and refused to eat.
5 Soon his wife Jezebel came in and asked, “Why are you so sullen that
you refuse to eat?”
6 Ahab answered, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and told him,
‘Give me your vineyard for silver, or if you wish, I will give you another
vineyard in its place.’ And he replied, ‘I will not give you my vineyard!’ ”

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‡ **20:34 20:34** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse. § **20:39 20:39** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of silver. * **20:42 20:42** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

7 But his wife Jezebel said to him, “Do you not reign over Israel? Get up,
eat some food, and be cheerful, for I will get you the vineyard of Naboth
the Jezreelite.”
8 Then Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab’s name, sealed them with his seal,
and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived with Naboth in his city.
9 In the letters she wrote:
“Proclaim a fast and give Naboth a seat of honor among the people.
10 But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them testify, ‘You have
cursed both God and the king!’ Then take him out and stone him to death.”
11 So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth’s city did as Jezebel had
instructed in the letters she had written to them.
12 They proclaimed a fast and gave Naboth a seat of honor among the
people.
13 And the two scoundrels came in and sat opposite Naboth, and these
men testified against him before the people, saying, “Naboth has cursed
both God and the king!”
So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death.
14 Then they sent word to Jezebel: “Naboth has been stoned to death.”
15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to
Ahab, “Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite,
who refused to give it to you for silver. For Naboth is no longer alive, but
dead.”
16 And when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went
down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.
17 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,
18 “Get up and go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria.
See, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession
of it.
19 Tell him that this is what the LORD says: ‘Have you not murdered a
man and seized his land?’
Then tell him that this is also what the LORD says: ‘In the place where
the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, there also the dogs will lick up
your blood—yes, yours!’*”
20 When Elijah arrived, Ahab said to him, “So you have found me out,
my enemy.”
He replied, “I have found you out because you have sold yourself to do
evil in the sight of the LORD.
21 ‘Behold,†

I will bring calamity on you
and consume your descendants;
I will cut off from Ahab every male‡ in Israel,
both slave and free.
22 I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat
and like that of Baasha son of Ahijah,
because you have provoked my anger
and caused Israel to sin.’
23 And the LORD also speaks concerning Jezebel:

‘The dogs will devour Jezebel

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* **21:19 21:19** See 1 Kings 22:38 † **21:21 21:21** LXX *This is what the LORD says*; the speaker is identified in verses 17 and 23 ‡ **21:21 21:21** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall*

by the wall of Jezreel.'§

24 Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city
will be eaten by dogs,
and anyone who dies in the field
will be eaten by the birds of the air."
25 (Surely there was never one like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD, incited by his wife Jezebel.
26 He committed the most detestable acts by going after idols, just like the Amorites whom the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.)
27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his flesh, and fasted. He lay down in sackcloth and walked around meekly.
28 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying:
29 "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the calamity during his days, but I will bring it upon his house in the days of his son."

22

1 Then three years passed without war between Aram and Israel.
2 However, in the third year, Jehoshaphat king of Judah went down to visit the king of Israel,
3 who said to his servants, "Do you not know that Ramoth-gilead is ours, but we have failed to take it from the hand of the king of Aram?"
4 So he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight against Ramoth-gilead?"
Jehoshaphat answered the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people are your people, and my horses are your horses."
5 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for the word of the LORD."
6 So the king of Israel assembled the prophets, about four hundred men, and asked them, "Should I go to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should I refrain?"
"Go up," they replied, "and the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."
7 But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here of whom we can inquire?"
8 The king of Israel answered, "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good for me, but only bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah."
"The king should not say that!" Jehoshaphat replied.
9 So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, "Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once."
10 Dressed in royal attire, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them.
11 Now Zedekiah son of Chenaanah had made for himself iron horns and declared, "This is what the LORD says: 'With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are finished off.' "

§ **21:23 21:23** Most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 9:36) *'The dogs will devour Jezebel at the plot of ground at Jezreel.'*

12 And all the prophets were prophesying the same, saying, “Go up to
Ramoth-gilead and triumph, for the LORD will deliver it into the hand of
the king.”
13 Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah instructed him,
“Behold now, with one accord the words of the prophets are favorable to
the king. So please let your word* be like theirs, and speak favorably.”
14 But Micaiah said, “As surely as the LORD lives, I will speak whatever
the LORD tells me.”
15 When Micaiah arrived, the king asked him, “Micaiah, should we go to
war against Ramoth-gilead, or should we refrain?”
“Go up and triumph,” Micaiah replied, “for the LORD will deliver it into
the hand of the king.”
16 But the king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear not
to tell me anything but the truth in the name of the LORD?”
17 So Micaiah declared:

“I saw all Israel scattered on the hills
like sheep without a shepherd.
And the LORD said, ‘These people have no master;
let each one return home in peace.’ ”
18 Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he
never prophesies good for me, but only bad?”
19 Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the
LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on
his right and on his left.
20 And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at
Ramoth-gilead?’
And one suggested this, and another that.
21 Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, ‘I will
entice him.’
‘By what means?’ asked the LORD.
22 And he replied, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all
his prophets.’
‘You will surely entice him and prevail,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’
23 So you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these
prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you.”
24 Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah went up, struck Micaiah in the face,
and demanded, “Which way did the spirit of the LORD go when he
departed from me to speak with you?”
25 Micaiah replied, “You will soon see, on that day when you go and hide
in an inner room.”
26 And the king of Israel declared, “Take Micaiah and return him to
Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king’s son,
27 and tell them that this is what the king says: ‘Put this man in prison
and feed him only bread and water until I return safely.’ ”
28 But Micaiah replied, “If you ever return safely, the LORD has not
spoken through me.” Then he added, “Take heed, all you people!”
29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to
Ramoth-gilead.

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* **22:13 22:13** Qere; Ketiv *your words*

30 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I will disguise myself and
go into battle, but you wear your royal robes.” So the king of Israel
disguised himself and went into battle.
31 Now the king of Aram had ordered his thirty-two chariot
commanders, “Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of
Israel.”
32 When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “Surely
this is the king of Israel!” So they turned to fight against him, but
Jehoshaphat cried out.
33 And when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of
Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.
34 However, a certain man drew his bow without taking special aim, and
he struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So the king
said to his charioteer, “Turn around† and take me out of the battle, for I am
badly wounded!”
35 The battle raged throughout that day, and the king was propped up in
his chariot facing the Arameans. And the blood from his wound ran out
onto the floor of the chariot, and that evening he died.
36 As the sun was setting, the cry rang out in the army:

“Every man to his own city,
and every man to his own land!”
37 So the king died and was brought to Samaria, where they buried him.
38 And the chariot was washed at the pool of Samaria where the
prostitutes bathed,‡ and the dogs licked up Ahab's blood, according to the
word that the LORD had spoken.§
39 As for the rest of the acts of Ahab, along with all his accomplishments
and the ivory palace and all the cities he built, are they not written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
40 And Ahab rested with his fathers, and his son Ahaziah reigned in his
place.
41 In the fourth year of Ahab’s reign over Israel, Jehoshaphat son of Asa
became king of Judah.
42 Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. His mother’s name was Azubah
daughter of Shilhi.
43 And Jehoshaphat walked in all the ways of his father Asa; he did not
turn away from them, but did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.
44 The high places, however, were not removed; the people still
sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.
45 Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.
46 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, along with the might he
exercised and how he waged war, are they not written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
47 He banished from the land the male shrine prostitutes who remained
from the days of his father Asa.
48 And there was no king in Edom; a deputy served as king.

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† **22:34 22:34** Literally *Turn your hand* ‡ **22:38 22:38** Or *the pool of Samaria, where they cleaned the weapons* § **22:38 22:38** See 1 Kings 21:19.

49 Jehoshaphat built* ships of Tarshish† to go to Ophir for gold, but they
never set sail, because they were wrecked at Ezion-geber.
50 At that time Ahaziah son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, “Let my
servants sail with your servants,” but Jehoshaphat refused.
51 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with them in
the city of his father David. And his son Jehoram reigned in his place.
52 In the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat’s reign over Judah, Ahaziah
son of Ahab became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria two years.
53 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the ways of his
father and mother and of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to
sin.
54 Ahaziah served and worshiped Baal, provoking the LORD, the God of
Israel, to anger, just as his father had done.

* **22:49 22:49** Qere; Ketiv *Jehoshaphat had ten* † **22:49 22:49** Or *a fleet of trading ships*

2 Kings

1 After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel.
2 Now Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice of his upper room in
Samaria and injured himself. So he sent messengers and instructed them:
"Go inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will recover from
this injury."
3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Go up to meet the
messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is it because there is no
God in Israel that you are on your way to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of
Ekron?'
4 Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'You will not get up from the bed
on which you are lying. You will surely die.' "
So Elijah departed.
5 When the messengers returned to the king, he asked them, "Why have
you returned?"
6 They replied, "A man came up to meet us and said, 'Go back to the king
who sent you and tell him that this is what the LORD says: Is it because
there is no God in Israel that you are sending these men to inquire of
Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not get up from the bed
on which you are lying. You will surely die.' "
7 The king asked them, "What sort of man came up to meet you and
spoke these words to you?"
8 "He was a hairy man,*" they answered, "with a leather belt around his
waist."
"It was Elijah the Tishbite," said the king.
9 Then King Ahaziah sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty
men. So the captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on top of a hill, and
said to him, "Man of God, the king declares, 'Come down!' "
10 Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, may fire come
down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men."
And fire came down from heaven and consumed the captain and his
fifty men.
11 So the king sent to Elijah another captain with his fifty men. And the
captain said to Elijah, "Man of God, the king declares, 'Come down at
once!' "
12 Again Elijah replied, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from
heaven and consume you and your fifty men."
And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed the captain
and his fifty men.
13 So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. And the third
captain went up, fell on his knees before Elijah, and begged him, "Man of
God, may my life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours please be
precious in your sight.
14 Behold, fire has come down from heaven and consumed the first two
captains of fifty, with all their men. But now may my life be precious in
your sight."

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* **1:8 1:8** Or *he had a garment of hair*

15 Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, “Go down with him. Do not
be afraid of him.”
So Elijah got up and went down with him to the king.
16 And Elijah said to King Ahaziah, “This is what the LORD says: Is there
really no God in Israel for you to inquire of his word? Is that why you have
sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you
will not get up from the bed on which you are lying. You will surely die.”
17 So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had
spoken. And since he had no son, Jehoram† succeeded him in the second
year of the reign of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat over Judah.
18 As for the rest of the acts of Ahaziah, along with his accomplishments,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

2

1 Shortly before the LORD took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind,
Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal,
2 and Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me
on to Bethel.”
But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live,
I will not leave you.”
So they went down to Bethel.
3 Then the sons of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and said,
“Do you know that the LORD will take your master away from you today?”
“Yes, I know,” he replied. “Do not speak of it.”
4 And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me
on to Jericho.”
But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live,
I will not leave you.”
So they went to Jericho.
5 Then the sons of the prophets at Jericho came up to Elisha and said,
“Do you know that the LORD will take your master away from you today?”
“Yes, I know,” he replied. “Do not speak of it.”
6 And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me
on to the Jordan.”
But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live,
I will not leave you.”
So the two of them went on.
7 Then a company of fifty of the sons of the prophets went and stood at a
distance, facing Elijah and Elisha as the two of them stood by the Jordan.
8 And Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the waters, which
parted to the right and to the left, so that the two of them crossed over on
dry ground.
9 After they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I
do for you before I am taken away from you?”
“Please, let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.
10 “You have requested a difficult thing,” said Elijah. “Nevertheless, if you
see me as I am taken from you, it will be yours. But if not, then it will not
be so.”
11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of
fire with horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah
went up into heaven in a whirlwind.

† **1:17 1:17** *Jehoram* is a variant spelling of *Joram*.

12 As Elisha watched, he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariots
and horsemen of Israel!” And he saw Elijah no more. So taking hold of his
own clothes, he tore them in two.
13 Elisha also picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah, and he
went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.
14 Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck
the waters. “Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” he asked.
And when he had struck the waters, they parted to the right and to the
left, and Elisha crossed over.
15 When the sons of the prophets who were watching him from Jericho
saw what had happened, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.”
And they went to meet him and bowed down to the ground before him.
16 “Look now,” they said to Elisha, “we your servants have fifty valiant
men. Please let them go and search for your master. Perhaps the spirit of
the LORD has taken him up and put him on one of the mountains or in
one of the valleys.”
“Do not send them,” Elisha replied.
17 But when they pressed him to the point of embarrassment, he said,
“Send them.”
And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find
Elijah.
18 When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to
them, “Didn’t I tell you not to go?”
19 Then the men of the city said to Elisha, “Please note, our lord, that the
city’s location is good, as you can see. But the water is bad and the land is
unfruitful.”
20 “Bring me a new bowl,” he replied, “and put some salt in it.”
So they brought it to him,
21 and Elisha went out to the spring, cast the salt into it, and said, “This is
what the LORD says: ‘I have healed this water. No longer will it cause
death or unfruitfulness.*’ ”
22 And the waters there have been healthy to this day, according to the
word spoken by Elisha.
23 From there, Elisha went up to Bethel, and as he was walking up the
road, some small youths† came out of the city and jeered at him, chanting,
“Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!”
24 Then he turned around, looked at them, and called down a curse on
them in the name of the LORD.
Suddenly two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two
of the youths.
25 And Elisha went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to
Samaria.

3

1 In the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat’s reign over Judah, Jehoram* son
of Ahab became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria twelve years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as his father and
mother had done. He removed the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had
made.

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* **2:21 2:21** Or *barrenness* † **2:23 2:23** Or *a group of boys* or *some insignificant young men*; similarly in verse 24 * **3:1 3:1** *Jehoram* is a variant spelling of *Joram*; also in verse 6.

3 Nevertheless, he clung to the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had
caused Israel to commit; he did not turn away from them.
4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder,† and he would render
to the king of Israel a hundred thousand lambs and the wool of a hundred
thousand rams.
5 But after the death of Ahab, the king of Moab rebelled against the king
of Israel.
6 So at that time King Jehoram set out from Samaria and mobilized all
Israel.
7 And he sent a message to Jehoshaphat king of Judah: "The king of
Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?"
"I will go," replied Jehoshaphat. "I am as you are, my people are your
people, and my horses are your horses."
8 Then he asked, "Which way shall we go up?"
"By way of the Desert of Edom," replied Joram.
9 So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom set out,
and after they had traveled a roundabout route for seven days, they had
no water for their army or for their animals.
10 "Alas," said the king of Israel, "for the LORD has summoned these
three kings to deliver them into the hand of Moab!"
11 But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here? Let us
inquire of the LORD through him."
And one of the servants of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of
Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah.‡"
12 Jehoshaphat affirmed, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the
king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.
13 Elisha, however, said to the king of Israel, "What have we to do with
each other? Go to the prophets of your father and of your mother!"
"No," replied the king of Israel, "for it is the LORD who has summoned
these three kings to deliver them into the hand of Moab."
14 Then Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD of Hosts lives, before whom I
stand, were it not for my regard for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of
Judah, I would not look at you or acknowledge you.
15 But now, bring me a musician.§"
And while the musician played, the hand of the LORD came upon Elisha
16 and he said, "This is what the LORD says: 'Dig this valley full of
ditches.'
17 For the LORD says, 'You will not see wind or rain, but the valley will
be filled with water, and you will drink—you and your cattle and your
animals.'
18 This is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD, and he will also
deliver the Moabites into your hand.
19 And you shall attack every fortified city and every city of importance.
You shall cut down every good tree, stop up every spring, and ruin every
good field with stones."
20 The next morning, at the time of the morning sacrifice, water
suddenly flowed from the direction of Edom and filled the land.
21 Now all the Moabites had heard that the kings had come up to fight
against them. So all who could bear arms, young and old, were summoned
and stationed at the border.

† **3:4 3:4** Or *sheepherder* ‡ **3:11 3:11** Or *he was Elijah's personal assistant* § **3:15 3:15** Or *a harpist*; twice in this verse

22 When they got up early in the morning, the sun was shining on the
water, and it looked as red as blood to the Moabites across the way.
23 "This is blood!" they exclaimed. "The kings have clashed swords and
slaughtered one another. Now to the plunder, Moab!"
24 But when the Moabites came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose
up and attacked them, and they fled before them. So the Israelites invaded
their land* and struck down the Moabites.
25 They destroyed the cities, and each man threw stones on every good
field until it was covered. They stopped up every spring and cut down
every good tree. Only Kir-haraseth was left with stones in place, but men
with slings surrounded it and attacked it as well.
26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he
took with him seven hundred swordsmen to break through to the king of
Edom, but they could not prevail.
27 So he took his firstborn son, who was to succeed him, and offered him
as a burnt offering on the city wall.
And there was great fury against the Israelites,† so they withdrew and
returned to their own land.

4

1 Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha,
"Your servant, my husband, is dead, and you know that your servant
feared the LORD. And now his creditor is coming to take my two children
as his slaves!"
2 "How can I help you?" asked Elisha. "Tell me, what do you have in the
house?"
She answered, "Your servant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."
3 "Go," said Elisha, "borrow empty jars from all your neighbors. Do not
gather just a few.
4 Then go inside, shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour oil
into all these jars, setting the full ones aside."
5 So she left him, and after she had shut the door behind her and her
sons, they kept bringing jars to her, and she kept pouring.
6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another."
But he replied, "There are no more jars." Then the oil stopped flowing.
7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil, and
pay your debt. Then you and your sons can live on the remainder."
8 One day Elisha went to Shunem, and a prominent woman who lived
there persuaded him to have a meal. So whenever he would pass by, he
would stop there to eat.
9 Then the woman said to her husband, "Behold, now I know that the
one who often comes our way is a holy man of God.
10 Please let us make a small room upstairs and put in it a bed, a table, a
chair, and a lamp for him. Then when he comes to us, he can stay there."
11 One day Elisha came to visit and went to his upper room to lie down.
12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call the Shunammite woman."
And when he had called her, she stood before him,
13 and Elisha said to Gehazi, "Now tell her, 'Look, you have gone to all
this trouble for us. What can we do for you? Can we speak on your behalf
to the king or the commander of the army?' "
"I have a home among my own people," she replied.

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* **3:24 3:24** Ketiv; Qere *struck it* † **3:27 3:27** Or *And Israel's fury was great*

14 So he asked, “Then what should be done for her?”
“Well, she has no son,” Gehazi replied, “and her husband is old.”
15 “Call her,” said Elisha.
So Gehazi called her, and she stood in the doorway.
16 And Elisha declared, “At this time next year, you will hold a son in your arms.”
“No, my lord,” she said. “Do not lie to your maidservant, O man of God.”
17 But the woman did conceive, and at that time the next year she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.
18 And the child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the harvesters.
19 “My head! My head!” he complained to his father.
So his father told a servant, “Carry him to his mother.”
20 After the servant had picked him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died.
21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. Then she shut the door and went out.
22 And the woman called her husband and said, “Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may go quickly to the man of God and return.”
23 “Why would you go to him today?” he replied. “It is not a New Moon or a Sabbath.”
“Everything is all right,” she said.
24 Then she saddled the donkey and told her servant, “Drive onward; do not slow the pace for me unless I tell you.”
25 So she set out and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.
When the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, there is the Shunammite woman.
26 Please run out now to meet her and ask, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?’ ”
And she answered, “Everything is all right.”
27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she clung to his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me.”
28 Then she said, “Did I ask you for a son, my lord? Didn’t I say, ‘Do not deceive me?’ ”
29 So Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tie up your garment,* take my staff in your hand, and go! If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer him. Then lay my staff on the boy’s face.”
30 And the mother of the boy said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her.
31 Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the boy’s face, but there was no sound or response. So he went back to meet Elisha and told him, “The boy has not awakened.”
32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his bed.
33 So he went in, closed the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.
34 Then Elisha got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eye to eye, and hand to hand. As he stretched himself out over him, the boy’s body became warm.

* **4:29 4:29** Literally *Gird up your loins*

35 Elisha turned away and paced back and forth across the room. Then
he got on the bed and stretched himself out over the boy again, and the
boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.
36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite woman.” So
he called her and she came.
Then Elisha said, “Pick up your son.”
37 She came in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she picked
up her son and went out.
38 When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in the land. As the
sons of the prophets were sitting at his feet, he said to his attendant, “Put
on the large pot and boil some stew for the sons of the prophets.”
39 One of them went out to the field to gather herbs, and he found a wild
vine from which he gathered as many wild gourds as his garment could
hold. Then he came back and cut them up into the pot of stew, though no
one knew what they were.
40 And they poured it out for the men to eat, but when they tasted the
stew they cried out, “There is death in the pot, O man of God!” And they
could not eat it.
41 Then Elisha said, “Get some flour.” He threw it into the pot and said,
“Pour it out for the people to eat.” And there was nothing harmful in the
pot.
42 Now a man from Baal-shalishah came to the man of God with bread
from the first ripe grain—twenty loaves of barley bread—and fresh grain
in his sack.
“Give it to the people to eat,” said Elisha.
43 But his servant asked, “How am I to set twenty loaves before a
hundred men?”
“Give it to the people to eat,” said Elisha, “for this is what the LORD says:
‘They will eat and have some left over.’ ”
44 So he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over,
according to the word of the LORD.

5

1 Now Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a
great man in his master’s sight and highly regarded, for through him the
LORD had given victory to Aram. And he was a mighty man of valor, but
he was a leper.*
2 At this time the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken a
young girl from the land of Israel, and she was serving Naaman’s wife.
3 She said to her mistress, “If only my master would go to the prophet
who is in Samaria, he would cure him of his leprosy.”
4 And Naaman went and told his master what the girl from the land of
Israel had said.
5 “Go now,” said the king of Aram, “and I will send you with a letter to the
king of Israel.”
So Naaman departed, taking with him ten talents of silver,† six thousand
shekels of gold,‡ and ten sets of clothing.
6 And the letter that he took to the king of Israel stated: “With this letter I
am sending my servant Naaman, so that you may cure him of his leprosy.”

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* **5:1 5:1** A *leper*, or one with *leprosy*, was one afflicted with a skin disease; here and throughout this chapter; see Leviticus 13. † **5:5 5:5** *10 talents* is approximately 754 pounds or 342 kilograms of silver. ‡ **5:5 5:5** *6,000 shekels* is approximately 150.8 pounds or 68.4 kilograms of gold.

7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and asked,
"Am I God, killing and giving life, that this man expects me to cure a leper?
Surely you can see that he is seeking a quarrel with me!"
8 Now when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn
his clothes, he sent a message to the king: "Why have you torn your
clothes? Please let the man come to me, and he will know that there is a
prophet in Israel."
9 So Naaman came with his horses§ and chariots and stood at the door
of Elisha's house.
10 Then Elisha sent him a messenger, who said, "Go and wash yourself
seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored, and you will be
clean."
11 But Naaman went away angry, saying, "I thought that he would surely
come out, stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his
hand over the spot to cure my leprosy.
12 Are not the Amanah* and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better
than all the waters of Israel? Could I not have washed in them and been
cleansed?" So he turned and went away in a rage.
13 Naaman's servants, however, approached him and said, "My father, if
the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done
it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'?"
14 So Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times,
according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored and
became like that of a little child, and he was clean.
15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God,
stood before him, and declared, "Now I know for sure that there is no God
in all the earth except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."
16 But Elisha replied, "As surely as the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I
will not accept it." And although Naaman urged him to accept it, he
refused.
17 "If you will not," said Naaman, "please let me, your servant, be given
as much soil as a pair of mules can carry. For your servant will never
again make a burnt offering or a sacrifice to any other god but the LORD.
18 Yet may the LORD forgive your servant this one thing: When my
master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on
my arm, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive†
your servant in this matter."
19 "Go in peace," said Elisha.
But after Naaman had traveled a short distance,
20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master
has spared this Aramean, Naaman, by not accepting what he brought. As
surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him."
21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running
toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and asked, "Is
everything all right?"
22 "Everything is all right," Gehazi replied. "My master has sent me to
say, 'Look, two young men from the sons of the prophets have just now
come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of
silver‡ and two sets of clothing.' "

§ **5:9 5:9** Qere; Ketiv *horse* * **5:12 5:12** Qere; Ketiv *Abanah* † **5:18 5:18** Ketiv adds *please*, not read ‡ **5:22 5:22** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of silver.

23 But Naaman insisted, “Please, take two talents.” And he urged Gehazi
to accept them. Then he tied up two talents of silver in two bags along
with two sets of clothing and gave them to two of his servants, who
carried them ahead of Gehazi.
24 When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the gifts from the servants and
stored them in the house. Then he dismissed the men, and they departed.
25 When Gehazi went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him,
“Gehazi, where have you been?”
“Your servant did not go anywhere,” he replied.
26 But Elisha questioned him, “Did not my spirit go with you when the
man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to accept
money and clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen,
menservants and maidservants?
27 Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman will cling to you and your
descendants forever!”
And as Gehazi left his presence, he was leprous—as white as snow.

6

1 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “Please take note that the
place where we meet with you is too small for us.
2 Please let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a log so we can
build ourselves a place to live there.”
“Go,” said Elisha.
3 Then one of them said, “Please come with your servants.”
“I will come,” he replied.
4 So Elisha went with them, and when they came to the Jordan, they
began to cut down some trees.
5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axe head fell into the
water. “Oh, my master,” he cried out, “it was borrowed!”
6 “Where did it fall?” asked the man of God.
And when he showed him the place, the man of God cut a stick, threw it
there, and made the iron float.
7 “Lift it out,” he said, and the man reached out his hand and took it.
8 Now the king of Aram was at war against Israel. After consulting with
his servants, he said, “My camp will be in such and such a place.”
9 Then the man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Be careful not to
pass by this place, for the Arameans are going down there.”
10 So the king of Israel sent word to the place the man of God had
pointed out. Time and again* Elisha warned the king, so that he was on
his guard in such places.
11 For this reason the king of Aram became enraged and called his
servants to demand of them, “Tell me, which one of us is on the side of the
king of Israel?”
12 But one of his servants replied, “No one, my lord the king. For Elisha,
the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in
your bedroom.”
13 So the king said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send men to
capture him.”
On receiving the report, “Elisha is in Dothan,”
14 the king of Aram sent horses, chariots, and a great army. They went
there by night and surrounded the city.

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* **6:10 6:10** Literally *Not once and not twice*

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early in the
morning, behold, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the
city. So he asked Elisha, “Oh, my master, what are we to do?”
16 “Do not be afraid,” Elisha answered, “for those who are with us are
more than those who are with them.”
17 Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.”
And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw that the
hills were full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
18 As the Arameans came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD,
“Please strike these people with blindness.” So he struck them with
blindness, according to the word of Elisha.
19 And Elisha told them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city.
Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are seeking.” And he led
them to Samaria.
20 When they had entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O LORD, open the eyes
of these men that they may see.”
Then the LORD opened their eyes, and they looked around and
discovered that they were in Samaria.
21 And when the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “My father,
shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?”
22 “Do not kill them,” he replied. “Would you kill those you have captured
with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them, that they
may eat and drink and then return to their master.”
23 So the king prepared a great feast for them, and after they had
finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to
their master. And the Aramean raiders did not come into the land of Israel
again.
24 Some time later, Ben-hadad king of Aram assembled his entire army
and marched up to besiege Samaria.
25 So there was a great famine in Samaria. Indeed, they besieged the city
so long that a donkey’s head sold for eighty shekels of silver,† and a
quarter cab of dove’s dung‡ sold for five shekels of silver.§
26 As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to
him, “Help me, my lord the king!”
27 He answered, “If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help
for you? From the threshing floor or the winepress?”
28 Then the king asked her, “What is the matter?”
And she answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give up your son, that we
may eat him, and tomorrow we will eat my son.’
29 So we boiled my son and ate him, and the next day I said to her, ‘Give
up your son, that we may eat him.’ But she had hidden her son.”
30 When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes.
And as he passed by on the wall, the people saw the sackcloth under his
clothes next to his skin.
31 He announced, “May God punish me, and ever so severely, if the head
of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders through this day!”
32 Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with
him. The king sent a messenger ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha said
to the elders, “Do you see how this murderer has sent someone to cut off

† **6:25 6:25** *80 shekels* is approximately 2 pounds or 907.2 grams of silver.
‡ **6:25 6:25** Or *a quarter cab of seed pods*; that is, approximately 0.28 dry quarts or 0.31 liters
§ **6:25 6:25** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams of silver.

my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door to keep him out. Is not the sound of his master's footsteps behind him?"
33 While Elisha was still speaking with them, the messenger came down to him. And the king said, "This calamity is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

7

1 Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD! This is what the LORD says: 'About this time tomorrow at the gate of Samaria, a seah of fine flour* will sell for a shekel,† and two seahs of barley‡ will sell for a shekel.' "
2 But the officer on whose arm the king leaned answered the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?"
"You will see it with your own eyes," replied Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it."
3 Now there were four men with leprosy§ at the entrance of the city gate, and they said to one another, "Why just sit here until we die?
4 If we say, 'Let us go into the city,' we will die there from the famine in the city; but if we sit here, we will also die. So come now, let us go over to the camp of the Arameans. If they let us live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die."
5 So they arose at twilight and went to the camp of the Arameans. But when they came to the outskirts of the camp, there was not a man to be found.
6 For the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a great army, so that they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel must have hired the kings of the Hittites and Egyptians to attack us."
7 Thus the Arameans had arisen and fled at twilight, abandoning their tents and horses and donkeys. The camp was intact, and they had run for their lives.
8 When the lepers reached the edge of the camp, they went into a tent to eat and drink. Then they carried off the silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them. On returning, they entered another tent, carried off some items from there, and hid them.
9 Finally, they said to one another, "We are not doing what is right. Today is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until morning light, our sin will overtake us. Now, therefore, let us go and tell the king's household."
10 So they went and called out to the gatekeepers of the city, saying, "We went to the Aramean camp and no one was there—not a trace—only tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents were intact."
11 The gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported to the king's household.
12 So the king got up in the night and said to his servants, "Let me tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know we are starving, so

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* **7:1 7:1** *A seah* is approximately 6.6 dry quarts or 7.3 liters (probably about 8.2 pounds or 3.7 kilograms of flour); here and in verses 16 and 18. † **7:1 7:1** *A shekel* is approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams, probably of silver; here and in verses 16 and 18. ‡ **7:1 7:1** *2 seahs* is approximately 13.2 dry quarts or 14.6 liters (probably about 19.3 pounds or 8.8 kilograms of barley); here and in verses 16 and 18. § **7:3 7:3** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; here and in verse 8; see Leviticus 13.

they have left the camp to hide in the field, thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we will take them alive and enter the city.’ ”

13 But one of his servants replied, “Please, have scouts take five of the horses that remain in the city. Their plight will be no worse than all the Israelites who are left here. You can see that all the Israelites here are doomed. So let us send them and find out.”

14 Then the scouts took two chariots with horses, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, “Go and see.”

15 And they tracked them as far as the Jordan, and indeed, the whole way was littered with the clothing and equipment the Arameans had thrown off in haste. So the scouts returned and told the king.

16 Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. It was then that a seah of fine flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley sold for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

17 Now the king had appointed the officer on whose arm he leaned to be in charge of the gate, but the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died, just as the man of God had foretold when the king had come to him.

18 It happened just as the man of God had told the king: “About this time tomorrow at the gate of Samaria, two seahs of barley will sell for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour will sell for a shekel.”

19 And the officer had answered the man of God, “Look, even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?”

So Elisha had replied, “You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!”

20 And that is just what happened to him. The people trampled him in the gateway, and he died.

8

1 Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, “Arise, you and your household; go and live as a foreigner wherever you can. For the LORD has decreed that a seven-year famine will come to the land.”

2 So the woman had proceeded to do as the man of God had instructed. And she and her household lived as foreigners for seven years in the land of the Philistines.

3 At the end of seven years, when the woman returned from the land of the Philistines, she went to the king to appeal for her house and her land.

4 Now the king had been speaking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, “Please relate to me all the great things Elisha has done.”

5 And Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had brought the dead back to life. Just then the woman whose son Elisha had revived came to appeal to the king for her house and her land. So Gehazi said, “My lord the king, this is the woman, and this is the son Elisha restored to life.”

6 When the king asked the woman, she confirmed it. So the king appointed for her an officer, saying, “Restore all that was hers, along with all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the country until now.”

7 Then Elisha came to Damascus while Ben-hadad king of Aram was sick, and the king was told, “The man of God has come here.”

8 So the king said to Hazael, “Take a gift in your hand, go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD through him, ‘Will I recover from this illness?’ ”

9 So Hazael went to meet Elisha, taking with him a gift of forty camel
loads of every good thing from Damascus. And he went in and stood
before him and said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram has sent me to
ask, ‘Will I recover from this illness?’ ”
10 Elisha answered, “Go and tell him, ‘You will surely recover.’ But the
LORD* has shown me that in fact he will die.”
11 Elisha fixed his gaze steadily on him until Hazael became
uncomfortable. Then the man of God began to weep.
12 “Why is my lord weeping?” asked Hazael.
“Because I know the evil you will do to the Israelites,” Elisha replied.
“You will set fire to their fortresses, kill their young men with the sword,
dash their little ones to pieces, and rip open their pregnant women.”
13 “But how could your servant, a mere dog, do such a monstrous thing?”
said Hazael.
And Elisha answered, “The LORD has shown me that you will be king
over Aram.”
14 So Hazael left Elisha and went to his master, who asked him, “What
did Elisha say to you?”
And he replied, “He told me that you would surely recover.”
15 But the next day Hazael took a thick cloth, dipped it in water, and
spread it over the king’s face.
So Ben-hadad died, and Hazael reigned in his place.
16 In the fifth year of the reign of Joram son of Ahab over Israel, while
Jehoshaphat was king of Judah,† Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat became king
of Judah.
17 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem eight years.
18 And Jehoram walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, just as the
house of Ahab had done. For he married a daughter of Ahab and did evil
in the sight of the LORD.
19 Yet for the sake of his servant David, the LORD was unwilling to
destroy Judah, since he had promised to maintain a lamp for him, for his
descendants, forever.‡
20 In the days of Jehoram,§ Edom rebelled against the hand of Judah and
appointed their own king.
21 So Jehoram* crossed over to Zair with all his chariots. When the
Edomites surrounded him and his chariot commanders, he rose up and
attacked by night. His troops, however, fled to their homes.
22 So to this day Edom has been in rebellion against the hand of Judah.
Likewise, Libnah rebelled at the same time.
23 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoram, along with all his
accomplishments, are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah?
24 And Jehoram rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the
City of David. And his son Ahaziah reigned in his place.
25 In the twelfth year of the reign of Joram son of Ahab over Israel,
Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah.

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* **8:10 8:10** Qere; Ketiv *“Go and say, ‘You will surely not recover.’ And the LORD* † **8:16 8:16** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac do not include *while Jehoshaphat was king of Judah.* ‡ **8:19 8:19** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate *for him and for his descendants*; compare 2 Chronicles 21:7. § **8:20 8:20** Literally *In his days* * **8:21 8:21** Hebrew *Joram*, a variant of *Jehoram* (the son of Jehoshaphat), as in verse 16; also in verses 23 and 24

26 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, the
granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.
27 And Ahaziah walked in the ways of the house of Ahab and did evil in
the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab, for he was a son-in-law of the
house of Ahab.
28 Then Ahaziah went with Joram son of Ahab to fight against Hazael
king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead, and the Arameans wounded Joram.
29 So King Joram returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds that the
Arameans had inflicted on him at Ramah† when he fought against Hazael
king of Aram. Then Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to
Jezreel to visit Joram son of Ahab, because Joram had been wounded.

9

1 Now Elisha the prophet summoned one of the sons of the prophets and
said to him, "Tuck your cloak under your belt,* take this flask of oil, and go
to Ramoth-gilead.
2 When you arrive, look for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi.
Go in, get him away from his companions, and take him to an inner room.
3 Then take the flask of oil, pour it on his head, and declare, 'This is what
the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.' Then open the door and run.
Do not delay!"
4 So the young prophet went to Ramoth-gilead,
5 and when he arrived, the army commanders were sitting there. "I have
a message for you, commander," he said.
"For which of us?" asked Jehu.
"For you, commander," he replied.
6 So Jehu got up and went into the house, where the young prophet
poured the oil on his head and declared, "This is what the LORD, the God
of Israel, says: 'I anoint you king over the LORD's people Israel.
7 And you are to strike down the house of your master Ahab, so that I
may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the
servants of the LORD shed by the hand of Jezebel.
8 The whole house of Ahab will perish, and I will cut off from Ahab
every male,† both slave and free, in Israel.
9 I will make the house of Ahab like the houses of Jeroboam son of Nebat
and Baasha son of Ahijah.
10 And on the plot of ground at Jezreel the dogs will devour Jezebel, and
there will be no one to bury her.' "
Then the young prophet opened the door and ran.
11 When Jehu went out to the servants of his master, they asked, "Is
everything all right? Why did this madman come to you?"
"You know his kind and their babble," he replied.
12 "That is a lie!" they said. "Tell us now!"
So Jehu answered, "He talked to me about this and that, saying, 'This is
what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.' "
13 Quickly, each man took his garment and put it under Jehu on the bare
steps. Then they blew the ram's horn and proclaimed, "Jehu is king!"

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† **8:29 8:29** *Ramah* is a variant of *Ramoth*; see verse 28. * **9:1 9:1** Literally *Gird up your loins* † **9:8 9:8** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall*

14 Thus Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against
Joram.
(Now Joram and all Israel had been defending Ramoth-gilead against
Hazael king of Aram,
15 but King Joram‡ had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds
he had suffered at the hands of the Arameans in the battle against Hazael
their king.)
So Jehu said, "If you commanders wish to make me king, then do not let
anyone escape from the city to go and tell it in Jezreel."
16 Then Jehu got into his chariot and went to Jezreel, because Joram was
laid up there. And Ahaziah king of Judah had gone down to see him.
17 Now the watchman standing on the tower in Jezreel saw Jehu's troops
approaching, and he called out, "I see a company of troops!"
"Choose a rider," Joram commanded. "Send him out to meet them and
ask, 'Have you come in peace?' "
18 So a horseman rode off to meet Jehu and said, "This is what the king
asks: 'Have you come in peace?' "
"What do you know about peace?" Jehu replied. "Fall in behind me."
And the watchman reported, "The messenger reached them, but he is
not coming back."
19 So the king sent out a second horseman, who went to them and said,
"This is what the king asks: 'Have you come in peace?' "
"What do you know about peace?" Jehu replied. "Fall in behind me."
20 Again the watchman reported, "He reached them, but he is not coming
back. And the charioteer is driving like Jehu son of Nimshi§—he is driving
like a madman!"
21 "Harness!" Joram shouted, and they harnessed his chariot.
Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah set out, each in his
own chariot, and met Jehu on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.
22 When Joram saw Jehu, he asked, "Have you come in peace, Jehu?"
"How can there be peace," he replied, "as long as the idolatry* and
witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?"
23 Joram turned around† and fled, calling out to Ahaziah, "Treachery,
Ahaziah!"
24 Then Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders. The
arrow pierced his heart, and he slumped down in his chariot.
25 And Jehu said to Bidkar his officer, "Pick him up and throw him into
the field of Naboth the Jezreelite. For remember that when you and I were
riding together behind his father Ahab, the LORD lifted up this burden
against him:
26 'As surely as I saw the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons
yesterday, declares the LORD, so will I repay you on this plot of ground,
declares the LORD.' Now then, according to the word of the LORD, pick
him up and throw him on the plot of ground."
27 When King Ahaziah of Judah saw this, he fled up the road toward
Beth-haggan.

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‡ **9:15 9:15** Or *Jehoram*, a variant of *Joram*; also in verses 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24 § **9:20 9:20** Or *grandson of Nimshi*; see verse 14. * **9:22 9:22** Hebrew *adultery* or *prostitution*, here a metaphor for idolatry † **9:23 9:23** Literally *turned his hands*

And Jehu pursued him, shouting, “Shoot him too, in his chariot!” They did so on the Ascent of Gur,‡
near Ibleam, and he fled to Megiddo and died there.
28 Then his servants carried him by chariot to Jerusalem and buried him
with his fathers in his tomb in the City of David.
29 (In the eleventh year of Joram son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king
over Judah.)
30 Now when Jehu arrived in Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it. So she painted
her eyes, adorned her head, and looked down from a window.
31 And as Jehu entered the gate, she asked, “Have you come in peace, O
Zimri, murderer of your master?”§
32 He looked up at the window and called out, “Who is on my side?
Who?”
And two or three eunuchs looked down at him.
33 “Throw her down!” yelled Jehu.
So they threw her down, and her blood splattered on the wall and on
the horses as they trampled her underfoot.
34 Then Jehu went in and ate and drank. “Take care of this cursed
woman,” he said, “and bury her, for she was the daughter of a king.”
35 But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing but her skull,
her feet, and the palms of her hands.
36 So they went back and told Jehu, who replied, “This is the word of the
LORD, which he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite: ‘On the plot
of ground at Jezreel the dogs will devour the flesh of Jezebel.
37 And Jezebel’s body will lie like dung in the field on the plot of ground
at Jezreel, so that no one can say: This is Jezebel.’*”

10

1 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters and sent
them to Samaria to the officials of Jezreel,* to the elders, and to the
guardians of Ahab,† saying:
2 “When this letter arrives, since your master’s sons are with you and
you have chariots and horses, a fortified city and weaponry,
3 select the best and most worthy son of your master, set him on his
father’s throne, and fight for your master’s house.”
4 But they were terrified and reasoned, “If two kings could not stand
against him, how can we?”
5 So the palace administrator, the overseer of the city, the elders, and the
guardians sent a message to Jehu: “We are your servants, and we will do
whatever you say. We will not make anyone king. Do whatever is good in
your sight.”
6 Then Jehu wrote them a second letter and said: “If you are on my side,
and if you will obey me, then bring the heads of your master’s sons to me
at Jezreel by this time tomorrow.”
Now the sons of the king, seventy in all, were being brought up by the
leading men of the city.

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‡ **9:27 9:27** Syriac, Vulgate, and LXX *“Shoot him too!” So they shot Ahaziah in his chariot on the Ascent of Gur* § **9:31 9:31** Or *“Is there peace for Zimri, the murderer of his master?”* See 1 Kings 16:10. * **9:37 9:37** See verse 10 and 1 Kings 21:23. * **10:1 10:1** LXX and Vulgate *officials of the city* † **10:1 10:1** That is, the guardians of Ahab’s sons

7 And when the letter arrived, they took the sons of the king and
slaughtered all seventy of them. They put their heads in baskets and sent
them to Jehu at Jezreel.
8 When the messenger arrived, he told Jehu, “They have brought the
heads of the sons of the king.”
And Jehu ordered, “Pile them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate
until morning.”
9 The next morning, Jehu went out and stood before all the people and
said, “You are innocent. It was I who conspired against my master and
killed him. But who killed all these?
10 Know, then, that not a word the LORD has spoken against the house of
Ahab will fail, for the LORD has done what he promised through his
servant Elijah.”
11 So Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained of the house of Ahab,
as well as all his great men and close friends and priests, leaving him
without a single survivor.
12 Then Jehu set out toward Samaria. On the way, at Beth-eked of the
Shepherds,
13 Jehu met some relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah and asked, “Who are
you?”
“We are relatives of Ahaziah,” they answered, “and we have come down
to greet the sons of the king and of the queen mother.”
14 Then Jehu ordered, “Take them alive.” So his men took them alive,
then slaughtered them at the well of Beth-eked—forty-two men. He spared
none of them.
15 When he left there, he found Jehonadab son of Rechab, who was
coming to meet him. Jehu greeted him and asked, “Is your heart as true to
mine as my heart is to yours?”
“It is!” Jehonadab replied.
“If it is,” said Jehu, “give me your hand.”
So he gave him his hand, and Jehu helped him into his chariot,
16 saying, “Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD!” So they had
him ride‡ in his chariot.
17 When Jehu came to Samaria, he struck down everyone belonging to
Ahab who remained there, until he had destroyed them, according to the
word that the LORD had spoken to Elijah.
18 Then Jehu brought all the people together and said, “Ahab served Baal
a little, but Jehu will serve him a lot.
19 Now, therefore, summon to me all the prophets of Baal, all his
servants, and all his priests. See that no one is missing, for I have a great
sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing will not live.”
But Jehu was acting deceptively in order to destroy the servants of Baal.
20 And Jehu commanded, “Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal.” So they
announced it.
21 Then Jehu sent word throughout Israel, and all the servants of Baal
came; there was not a man who failed to show. They entered the temple of
Baal, and it was filled from end to end.
22 And Jehu said to the keeper of the wardrobe, “Bring out garments for
all the servants of Baal.” So he brought out garments for them.

‡ **10:16 10:16** LXX, Syriac, and Targum Yonaton *he had him ride*

23 Next, Jehu and Jehonadab son of Rechab entered the temple of Baal,
and Jehu said to the servants of Baal, “Look around to see that there are no
servants of the LORD here among you—only servants of Baal.”
24 And they went in§ to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu
had stationed eighty men outside and warned them, “If anyone allows one
of the men I am delivering into your hands to escape, he will forfeit his
life for theirs.”
25 When he had finished making the burnt offering, Jehu said to the
guards and officers, “Go in and kill them. Do not let anyone out.”
So the guards and officers put them to the sword, threw the bodies out,
and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal.
26 They brought out the sacred pillars* of the temple of Baal and burned
them.†
27 They also demolished the sacred pillar of Baal. Then they tore down
the temple of Baal and made it into a latrine, which it is to this day.
28 Thus Jehu eradicated Baal from Israel,
29 but he did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat
had caused Israel to commit—the worship of the golden calves at Bethel
and Dan.
30 Nevertheless, the LORD said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in
carrying out what is right in my sight and have done to the house of Ahab
all that was in my heart, four generations of your sons will sit on the
throne of Israel.”
31 Yet Jehu was not careful to follow the instruction of the LORD, the God
of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins that
Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.
32 In those days the LORD began to reduce the size of Israel. Hazael
defeated the Israelites throughout their territory
33 from the Jordan eastward through all the land of Gilead (the region of
Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh), and from Aroer by the Arnon Valley through
Gilead to Bashan.
34 As for the rest of the acts of Jehu, along with all his accomplishments
and all his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel?
35 And Jehu rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria, and his
son Jehoahaz reigned in his place.
36 So the duration of Jehu’s reign over Israel in Samaria was
twenty-eight years.

11

1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she
proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs.
2 But Jehosheba* daughter of King Joram,† the sister of Ahaziah, took
Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the sons of the king
who were being murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to
hide him from Athaliah, and he was not killed.
3 And Joash remained hidden with his nurse in the house of the LORD
for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

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§ **10:24 10:24** LXX *he went in*; see also verse 25. * **10:26 10:26** LXX and Vulgate *pillar* † **10:26 10:26** Hebrew *it* * **11:2 11:2** *Jehosheba* is a variant of *Jehoshabeath*; see 2 Chronicles 22:11. † **11:2 11:2** *Joram* is a variant spelling of *Jehoram*.

4 Then in the seventh year, Jehoiada sent for the commanders of
hundreds, the Carites,‡ and the guards, and had them brought into the
house of the LORD. There he made a covenant with them and put them
under oath.
He showed them the king's son
5 and commanded them, "This is what you are to do: A third of you who
come on duty on the Sabbath shall guard the royal palace,
6 a third shall be at the gate of Sur, and a third at the gate behind the
guards. You are to take turns guarding the temple—
7 the two divisions that would go off duty on the Sabbath are to guard
the house of the LORD for the king.
8 You must surround the king with weapons in hand, and anyone who
approaches the ranks must be put to death. You must stay close to the king
wherever he goes."
9 So the commanders of hundreds did everything that Jehoiada the
priest had ordered. Each of them took his men—those coming on duty on
the Sabbath and those going off duty—and came to Jehoiada the priest.
10 Then the priest gave to the commanders of hundreds the spears and
shields of King David from the house of the LORD.
11 And the guards stood with weapons in hand surrounding the king by
the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side of the
temple.
12 Then Jehoiada brought out the king's son, put the crown on him,
presented him with the Testimony, and proclaimed him king. They
anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and declared, "Long live
the king!"
13 When Athaliah heard the noise from the guards and the people, she
went out to the people in the house of the LORD.
14 And she looked out and saw the king standing by the pillar, according
to the custom. The officers and trumpeters were beside the king, and all
the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets.
Then Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, "Treason! Treason!"
15 And Jehoiada the priest ordered the commanders of hundreds in
charge of the army, "Bring her out between the ranks,§ and put to the
sword anyone who follows her." For the priest had said, "She must not be
put to death in the house of the LORD."
16 So they seized Athaliah as she reached the horses' entrance to the
palace grounds, and there she was put to death.
17 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and
the people that they would be the LORD's people. He also made a
covenant between the king and the people.
18 So all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it
down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces, and they killed Mattan
the priest of Baal in front of the altars.
And Jehoiada the priest posted guards for the house of the LORD.
19 He took with him the commanders of hundreds, the Carites, the
guards, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down
from the house of the LORD and entered the royal palace by way of the
Gate of the Guards.
Then Joash took his seat on the royal throne,

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‡ **11:4 11:4** Or *the mercenaries* or *the executioners*; also in verse 19 § **11:15 11:15** Or *out from the precincts*

20 and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet,
because Athaliah had been put to the sword at the royal palace.

12

1 Joash* was seven years old when he became king.
2 In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash† became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from
Beersheba.
3 And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the days he
was instructed by Jehoiada the priest.
4 Nevertheless, the high places were not removed; the people continued
sacrificing and burning incense there.
5 Then Joash said to the priests, "Collect all the money brought as sacred
gifts into the house of the LORD—the census money, the money from
vows, and the money brought voluntarily into the house of the LORD.
6 Let every priest receive it from his constituency, and let it be used to
repair any damage found in the temple."
7 By the twenty-third year of the reign of Joash, however, the priests had
not yet repaired the damage to the temple.
8 So King Joash called Jehoiada and the other priests and said, "Why
have you not repaired the damage to the temple? Now, therefore, take no
more money from your constituency, but hand it over for the repair of the
temple."
9 So the priests agreed that they would not receive money from the
people and that they would not repair the temple themselves.
10 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it
beside the altar on the right side as one enters the house of the LORD.
There the priests who guarded the threshold put all the money brought
into the house of the LORD.
11 Whenever they saw that there was a large amount of money in the
chest, the royal scribe and the high priest would go up, count the money
brought into the house of the LORD, and tie it up in bags.
12 Then they would put the counted money into the hands of those who
supervised the work on the house of the LORD, who in turn would pay
those doing the work—the carpenters, builders,
13 masons, and stonecutters. They also purchased timber and dressed
stone to repair the damage to the house of the LORD, and they paid the
other expenses of the temple repairs.
14 However, the money brought into the house of the LORD was not used
for making silver basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, trumpets, or
any articles of gold or silver for the house of the LORD.
15 Instead, it was paid to those doing the work, and with it they repaired
the house of the LORD.
16 No accounting was required from the men who received the money to
pay the workmen, because they acted with integrity.
17 The money from the guilt offerings and purification offerings was not
brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests.
18 At that time Hazael king of Aram marched up and fought against Gath
and captured it. Then he decided to attack Jerusalem.

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* **12:1 12:1** Hebrew *Jehoash*, a variant of *Joash* (son of Ahaziah) as in 11:2 † **12:2 12:2** Hebrew *Jehoash*, a variant of *Joash* (son of Ahaziah); also in verses 3, 5, 7, 8, and 19; see 2 Kings 11:2.

19 So King Joash of Judah took all the sacred objects dedicated by his
fathers—Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, the kings of Judah—along
with his own consecrated items and all the gold found in the treasuries of
the house of the LORD and the royal palace, and he sent them to Hazael
king of Aram. So Hazael withdrew from Jerusalem.
20 As for the rest of the acts of Joash, along with all his accomplishments,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
21 And the servants of Joash rose up and formed a conspiracy and killed
him at Beth-millo, on the road down to Silla.
22 His servants Jozabad‡ son of Shimeath and Jehozabad son of Shomer§
struck him down, and he died. And they buried him with his fathers in the
City of David, and his son Amaziah reigned in his place.

13

1 In the twenty-third year of the reign of Joash son of Ahaziah over
Judah, Jehoahaz son of Jehu became king of Israel, and he reigned in
Samaria seventeen years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and followed the sins that
Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit; he did not turn away
from them.
3 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he delivered them
continually into the hands of Hazael king of Aram and his son Ben-hadad.
4 Then Jehoahaz sought the favor of the LORD, and the LORD listened to
him because he saw the oppression that the king of Aram had inflicted on
Israel.
5 So the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, and they escaped the power of the
Arameans. Then the people of Israel lived in their own homes as they had
before.
6 Nevertheless, they did not turn away from the sins that the house of
Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit, but he continued to walk in them.*
The Asherah pole even remained standing in Samaria.
7 Jehoahaz had no army left, except fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten
thousand foot soldiers, because the king of Aram had destroyed them and
made them like the dust at threshing.
8 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, along with all his
accomplishments and his might, are they not written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
9 And Jehoahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. And
his son Jehoash† reigned in his place.
10 In the thirty-seventh year of the reign of Joash over Judah, Jehoash
son of Jehoahaz became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen
years.
11 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and did not turn away from
all the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit, but
he walked in them.
12 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoash, along with all his
accomplishments and his might, including his war against Amaziah king

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‡ **12:22 12:22** Leningrad Codex; Aleppo Codex, LXX, and Syriac *Jozacar* § **12:22 12:22** *Shomer* is a variant of *Shimrith*; see 2 Chronicles 24:26. * **13:6 13:6** LXX, Syriac, Targum Yonaton, and Vulgate *they continued to walk in them* † **13:9 13:9** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*; also in verses 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 25

of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
13 And Jehoash rested with his fathers, and Jeroboam succeeded him on the throne. Jehoash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.
14 When Elisha had fallen sick with the illness from which he would die, Jehoash king of Israel came down to him and wept over him, saying, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!"
15 Elisha told him, "Take a bow and some arrows."
So Jehoash took a bow and some arrows.
16 Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow."
So the king put his hand on the bow, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.
17 "Open the east window," said Elisha.
So he opened it and Elisha said, "Shoot!" So he shot.
And Elisha declared:

"This is the LORD's arrow of victory,
the arrow of victory over Aram,
for you shall strike the Arameans in Aphek
until you have put an end to them."
18 Then Elisha said, "Take the arrows!"
So he took them, and Elisha said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground!"
So he struck the ground three times and stopped.
19 But the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times. Then you would have struck down Aram until you had put an end to it. But now you will strike down Aram only three times."
20 And Elisha died and was buried.
Now the Moabite raiders used to come into the land every spring.‡
21 Once, as the Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders, so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. And as soon as his body touched the bones of Elisha, the man was revived and stood up on his feet.
22 And Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel throughout the reign of Jehoahaz.
23 But the LORD was gracious to Israel and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And to this day, the LORD has been unwilling to destroy them or cast them from his presence.
24 When Hazael king of Aram died, his son Ben-hadad reigned in his place.
25 Then Jehoash son of Jehoahaz took back from Ben-hadad son of Hazael the cities that Hazael had taken in battle from his father Jehoahaz. Jehoash defeated Ben-hadad three times, and so recovered the cities of Israel.

14

1 In the second year of the reign of Jehoash* son of Jehoahaz over Israel, Amaziah son of Joash became king of Judah.

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‡ **13:20 13:20** Literally *into the land at the coming in of the year*
* **14:1 14:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*; also in verses 13, 23, and 27

2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Jehoaddan;† she was
from Jerusalem.
3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not as his
father David had done. He did everything as his father Joash had done.
4 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away, and the people
continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.
5 As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, Amaziah executed the
servants who had murdered his father the king.
6 Yet he did not put the sons of the murderers to death, but acted
according to what is written in the Book of the Teaching of Moses, where
the LORD commanded: "Fathers must not be put to death for their
children, and children must not be put to death for their fathers; each is to
die for his own sin."‡
7 Amaziah struck down 10,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. He took
Sela in battle and called it Joktheel, which is its name to this very day.
8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to the king of Israel Jehoash son of
Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu. "Come, let us meet face to face," he said.
9 But Jehoash king of Israel replied to Amaziah king of Judah: "A thistle
in Lebanon sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your
daughter to my son in marriage.' Then a wild beast in Lebanon came
along and trampled the thistle.
10 You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has become proud.
Glory in that and stay at home. Why should you stir up trouble so that you
fall—you and Judah with you?"
11 But Amaziah would not listen, so Jehoash king of Israel advanced. He
and King Amaziah of Judah faced each other at Beth-shemesh in Judah.
12 And Judah was routed before Israel, and every man fled to his home.
13 There at Beth-shemesh, Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king
of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Ahaziah.
Then Jehoash went§ to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem
from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate—a section of four hundred
cubits.*
14 He took all the gold and silver and all the articles found in the house
of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace, as well as some
hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.
15 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoash, along with his accomplishments,
his might, and how he waged war against Amaziah king of Judah, are they
not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
16 And Jehoash rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with
the kings of Israel. And his son Jeroboam reigned in his place.
17 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the
death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel.
18 As for the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the Book
of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
19 And conspirators plotted against Amaziah in Jerusalem, and he fled to
Lachish. But men were sent after him to Lachish, and they killed him
there.

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† **14:2 14:2** Qere; Ketiv *Jehoaddin* ‡ **14:6 14:6** Deuteronomy 24:16 § **14:13 14:13** Qere; Ketiv *they went* * **14:13 14:13** *400 cubits* is approximately 600 feet or 182.9 meters.

20 They carried him back on horses and buried him in Jerusalem with
his fathers in the City of David.
21 Then all the people of Judah took Azariah,† who was sixteen years old,
and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.
22 Azariah was the one who rebuilt Elath‡ and restored it to Judah after
King Amaziah rested with his fathers.
23 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Amaziah son of Joash over Judah,
Jeroboam son of Jehoash became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria
forty-one years.
24 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and did not turn away from
all the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.
25 This Jeroboam restored the boundary of Israel from Lebo-hamath to
the Sea of the Arabah,§ according to the word that the LORD, the God of
Israel, had spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet
from Gath-hepher.
26 For the LORD saw that the affliction of the Israelites was very bitter.
There was no one left, slave or free, and no one to help Israel,
27 and since the LORD had said that he would not blot out the name of
Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of
Jehoash.
28 As for the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, along with all his
accomplishments and might, and how he waged war and recovered both
Damascus and Hamath for Israel from Judah, are they not written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
29 And Jeroboam rested with his fathers,* the kings of Israel. And his son
Zechariah reigned in his place.

15

1 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam's reign over Israel, Azariah*
son of Amaziah became king of Judah.
2 He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from
Jerusalem.
3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father
Amaziah had done.
4 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people
continued sacrificing and burning incense there.
5 And the LORD afflicted the king with leprosy† until the day he died, so
that he lived in a separate house while his son Jotham had charge of the
palace and governed the people of the land.
6 As for the rest of the acts of Azariah, along with all his
accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah?
7 And Azariah rested with his fathers and was buried near them‡ in the
City of David. And his son Jotham reigned in his place.

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† **14:21 14:21** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; see 2 Chronicles 26:1. ‡ **14:22 14:22** *Elath* is a variant of *Eloth*; see 1 Kings 9:26. § **14:25 14:25** That is, the Dead Sea * **14:29 14:29** Some LXX manuscripts include *and he was buried in Samaria with* * **15:1 15:1** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; also in verses 6, 7, 8, 17, 23, and 27; see 2 Chronicles 26:1. † **15:5 15:5** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13. ‡ **15:7 15:7** Literally *with his fathers*; see 2 Chronicles 26:23.

8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah's reign over Judah, Zechariah son
of Jeroboam became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria six months.
9 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done. He
did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused
Israel to commit.
10 Then Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against Zechariah, struck him
down and killed him in front of the people,§ and reigned in his place.
11 As for the rest of the acts of Zechariah, they are indeed written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.
12 So the word of the LORD spoken to Jehu was fulfilled: "Four
generations of your sons will sit on the throne of Israel."
13 In the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah's* reign over Judah, Shallum son of
Jabesh became king, and he reigned in Samaria one full month.
14 Then Menahem son of Gadi went up from Tirzah to Samaria, struck
down and killed Shallum son of Jabesh, and reigned in his place.
15 As for the rest of the acts of Shallum, along with the conspiracy he led,
they are indeed written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.
16 At that time Menahem, starting from Tirzah, attacked Tiphsah and
everyone in its vicinity, because they would not open their gates. So he
attacked Tiphsah and ripped open all the pregnant women.
17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah's reign over Judah, Menahem son
of Gadi became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria ten years.
18 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and throughout his reign he
did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused
Israel to commit.
19 Then Pul† king of Assyria invaded the land, and Menahem gave Pul a
thousand talents of silver‡ in order to gain his support and strengthen his
own grip on the kingdom.
20 Menahem exacted this money from each of the wealthy men of
Israel—fifty shekels of silver§ from each man—to give to the king of
Assyria. So the king of Assyria withdrew and did not remain in the land.
21 As for the rest of the acts of Menahem, along with all his
accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel?
22 And Menahem rested with his fathers, and his son Pekahiah reigned
in his place.
23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah's reign over Judah, Pekahiah son of
Menahem became king of Israel and reigned in Samaria two years.
24 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and did not turn away from
the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.
25 Then his officer, Pekah son of Remaliah, conspired against him along
with Argob, Arieh, and fifty men of Gilead. And at the citadel of the king's
palace in Samaria, Pekah struck down and killed Pekahiah and reigned in
his place.
26 As for the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, along with all his
accomplishments, they are indeed written in the Book of the Chronicles of
the Kings of Israel.

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§ **15:10 15:10** Some LXX manuscripts *in Ibleam* * **15:13 15:13** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; also in verses 32 and 34; see verse 1. † **15:19 15:19** *Pul* is another name for *Tiglath-pileser*; see verse 29. ‡ **15:19 15:19** *1,000 talents* is approximately 37.7 tons or 34.2 metric tons of silver. § **15:20 15:20** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver.

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah's reign over Judah, Pekah son of
Remaliah became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria twenty years.
28 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and did not turn away from
the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.
29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria
came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead,
and Galilee, including all the land of Naphtali, and he took the people as
captives to Assyria.
30 Then Hoshea son of Elah led a conspiracy against Pekah son of
Remaliah. In the twentieth year of Jotham son of Uzziah, Hoshea attacked
Pekah, killed him, and reigned in his place.
31 As for the rest of the acts of Pekah, along with all his accomplishments,
they are indeed written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.
32 In the second year of the reign of Pekah son of Remaliah over Israel,
Jotham son of Uzziah became king of Judah.
33 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerusha* daughter of
Zadok.
34 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father
Uzziah had done.
35 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people
continued sacrificing and burning incense there.
Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD.
36 As for the rest of the acts of Jotham, along with his accomplishments,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
37 (In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Aram and Pekah
son of Remaliah against Judah.)
38 And Jotham rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the
City of David his father. And his son Ahaz reigned in his place.

16

1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham
became king of Judah.
2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem sixteen years. And unlike David his father, he did not do what
was right in the eyes of the LORD his God.
3 Instead, he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and even
sacrificed his son in the fire,* according to the abominations of the nations
that the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
4 And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills,
and under every green tree.
5 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel
came up to wage war against Jerusalem. They besieged Ahaz but could not
overcome him.
6 At that time Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath† for Aram,‡ drove out
the men of Judah, and sent the Edomites§ into Elath, where they live to
this day.

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* **15:33 15:33** *Jerusha* is a variant of *Jerushah*; see 2 Chronicles 27:1. * **16:3 16:3** Literally *made his son pass through the fire* † **16:6 16:6** *Elath* is a variant of *Eloth*; see 1 Kings 9:26. ‡ **16:6 16:6** Or *Syria* § **16:6 16:6** Qere; Ketiv *Arameans*

7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, “I
am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hands of
the kings of Aram and Israel, who are rising up against me.”
8 Ahaz also took the silver and gold found in the house of the LORD and
in the treasuries of the king's palace, and he sent it as a gift to the king of
Assyria.
9 So the king of Assyria responded to him, marched up to Damascus, and
captured it. He took its people to Kir as captives and put Rezin to death.
10 Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of
Assyria. On seeing the altar in Damascus, King Ahaz sent Uriah the priest
a model of the altar and complete plans for its construction.
11 And Uriah the priest built the altar according to all the instructions
King Ahaz had sent from Damascus, and he completed it before King Ahaz
returned.
12 When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he
approached it and presented offerings on it.
13 He offered his burnt offering and his grain offering, poured out his
drink offering, and splattered the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.
14 He also took the bronze altar that stood before the LORD from the
front of the temple (between the new altar and the house of the LORD)
and he put it on the north side of the new altar.
15 Then King Ahaz commanded Uriah the priest, “Offer on the great altar
the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, and the king's
burnt offering and grain offering, as well as the burnt offerings, grain
offerings, and drink offerings of all the people of the land. Splatter on the
altar all the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the
bronze altar to seek guidance.”
16 So Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz had commanded.
17 King Ahaz also cut off the frames of the movable stands and removed
the bronze basin from each of them. He took down the Sea from the
bronze oxen that were under it and put it on a stone base.
18 And on account of the king of Assyria, he removed the Sabbath
canopy* they had built in the temple and closed the royal entryway
outside the house of the LORD.
19 As for the rest of the acts of Ahaz, along with his accomplishments,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
20 And Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the
City of David, and his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

17

1 In the twelfth year of the reign of Ahaz over Judah, Hoshea son of Elah
became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria nine years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not like the kings of Israel
who preceded him.
3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria attacked him, and Hoshea became his
vassal and paid him tribute.
4 But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea had conspired to send
envoys to King So* of Egypt, and that he had not paid tribute to the king of
Assyria as in previous years. Therefore the king of Assyria arrested
Hoshea and put him in prison.

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* **16:18 16:18** Or *the base of his throne*; see also LXX. * **17:4 17:4** *So* is likely an abbreviation for *Osorkon*.

5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land, marched up to
Samaria, and besieged it for three years.
6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and
carried away the Israelites to Assyria, where he settled them in Halah, in
Gozan by the Habor River, and in the cities of the Medes.
7 All this happened because the people of Israel had sinned against the
LORD their God, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt from
under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They had worshiped other gods
8 and walked in the customs of the nations that the LORD had driven out
before the Israelites, as well as in the practices introduced by the kings of
Israel.
9 The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were
not right. From watchtower to fortified city, they built high places in all
their cities.
10 They set up for themselves sacred pillars and Asherah poles on every
high hill and under every green tree.
11 They burned incense on all the high places like the nations that the
LORD had driven out before them. They did wicked things, provoking the
LORD to anger.
12 They served idols, although the LORD had told them, "You shall not do
this thing."†
13 Yet through every prophet and every seer,‡ the LORD warned Israel
and Judah, saying, "Turn from your wicked ways and keep my
commandments and statutes, according to the entire Teaching that I
commanded your fathers and delivered to you through my servants the
prophets."
14 But they would not listen, and they stiffened their necks like their
fathers, who did not believe the LORD their God.
15 They rejected his statutes and the covenant he had made with their
fathers, as well as the decrees he had given them. They pursued worthless
idols and became worthless themselves, going after the surrounding
nations that the LORD had commanded them not to imitate.
16 They abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God and
made for themselves two cast idols of calves and an Asherah pole. They
bowed down to all the host of heaven and served Baal.
17 They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire§ and practiced
divination and soothsaying. They devoted themselves to doing evil in the
sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.
18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel, and he removed them from
his presence. Only the tribe of Judah remained,
19 and even Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their
God, but lived according to the customs Israel had introduced.
20 So the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel. He afflicted them
and delivered them into the hands of plunderers, until he had banished
them from his presence.
21 When the LORD had torn Israel away from the house of David, they
made Jeroboam son of Nebat king, and Jeroboam led Israel away from
following the LORD and caused them to commit a great sin.
22 The Israelites persisted in all the sins that Jeroboam had committed
and did not turn away from them.

† **17:12 17:12** Exodus 20:4–6; Deuteronomy 5:8–10 ‡ **17:13 17:13** Qere; Ketiv *all his prophets, every seer* § **17:17 17:17** Literally *made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire*

23 Finally, the LORD removed Israel from his presence, as he had
declared through all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from
their homeland into Assyria, where they are to this day.
24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva,
Hamath, and Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of Samaria to
replace the Israelites. They took possession of Samaria and lived in its
towns.
25 Now when the settlers first lived there, they did not worship the
LORD, so he sent lions among them, which killed some of them.
26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The peoples that you
have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the
requirements of the God of the land. Because of this, he has sent lions
among them, which are indeed killing them off.”
27 Then the king of Assyria commanded: “Send back one of the priests
you carried off from Samaria, and have him go back to live there and
teach the requirements of the God of the land.”
28 Thus one of the priests they had carried away came and lived in
Bethel, and he began to teach them how they should worship the LORD.
29 Nevertheless, the people of each nation continued to make their own
gods in the cities where they had settled, and they set them up in the
shrines that the people of Samaria had made on the high places.
30 The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made
Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,
31 the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned
their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech the gods of
Sepharvaim.
32 So the new residents worshiped the LORD, but they also appointed for
themselves priests of all sorts to serve in the shrines of the high places.
33 They worshiped the LORD, but they also served their own gods
according to the customs of the nations from which they had been carried
away.
34 To this day they are still practicing their former customs. None of
them worship the LORD or observe the statutes, ordinances, laws, and
commandments that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he
named Israel.
35 For the LORD had made a covenant with the Israelites and
commanded them, “Do not worship other gods or bow down to them; do
not serve them or sacrifice to them.
36 Instead, worship the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt
with great power and an outstretched arm. You are to bow down to him
and offer sacrifices to him.
37 And you must always be careful to observe the statutes, ordinances,
laws, and commandments he wrote for you. Do not worship other gods.
38 Do not forget the covenant I have made with you. Do not worship
other gods,
39 but worship the LORD your God, and he will deliver you from the
hands of all your enemies.”
40 But they would not listen, and they persisted in their former customs.
41 So these nations worshiped the LORD but also served their idols, and
to this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their
fathers did.

18

1 In the third year of the reign of Hoshea son of Elah over Israel,
Hezekiah son of Ahaz became king of Judah.
2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abi,* the daughter
of Zechariah.
3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father
David had done.
4 He removed the high places, shattered the sacred pillars, and cut down
the Asherah poles. He also demolished the bronze snake called
Nehushtan† that Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had
burned incense to it.
5 Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. No king of Judah was
like him, either before him or after him.
6 He remained faithful to the LORD and did not turn from following
him; he kept the commandments that the LORD had given Moses.
7 And the LORD was with Hezekiah, and he prospered wherever he
went. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and refused to serve him.
8 He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its borders, from
watchtower to fortified city.
9 In the fourth year of Hezekiah's reign, which was the seventh year of
the reign of Hoshea son of Elah over Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria
marched against Samaria and besieged it.
10 And at the end of three years, the Assyrians captured it.
So Samaria was captured in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the
ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel.
11 The king of Assyria exiled the Israelites to Assyria and settled them in
Halah, in Gozan by the Habor River, and in the cities of the Medes.
12 This happened because they did not listen to the voice of the LORD
their God, but violated his covenant—all that Moses the servant of the
LORD had commanded—and would neither listen nor obey.
13 In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of
Assyria attacked and captured all the fortified cities of Judah.
14 So Hezekiah king of Judah sent word to the king of Assyria at Lachish,
saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever
you demand from me."
And the king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three
hundred talents of silver‡ and thirty talents of gold.§
15 Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the
LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace.
16 At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold with which he had plated the
doors and doorposts of the temple of the LORD, and he gave it to the king
of Assyria.
17 Nevertheless, the king of Assyria sent the Tartan,* the Rabsaris,† and
the Rabshakeh,‡ along with a great army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah

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* **18:2 18:2** *Abi* is a variant of *Abijah*; see 2 Chronicles 29:1. † **18:4 18:4** *Nehushtan* sounds like the Hebrew for *bronze* and also for *snake*. ‡ **18:14 18:14** *300 talents* is approximately 11.3 tons or 10.3 metric tons of silver. § **18:14 18:14** *30 talents* is approximately 1.13 tons or 1.03 metric tons of gold. * **18:17 18:17** Hebrew *Tartan* is the title of a field marshal, general, or commander in the Assyrian military. † **18:17 18:17** Hebrew *Rabsaris* is the title of the chief eunuch in the Assyrian military. ‡ **18:17 18:17** Hebrew *Rabshakeh* is the title of a high-ranking Assyrian military officer; here and throughout chapters 18 and 19, as well as Isaiah 36 and 37.

at Jerusalem. They advanced up to Jerusalem and stationed themselves by
the aqueduct of the upper pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field.
18 Then they called for the king. And Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace
administrator, Shebnah the scribe, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder,
went out to them.
19 The Rabshakeh said to them, "Tell Hezekiah that this is what the great
king, the king of Assyria, says: What is the basis of this confidence of
yours?
20 You claim to have a strategy and strength for war, but these are empty
words. In whom are you now trusting, that you have rebelled against me?
21 Look now, you are trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff that
will pierce the hand of anyone who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of
Egypt to all who trust in him.
22 But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is he not the One
whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and
Jerusalem: 'You must worship before this altar in Jerusalem'?
23 Now, therefore, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria. I
will give you two thousand horses—if you can put riders on them!
24 For how can you repel a single officer among the least of my master's
servants when you depend on Egypt for chariots and horsemen?
25 So now, was it apart from the LORD that I have come up against this
place to destroy it? The LORD himself said to me, 'Go up against this land
and destroy it.' "
26 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, along with Shebnah and Joah, said to the
Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we
understand it. Do not speak with us in the dialect of Judah§ in the hearing
of the people on the wall."
27 But the Rabshakeh replied, "Has my master sent me to speak these
words only to you and your master, and not to the men sitting on the wall,
who are destined with you to eat their own dung and drink their own
urine?"
28 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out loudly in the dialect of
Judah: "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!
29 This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you; he cannot
deliver you from his hand.*
30 Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD when he says,
'The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand
of the king of Assyria.'
31 Do not listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria says:
Make peace with me† and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat
from his own vine and his own fig tree and drink water from his own
cistern,
32 until I come and take you away to a land like your own—a land of
grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees
and honey—so that you may live and not die. But do not listen to
Hezekiah, for he misleads you when he says, 'The LORD will deliver us.'
33 Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the
king of Assyria?

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§ **18:26 18:26** Or *in Hebrew*; also in verse 28 * **18:29 18:29** Leningrad Codex and most manuscripts; several manuscripts and ancient versions *my hand* † **18:31 18:31** Or *Make a blessing with me*

34 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of
Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria from my
hand?
35 Who among all the gods of these lands has delivered his land from my
hand? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"
36 But the people remained silent and did not answer a word, for
Hezekiah had commanded, "Do not answer him."
37 Then Hilkiah's son Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the
scribe, and Asaph's son Joah the recorder came to Hezekiah with their
clothes torn, and they relayed to him the words of the Rabshakeh.

19

1 On hearing this report, King Hezekiah tore his clothes, put on
sackcloth, and entered the house of the LORD.
2 And he sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the scribe, and
the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of
Amoz
3 to tell him, "This is what Hezekiah says: Today is a day of distress,
rebuke, and disgrace; for children have come to the point of birth, but
there is no strength to deliver them.
4 Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh,
whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to defy the living God, and
he will rebuke him for the words that the LORD your God has heard.
Therefore lift up a prayer for the remnant that still survives."
5 So the servants of King Hezekiah went to Isaiah,
6 who replied, "Tell your master that this is what the LORD says: 'Do not
be afraid of the words you have heard, with which the servants of the king
of Assyria have blasphemed me.
7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and
return to his own land, where I will cause him to fall by the sword.' "
8 When the Rabshakeh heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish,
he withdrew and found the king fighting against Libnah.
9 Now Sennacherib had been warned about Tirhakah king of Cush:*
"Look, he has set out to fight against you."
So Sennacherib again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,
10 "Give this message to Hezekiah king of Judah:
'Do not let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you by saying that
Jerusalem will not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.
11 Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the
other countries, devoting them to destruction.† Will you then be spared?
12 Did the gods of the nations destroyed by my fathers rescue those
nations—the gods of Gozan, Haran, and Rezeph, and of the people of Eden
in Telassar?
13 Where are the kings of Hamath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Hena, and
Ivvah?' "
14 So Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers, read it, and
went up to the house of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD.
15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD:

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* **19:9 19:9** That is, the upper Nile region † **19:11 19:11** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

"O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are
God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the
earth.
16 Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see.
Listen to the words that Sennacherib has sent to defy the living God.
17 Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste these nations and
their lands.
18 They have cast their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they
were not gods, but only wood and stone—the work of human hands.
19 And now, O LORD our God, please save us from his hand, so that all
the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God."
20 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "This is what the
LORD, the God of Israel, says: I have heard your prayer concerning
Sennacherib king of Assyria.
21 This is the word that the LORD has spoken against him:

'The Virgin Daughter of Zion
despises you and mocks you;
the Daughter of Jerusalem
shakes her head behind you.
22 Whom have you taunted and blasphemed?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes in pride?
Against the Holy One of Israel!
23 Through your servants you have taunted the Lord,
and you have said:

"With my many chariots
I have ascended
to the heights of the mountains,
to the remote peaks of Lebanon.
I have cut down its tallest cedars,
the finest of its cypresses.‡
I have reached its farthest outposts,
the densest of its forests.
24 I have dug wells
and drunk foreign waters.
With the soles of my feet
I have dried up all the streams of Egypt."

25 Have you not heard?
Long ago I ordained it;
in days of old I planned it.
Now I have brought it to pass,
that you should crush fortified cities
into piles of rubble.
26 Therefore their inhabitants, devoid of power,
are dismayed and ashamed.
They are like plants in the field,
tender green shoots,
grass on the rooftops,

‡ **19:23 19:23** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

scorched before it is grown.

27 But I know your sitting down,
your going out and coming in,
and your raging against me.
28 Because your rage and arrogance against me
have reached my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth;
I will send you back
the way you came.'
29 And this will be a sign to you, O Hezekiah:

This year you will eat
what grows on its own,
and in the second year
what springs from the same.
But in the third year you will sow and reap;
you will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
30 And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah
will again take root below
and bear fruit above.
31 For a remnant will go forth from Jerusalem,
and survivors from Mount Zion.
The zeal of the LORD of Hosts§
will accomplish this.
32 So this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria:

'He will not enter this
city or shoot an arrow
into it. He will not come before it with a shield
or build up a siege ramp against it.
33 He will go back the way he came,
and he will not enter this city,
declares the LORD.
34 I will defend this city
and save it
for my own sake
and for the sake of my servant David.' "
35 And that very night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 men in the camp of the Assyrians. When the people got up the next morning, there were all the dead bodies!
36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.
37 One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer* put him to the sword and escaped to the land of Ararat. And his son Esar-haddon reigned in his place.

§ **19:31 19:31** Qere (see also LXX and many Hebrew manuscripts); Ketiv *The zeal of the LORD*
* **19:37 19:37** Qere (see also LXX and Isaiah 37:38); Ketiv lacks *his sons*

20

1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. The prophet Isaiah son of
Amoz came to him and said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Put your house
in order, for you are about to die; you will not recover.’ ”
2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,
saying,
3 “Please, O LORD, remember how I have walked before you faithfully
and with wholehearted devotion; I have done what is good in your sight.”
And Hezekiah wept bitterly.
4 Before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard,* the word of the LORD
came to him, saying,
5 “Go back and tell Hezekiah the leader of my people that this is what the
LORD, the God of your father David, says: ‘I have heard your prayer; I
have seen your tears. I will surely heal you. On the third day from now
you will go up to the house of the LORD.
6 I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city
from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake
and for the sake of my servant David.’ ”
7 Then Isaiah said, “Prepare a poultice of figs.” So they brought it and
applied it to the boil, and Hezekiah recovered.
8 Now Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, “What will be the sign that the LORD
will heal me and that I will go up to the house of the LORD on the third
day?”
9 And Isaiah had replied, “This will be a sign to you from the LORD that
he will do what he has promised: Would you like the shadow to go
forward ten steps, or back ten steps?”
10 “It is easy for the shadow to lengthen ten steps,” answered Hezekiah,
“but not for it to go back ten steps.”
11 So Isaiah the prophet called out to the LORD, and he brought the
shadow back the ten steps it had descended on the stairway of Ahaz.
12 At that time Berodach-baladan† son of Baladan king of Babylon sent
letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he had heard about Hezekiah’s illness.
13 And Hezekiah received the envoys and showed them all that was in
his treasure house—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the precious oil, as
well as his armory—all that was found in his storehouses. There was
nothing in his palace or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show
them.
14 Then the prophet Isaiah went to King Hezekiah and asked, “Where did
those men come from, and what did they say to you?”
“They came from a distant land,” Hezekiah replied, “from Babylon.”
15 “What have they seen in your palace?” Isaiah asked.
“They have seen everything in my palace,” answered Hezekiah. “There is
nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.”
16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD:
17 The time will surely come when everything in your palace and all that
your fathers have stored up until this day will be carried off to Babylon.
Nothing will be left, says the LORD.
18 And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, will be
taken away to be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

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* **20:4 20:4** Qere; Ketiv *the middle of the city* † **20:12 20:12** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also Isaiah 39:1) *Merodach-baladan*

19 But Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD that you have
spoken is good.” For he thought, “Will there not at least be peace and
security in my lifetime?”
20 As for the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, along with all his might and
how he constructed the pool and the tunnel‡ to bring water into the city,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
21 And Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and his son Manasseh reigned
in his place.

21

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned
in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother’s name was Hephzibah.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD by following the abominations
of the nations that the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
3 For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed,
and he raised up altars for Baal. He made an Asherah pole, as King Ahab
of Israel had done, and he worshiped and served all the host of heaven.
4 Manasseh also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the
LORD had said, “In Jerusalem I will put my Name.”
5 In both courtyards of the house of the LORD, he built altars to all the
host of heaven.
6 He sacrificed his own son in the fire,* practiced sorcery and divination,
and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did great evil in the sight of the
LORD, provoking him to anger.
7 Manasseh even took the carved Asherah pole he had made and set it
up in the temple, of which the LORD had said to David and his son
Solomon, “In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all
the tribes of Israel, I will establish my Name forever.
8 I will never again cause the feet of the Israelites to wander from the
land that I gave to their fathers, if only they are careful to do all I have
commanded them—the whole Teaching that my servant Moses
commanded them.”
9 But the people did not listen and Manasseh led them astray, so that
they did greater evil than the nations that the LORD had destroyed before
the Israelites.
10 And the LORD spoke through his servants the prophets, saying,
11 “Since Manasseh king of Judah has committed all these abominations,
acting more wickedly than the Amorites who preceded him, and with his
idols has caused Judah to sin,
12 this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Behold, I am bringing
such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah that the news will reverberate in
the ears of all who hear it.
13 I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against
Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab, and I will
wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes out a bowl—wiping it and turning it
upside down.
14 So I will forsake the remnant of my inheritance and deliver them into
the hands of their enemies. And they will become plunder and spoil to all
their enemies,
15 because they have done evil in my sight and have provoked me to
anger from the day their fathers came out of Egypt until this day.’ ”

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‡ **20:20 20:20** Or *watercourse* or *conduit* * **21:6 21:6** Literally *made his son pass through the fire*

16 Moreover, Manasseh shed so much innocent blood that he filled
Jerusalem from end to end, in addition to the sin that he had caused Judah
to commit, doing evil in the sight of the LORD.
17 As for the rest of the acts of Manasseh, along with all his
accomplishments and the sin that he committed, are they not written in
the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
18 And Manasseh rested with his fathers and was buried in his palace
garden, the garden of Uzza. And his son Amon reigned in his place.
19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem two years. His mother's name was Meshullemeth
daughter of Haruz; she was from Jotbah.
20 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had
done.
21 He walked in all the ways of his father, and he served and worshiped
the idols his father had served.
22 He abandoned the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in
the way of the LORD.
23 Then the servants of Amon conspired against him and killed the king
in his palace.
24 But the people of the land killed all those who had conspired against
King Amon, and they made his son Josiah king in his place.
25 As for the rest of the acts of Amon, along with his accomplishments,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
26 And he was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza, and his son
Josiah reigned in his place.

22

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of
Adaiah; she was from Bozkath.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all
the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.
3 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the scribe,
Shaphan son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD,
saying,
4 "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him count the money that
has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have
collected from the people.
5 And let them deliver it* into the hands of the supervisors of those
doing the work on the house of the LORD, who in turn are to give it to the
workmen repairing the damages to the house of the LORD—
6 to the carpenters, builders, and masons—to buy timber and dressed
stone to repair the temple.
7 But they need not account for the money put into their hands, since
they work with integrity."
8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found
the Book of the Teaching in the house of the LORD!" And he gave it to
Shaphan, who read it.
9 And Shaphan the scribe went to the king and reported, "Your servants
have paid out the money that was found in the temple and have put it into
the hands of the workers and supervisors of the house of the LORD."

* **22:5 22:5** Qere; Ketiv *let him deliver it*

10 Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has
given me a book.” And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.
11 When the king heard the words of the Book of the Teaching, he tore
his clothes
12 and commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor†
son of Micaiah,‡ Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the servant of the king:
13 “Go and inquire of the LORD for me, for the people, and for all Judah
concerning the words in this book that has been found. For great is the
wrath of the LORD that burns against us because our fathers have not
obeyed the words of this book by doing all that is written about us.”
14 So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went and
spoke to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah,§ the
son of Harhas,* the keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the
Second District.†
15 And Huldah said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: ‘Tell the man who sent you
16 that this is what the LORD says: I am about to bring calamity on this
place and on its people, according to all the words of the book that the
king of Judah has read,
17 because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods,
that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands. My
wrath will be kindled against this place and will not be quenched.’
18 But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, tell
him that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘As for the words
that you heard,
19 because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the
LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its
people, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and because you
have torn your clothes and wept before me, I have heard you,’ declares
the LORD.
20 ‘Therefore I will indeed gather you to your fathers, and you will be
gathered to your grave in peace. Your eyes will not see all the calamity
that I will bring on this place.’ ”
So they brought her answer back to the king.

23

1 Then the king summoned all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.
2 And he went up to the house of the LORD with all the people of Judah
and Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the prophets—all the people
small and great—and in their hearing he read all the words of the Book of
the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.
3 So the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD
to follow the LORD and to keep his commandments, decrees, and statutes
with all his heart and all his soul, and to carry out the words of the
covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into
the covenant.
4 Then the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests second
in rank, and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the LORD all

† **22:12 22:12** *Achbor* is another name for *Abdon*; see 2 Chronicles 34:20. ‡ **22:12 22:12** *Micaiah* is a variant of *Micah*; see 2 Chronicles 34:20. § **22:14 22:14** *Tikvah* is a variant of *Tokhath*; see 2 Chronicles 34:22. * **22:14 22:14** *Harhas* is a variant of *Hasrah*; see 2 Chronicles 34:22. † **22:14 22:14** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh*

the articles made for Baal, Asherah, and all the host of heaven. And he
burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron and carried their
ashes to Bethel.
5 Josiah also did away with the idolatrous priests ordained by the kings
of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the cities of Judah and in
the places all around Jerusalem—those who had burned incense to Baal,
to the sun and moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven.
6 He brought the Asherah pole from the house of the LORD to the Kidron
Valley outside Jerusalem, and there he burned it, ground it to powder, and
threw its dust on the graves of the common people.
7 He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes that were
in the house of the LORD, where the women had woven tapestries for
Asherah.
8 Then Josiah brought all the priests from the cities of Judah and
desecrated the high places, from Geba to Beersheba, where the priests had
burned incense. He tore down the high places of the gates at the entrance
of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which was to the left of the
city gate.
9 Although the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of
the LORD in Jerusalem, they ate unleavened bread with their fellow
priests.
10 He also desecrated Topheth in the Valley of Ben-hinnom* so that no
one could sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire† to Molech.
11 And he removed from the entrance to the house of the LORD the
horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun. They were in the
court‡ near the chamber of an official named Nathan-melech. And Josiah
burned up the chariots of the sun.
12 He pulled down the altars that the kings of Judah had set up on the
roof near the upper chamber of Ahaz, and the altars that Manasseh had
set up in the two courtyards of the house of the LORD. The king quickly
removed them from there§ and threw their dust into the Kidron Valley.
13 The king also desecrated the high places east of Jerusalem, to the south
of the Mount of Corruption, which King Solomon of Israel had built for
Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination
of the Moabites, and for Milcom* the abomination of the Ammonites.
14 He smashed the sacred pillars to pieces, cut down the Asherah poles,
and covered the sites with human bones.
15 He even pulled down the altar at Bethel, the high place set up by
Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin. Then he burned† the
high place, ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole.
16 And as Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the hillside, and he
sent someone to take the bones out of the tombs, and he burned them on
the altar to defile it, according to the word of the LORD proclaimed by the
man of God who had foretold these things.‡
17 Then the king asked, “What is this monument I see?”

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* **23:10 23:10** Qere, meaning *the Valley of the Son of Hinnom*; Ketiv *the Valley of the Sons of Hinnom*
† **23:10 23:10** Literally *could pass his son or daughter through the fire* ‡ **23:11 23:11** Hebrew *parbarim* § **23:12 23:12** Or *pulverized them there* * **23:13 23:13** *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7. † **23:15 23:15** LXX *broke into pieces* ‡ **23:16 23:16** LXX adds *when Jeroboam stood by the altar at the feast. And he turned and lifted his eyes to the tomb of the man of God*; see 1 Kings 13:2.

And the men of the city replied, “It is the tomb of the man of God who
came from Judah and proclaimed these things that you have done to the
altar of Bethel.”
18 “Let him rest,” said Josiah. “Do not let anyone disturb his bones.”
So they left his bones undisturbed, along with those of the prophet who
had come from Samaria.
19 Just as Josiah had done at Bethel, so also in the cities of Samaria he
removed all the shrines of the high places set up by the kings of Israel who
had provoked the LORD to anger.
20 On the altars he slaughtered all the priests of the high places, and he
burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.
21 The king commanded all the people, “Keep the Passover of the LORD
your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.”
22 No such Passover had been observed from the days of the judges who
had governed Israel through all the days of the kings of Israel and Judah.
23 But in the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign, this Passover was
observed to the LORD in Jerusalem.
24 Furthermore, Josiah removed the mediums and spiritists, the
household gods and idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the
land of Judah and in Jerusalem. He did this to carry out the words of the
law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had found in the house of
the LORD.
25 Neither before nor after Josiah was there any king like him, who
turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his
strength, according to all the Teaching of Moses.
26 Nevertheless, the LORD did not turn away from the fury of his
burning anger, which was kindled against Judah because of all that
Manasseh had done to provoke him to anger.
27 For the LORD had said, “I will remove Judah from my sight, just as I
removed Israel. I will reject this city Jerusalem, which I chose, and the
temple of which I said, ‘My Name shall be there.’ ”
28 As for the rest of the acts of Josiah and all his accomplishments, are
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
29 During Josiah’s reign, Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt marched up to help
the king of Assyria at the Euphrates River. King Josiah went out to
confront him, but Neco faced him and killed him at Megiddo.
30 From Megiddo his servants carried his body in a chariot, brought him
to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. Then the people of the
land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in
place of his father.
31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother’s name was Hamutal
daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.
32 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his fathers had done.
33 And Pharaoh Neco imprisoned Jehoahaz at Riblah in the land of
Hamath so that he could not reign in Jerusalem,§ and he imposed on
Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver* and a talent of gold.†

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§ **23:33 23:33** Qere; Ketiv *while he reigned in Jerusalem* * **23:33 23:33** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. † **23:33 23:33** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

34 Then Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim son of Josiah king in place of his
father Josiah, and he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took
Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt, where he died.
35 So Jehoiakim paid the silver and gold to Pharaoh Neco, but to meet
Pharaoh's demand he taxed the land and exacted the silver and the gold
from the people, each according to his wealth.
36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Zebidah
daughter of Pedaiah; she was from Rumah.
37 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his fathers had done.

24

1 During Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded.
So Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years, until he turned and
rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.
2 And the LORD sent Chaldean,* Aramean, Moabite, and Ammonite
raiders against Jehoiakim in order to destroy Judah, according to the word
that the LORD had spoken through his servants the prophets.
3 Surely this happened to Judah at the LORD's command, to remove
them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all that he
had done,
4 and also for the innocent blood he had shed. For he had filled
Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was unwilling to forgive.
5 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, along with all his
accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah?
6 And Jehoiakim rested with his fathers, and his son Jehoiachin reigned
in his place.
7 Now the king of Egypt did not march out of his land again, because the
king of Babylon had taken all his territory, from the Brook of Egypt to the
Euphrates River.
8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta
daughter of Elnathan; she was from Jerusalem.
9 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his father had done.
10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched
up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.
11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his
servants were besieging it.
12 Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his commanders,
and his officials all surrendered to the king of Babylon.
So in the eighth year of his reign, the king of Babylon took him captive.
13 As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar also carried off all the
treasures from the house of the LORD and the royal palace, and he cut
into pieces all the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made in the
temple of the LORD.
14 He carried into exile all Jerusalem—all the commanders and mighty
men of valor, all the craftsmen and metalsmiths—ten thousand captives in
all. Only the poorest people of the land remained.

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* **24:2 24:2** Or *Babylonian*

15 Nebuchadnezzar carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, as well as the
king's mother, his wives, his officials, and the leading men of the land. He
took them into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.
16 The king of Babylon also brought into exile to Babylon all seven
thousand men of valor and a thousand craftsmen and metalsmiths—all
strong and fit for battle.
17 Then the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in
his place and changed his name to Zedekiah.
18 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Hamutal
daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.
19 And Zedekiah did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had
done.
20 For because of the anger of the LORD, all this happened in Jerusalem
and Judah, until he finally banished them from his presence.
And Zedekiah also rebelled against the king of Babylon.

25

1 So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth
month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with
his entire army. They encamped outside the city and built* a siege wall all
around it.
2 And the city was kept under siege until King Zedekiah's eleventh year.
3 By the ninth day of the month,† the famine in the city was so severe
that the people of the land had no food.
4 Then the city was breached; and though the Chaldeans‡ had
surrounded the city, all the men of war fled by night by way of the gate
between the two walls near the king's garden.
And the king§ headed toward the Arabah,*
5 but the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in
the plains of Jericho, and his whole army deserted him.
6 The Chaldeans seized the king and brought him up to the king of
Babylon at Riblah, where they pronounced judgment on him.
7 And they slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they
put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles, and took him to
Babylon.
8 On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of
Nebuchadnezzar's reign over Babylon, Nebuzaradan captain of the guard,
a servant of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem.
9 He burned down the house of the LORD, the royal palace, and all the
houses of Jerusalem—every significant building.
10 And the whole army of the Chaldeans under the captain of the guard
broke down the walls around Jerusalem.
11 Then Nebuzaradan captain of the guard carried into exile the people
who remained in the city, along with the deserters who had defected to
the king of Babylon and the rest of the population.
12 But the captain of the guard left behind some of the poorest of the
land to tend the vineyards and fields.

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* **25:1 25:1** Literally *he encamped outside it and they built* † **25:3 25:3** A proposed emendation (see Jeremiah 52:6) adds *fourth* ‡ **25:4 25:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 5, 6, 10, 13, 24, 25, and 26 § **25:4 25:4** Hebrew *he*; compare Jeremiah 52:7, *they* * **25:4 25:4** Or *the Jordan Valley*

13 Moreover, the Chaldeans broke up the bronze pillars and stands and
the bronze Sea in the house of the LORD, and they carried the bronze to
Babylon.
14 They also took away the pots, shovels, wick trimmers, dishes, and all
the articles of bronze used in the temple service.
15 The captain of the guard also took away the censers and sprinkling
bowls—anything made of pure gold or fine silver.
16 As for the two pillars, the Sea, and the movable stands that Solomon
had made for the house of the LORD, the weight of the bronze from all
these articles was beyond measure.
17 Each pillar was eighteen cubits tall.† The bronze capital atop one
pillar was three cubits high,‡ with a network of bronze pomegranates all
around. The second pillar, with its network, was similar.
18 The captain of the guard also took away Seraiah the chief priest,
Zephaniah the priest of second rank, and the three doorkeepers.
19 Of those still in the city, he took a court official who had been
appointed over the men of war, as well as five royal advisors. He also took
the scribe of the captain of the army, who had enlisted the people of the
land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city.
20 Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took them and brought them to the
king of Babylon at Riblah.
21 There at Riblah in the land of Hamath, the king of Babylon struck
them down and put them to death. So Judah was taken into exile, away
from its own land.
22 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam,
the son of Shaphan, over the people he had left behind in the land of
Judah.
23 When all the commanders of the armies and their men heard that the
king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah as governor, they came to
Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah,
Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah§ son of the
Maacathite, as well as their men.
24 And Gedaliah took an oath before them and their men, assuring them,
“Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Live in the land and
serve the king of Babylon, and it will be well with you.”
25 In the seventh month, however, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, the son of
Elishama, who was a member of the royal family, came with ten men and
struck down and killed Gedaliah, along with the Judeans and Chaldeans
who were with him at Mizpah.
26 Then all the people small and great, together with the commanders of
the army, arose and fled to Egypt for fear of the Chaldeans.
27 On the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month of the thirty-seventh
year of the exile of Judah’s King Jehoiachin, in the year Evil-merodach
became king of Babylon, he released* King Jehoiachin of Judah from
prison.
28 And he spoke kindly to Jehoiachin and set his throne above the
thrones of the other kings who were with him in Babylon.

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† **25:17 25:17** *18 cubits* is approximately 27 feet or 8.2 meters. ‡ **25:17 25:17** *3 cubits* is approximately 4.5 feet or 1.4 meters. § **25:23 25:23** *Jaazaniah* is a variant of *Jezaniah*; see Jeremiah 40:8. * **25:27 25:27** Literally *lifted up the head of*

29 So Jehoiachin changed out of his prison clothes, and he dined
regularly at the king's table for the rest of his life.
30 And the king provided Jehoiachin a daily portion for the rest of his life.

Isaiah

1 This is the vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of
Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings
of Judah.

2 Listen, O heavens, and give ear, O earth,
for the LORD has spoken:

"I have raised children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.
3 The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master's manger,
but Israel does not know;
my people do not understand."

4 Alas, O sinful nation,
a people laden with iniquity,
a brood of evildoers,
children who act corruptly!
They have forsaken the LORD;
they have despised the Holy One of Israel
and turned their backs on him.

5 Why do you want more beatings?
Why do you keep rebelling?
Your head has a massive wound,
and your whole heart is afflicted.
6 From the sole of your foot to the top of your head,
there is no soundness—
only wounds and welts and festering sores
neither cleansed nor bandaged nor soothed with oil.

7 Your land is desolate;
your cities are burned with fire.
Foreigners devour your fields before you—
a desolation demolished by strangers.
8 And the Daughter of Zion is abandoned
like a shelter in a vineyard,
like a shack in a cucumber field,
like a city besieged.

9 Unless the LORD of Hosts
had left us a few survivors,*
we would have become like Sodom,
we would have resembled Gomorrah.
10 Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

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* **1:9 1:9** LXX *had left us descendants*

11 “What good to me is your multitude of sacrifices?”
says the LORD.
“I am full from the burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed cattle;
I take no delight in the blood of bulls
and lambs and goats.
12 When you come to appear before me,
who has required this of you—
this trampling of my courts?

13 Bring your worthless offerings no more;
your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths, and convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity in a solemn assembly.
14 I hate your New Moons
and your appointed feasts.
They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

15 When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you multiply your prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.

16 Wash and cleanse yourselves.
Remove your evil deeds from my sight.
Stop doing evil!
17 Learn to do right;
seek justice and encourage the oppressed.†
Defend the fatherless
and plead the case of the widow.”

18 “Come now, let us reason together,”
says the LORD.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they will be as white as snow;
though they are as red as crimson,
they will become like wool.
19 If you are willing and obedient,
you will eat the best of the land.
20 But if you resist and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword.”
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
21 See how the faithful city has become a harlot!
She once was full of justice;
righteousness resided within her,
but now only murderers!
22 Your silver has become dross;
your fine wine is diluted with water.
23 Your rulers are rebels,

† **1:17 1:17** Or *and correct the oppressor*

friends of thieves.
They all love bribes
and chasing after rewards.
They do not defend the fatherless,
and the plea of the widow never comes before them.

24 Therefore the Lord GOD of Hosts,
the Mighty One of Israel, declares:

"Ah, I will be relieved of my foes
and avenge myself on my enemies.
25 I will turn my hand against you;
I will thoroughly purge your dross;
I will remove all your impurities.
26 I will restore your judges as at first,
and your counselors as at the beginning.
After that you will be called the City of Righteousness,
the Faithful City."

27 Zion will be redeemed with justice,
her repentant ones with righteousness.
28 But rebels and sinners will together be shattered,
and those who forsake the LORD will perish.
29 Surely you will be ashamed of the sacred oaks
in which you have delighted;
you will be embarrassed by the gardens
that you have chosen.

30 For you will become like an oak whose leaves are withered,
like a garden without water.
31 The strong man will become tinder
and his work will be a spark;
both will burn together,
with no one to quench the flames.

2

1 This is the message that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the days to come the mountain of the house of the LORD
will be established as the chief of the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

3 And many peoples will come and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths."

For the law will go forth from Zion,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
4 Then he will judge between the nations
and arbitrate for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation,
nor train anymore for war.
5 Come, O house of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.
6 For you have abandoned your people,
the house of Jacob,
because they are filled
with influences from the east;
they are soothsayers like the Philistines;
they strike hands with the children of foreigners.

7 Their land is full of silver and gold,
with no limit to their treasures;
their land is full of horses,
with no limit to their chariots.
8 Their land is full of idols;
they bow down to the work of their hands,
to what their fingers have made.
9 So mankind is brought low,
and man is humbled—
do not forgive them!

10 Go into the rocks
and hide in the dust
from the terror of the LORD
and the splendor of his majesty.
11 The proud look of man will be humbled,
and the loftiness of men brought low;
the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

12 For the Day of the LORD of Hosts
will come against all the proud and lofty,
against all that is exalted—
it will be humbled—
13 against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up,
against all the oaks of Bashan,
14 against all the tall mountains,
against all the high hills,
15 against every high tower,
against every fortified wall,
16 against every ship of Tarshish,*
and against every stately vessel.

17 So the pride of man will be brought low,
and the loftiness of men will be humbled;
the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,

* **2:16 2:16** Or *every ship of trade*

18 and the idols will vanish completely.
19 Men will flee to caves in the rocks
and holes in the ground,
away from the terror of the LORD
and from the splendor of his majesty,
when he rises to shake the earth.

20 In that day men will cast away
to the moles and bats
their idols of silver and gold—
the idols they made to worship.
21 They will flee to caverns in the rocks
and crevices in the cliffs,
away from the terror of the LORD
and from the splendor of his majesty,
when he rises to shake the earth.

22 Put no more trust in man,
who has only the breath in his nostrils.
Of what account is he?

3

1 For behold, the Lord GOD of Hosts
is about to remove
from Jerusalem and Judah
both supply* and support:
the whole supply of food and water,
2 the mighty man and the warrior,
the judge and the prophet,
the soothsayer and the elder,
3 the commander of fifty and the dignitary,
the counselor, the cunning magician, and the clever enchanter.

4 "I will make mere lads their leaders,
and children will rule over them."

5 The people will oppress one another,
man against man, neighbor against neighbor;
the young will rise up against the old,
and the base against the honorable.

6 A man will seize his brother
within his father's house:
"You have a cloak—you be our leader!
Take charge of this heap of rubble."

7 On that day he will cry aloud:
"I am not a binder of wounds.†
I have no food or clothing in my house.
Do not make me leader of the people!"

8 For Jerusalem has stumbled

* **3:1 3:1** Hebrew *staff* † **3:7 3:7** Or *healer*

and Judah has fallen
because they spoke and acted against the LORD,
defying his glorious presence.‡
9 The expression on their faces testifies against them,
and like Sodom they flaunt their sin;
they do not conceal it.
Woe to them,
for they have brought disaster upon themselves.

10 Tell the righteous it will be well with them,
for they will enjoy the fruit of their labor.
11 Woe to the wicked; disaster is upon them!
For they will be repaid with what their hands have done.
12 Youths oppress my people,
and women rule over them.
O my people, your guides mislead you;
they turn you from your paths.

13 The LORD arises to contend;
he stands to judge the peoples.§
14 The LORD brings this charge
against the elders and leaders of his people:
"You have devoured the vineyard;
the plunder of the poor is in your houses.
15 Why do you crush my people
and grind the faces of the poor?"
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts.
16 The LORD also says:

"Because the daughters of Zion are haughty—
walking with heads held high
and wanton eyes,
prancing and skipping as they go,
jingling the bracelets on their ankles—
17 the Lord will bring sores
on the heads of the daughters of Zion,
and the LORD will make their foreheads bare.*"

18 In that day the Lord will take away their finery:
their anklets and headbands and crescents;
19 their pendants, bracelets, and veils;
20 their headdresses, ankle chains, and sashes;
their perfume bottles and charms;
21 their signet rings and nose rings;
22 their festive robes, capes, cloaks, and purses;
23 and their mirrors, linen garments, tiaras, and shawls.

24 Instead of fragrance
there will be a stench;
instead of a belt, a rope;

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‡ **3:8 3:8** Hebrew *defying the eyes of his glory* § **3:13 3:13** LXX and Syriac *his people* * **3:17 3:17** Or *will uncover their secret parts*

instead of styled hair, baldness;
instead of fine clothing, sackcloth;
branding instead of beauty.†

25 Your men will fall by the sword,
and your warriors in battle.
26 And the gates of Zion will lament and mourn;
destitute, she will sit on the ground.

4

1 In that day seven women
will take hold of one man and say,
"We will eat our own bread
and provide our own clothes.
Just let us be called by your name.
Take away our disgrace!"

2 On that day the branch of the LORD
will be beautiful and glorious,
and the fruit of the land
will be the pride and glory of Israel's survivors.
3 Whoever remains in Zion
and whoever is left in Jerusalem
will be called holy—
all in Jerusalem who are recorded among the living—
4 when the Lord has washed away
the filth of the daughters of Zion
and cleansed the bloodstains from the heart of Jerusalem
by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire.

5 Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion
and over her assemblies
a cloud of smoke by day
and a glowing flame of fire by night.
For over all the glory
there will be a canopy,
6 a shelter to give shade
from the heat by day,
and a refuge and hiding place
from the storm and the rain.

5

1 I will sing for my beloved a song of his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
2 He dug it up and cleared the stones
and planted the finest vines.
He built a watchtower in the middle
and dug out a winepress as well.

He waited for the vineyard to yield good grapes,

† **3:24 3:24** DSS *instead of beauty, shame*

but the fruit it produced was sour!

3 “And now, O dwellers of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I exhort you to judge
between me and my vineyard.
4 What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
Why, when I expected sweet grapes,
did it bring forth sour fruit?

5 Now I will tell you what I am about to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,
and it will be consumed;
I will tear down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
6 I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and thorns and briers will grow up.
I will command the clouds
that rain shall not fall on it.”

7 For the vineyard of the LORD of Hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are the plant of his delight.
He looked for justice,
but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but heard a cry of distress.
8 Woe to you who add house to house
and join field to field
until no place is left
and you live alone in the land.

9 I heard the LORD of Hosts declare:

“Surely many houses will become desolate,
great mansions left unoccupied.
10 For ten acres of vineyard
will yield but a bath of wine,*
and a homer of seed
only an ephah of grain.†”

11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning
in pursuit of strong drink,
who linger into the evening,
to be inflamed by wine.

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* **5:10 5:10** Literally *ten yoke of vineyard will yield a bath*; that is, the area ten yoke of oxen can plow in a day will yield approximately 5.8 gallons or 22 liters of wine. † **5:10 5:10** Literally *and a homer of seed will yield an ephah*; that is, a homer of seed (approximately 6.24 bushels or 220 liters) will yield a tenth of its weight in grain.

12 At their feasts are the lyre and harp,
tambourines and flutes and wine.
They disregard the actions of the LORD
and fail to see the work of his hands.

13 Therefore my people will go into exile
for their lack of understanding;
their dignitaries are starving
and their masses are parched with thirst.
14 Therefore Sheol enlarges its throat
and opens wide its enormous jaws,
and down go Zion's nobles and masses,
her revelers and carousers!

15 So mankind will be brought low, and each man humbled;
the arrogant will lower their eyes.
16 But the LORD of Hosts will be exalted by his justice,
and the holy God will show himself holy in righteousness.
17 Lambs will graze as in their own pastures,
and strangers‡ will feed in the ruins of the wealthy.

18 Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of deceit
and pull sin along with cart ropes,
19 to those who say, "Let him hurry and hasten his work
so that we may see it!
Let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come
so that we may know it!"

20 Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who turn darkness to light
and light to darkness,
who replace bitter with sweet
and sweet with bitter.

21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes
and clever in their own sight.

22 Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine
and champions in mixing strong drink,
23 who acquit the guilty for a bribe
and deprive the innocent of justice.

24 Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes the straw,
and as dry grass shrivels in the flame,
so their roots will decay
and their blossoms will blow away like dust;
for they have rejected the instruction of the LORD of Hosts
and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.
25 Therefore the anger of the LORD burns against his people;
his hand is raised against them to strike them down.

‡ **5:17 5:17** LXX *lambs*

The mountains quake,
and the corpses lie like refuse in the streets.

Despite all this, his anger is not turned away;
his hand is still upraised.

26 He lifts a banner for the distant nations
and whistles for those at the ends of the earth.
Behold—how speedily and swiftly they come!
27 None of them grows weary or stumbles;
no one slumbers or sleeps.
No belt is loose
and no sandal strap is broken.
28 Their arrows are sharpened,
and all their bows are strung.
The hooves of their horses are like flint;
their chariot wheels are like a whirlwind.
29 Their roaring is like that of a lion;
they roar like young lions.
They growl and seize their prey;
they carry it away, and no one can rescue it.
30 In that day they will roar over it,
like the roaring of the sea.
If one looks over the land,
he will see darkness and distress;
even the light will be obscured by clouds.

6

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted; and the train of his robe* filled the temple.
2 Above him stood seraphim, each having six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.
3 And they were calling out to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts;
all the earth is full of his glory.”
4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.
5 Then I said:

“Woe is me,
for I am ruined,
because I am a man of unclean lips
dwelling among a people of unclean lips;
for my eyes have seen the King,
the LORD of Hosts.”
6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, and in his hand was a glowing coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.
7 And with it he touched my mouth and said:

“Now that this has touched your lips,

* **6:1 6:1** Or *the hem of his robe*

your iniquity is removed
and your sin is atoned for."
8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

"Whom shall I send?
Who will go for us?"
And I said:

"Here am I. Send me!"
9 And he replied:

"Go and tell this people,
'Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'†
10 Make the hearts of this people calloused;
deafen their ears and close their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed.‡"
11 Then I asked:

"How long, O Lord?"
And he replied:

"Until the cities lie ruined
and without inhabitant,
until the houses are left unoccupied
and the land is desolate and ravaged,
12 until the LORD has driven men far away
and the land is utterly forsaken.
13 And though a tenth remains in the land,
it will be burned again.
As the terebinth and oak leave stumps when felled,
so the holy seed will be a stump in the land."

7

1 Now in the days that Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, Rezin king of Aram* marched up to wage war against Jerusalem. He was accompanied by Pekah son of Remaliah the king of Israel, but he could not overpower the city.
2 When it was reported to the house of David that Aram was in league with Ephraim,† the hearts of Ahaz and his people trembled like trees in the forest shaken by the wind.
3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out with your son Shear-jashub‡ to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct that feeds the upper pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field,

† **6:9 6:9** LXX *'You shall be ever hearing, but never understanding; you shall be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'* ‡ **6:10 6:10** LXX *For this people's heart has grown callous; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them.* * **7:1 7:1** That is, Syria † **7:2 7:2** Or *had set up camp in Ephraim*, that is, the northern kingdom of Israel ‡ **7:3 7:3** *Shear-jashub* means *a remnant shall return.*

4 and say to him: Calm down and be quiet. Do not be afraid or
disheartened over these two smoldering stubs of firewood—over the
fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah.
5 For Aram, along with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has plotted
your ruin, saying:
6 'Let us invade Judah, terrorize it, and divide it§ among ourselves. Then
we can install the son of Tabeal over it as king.'
7 But this is what the Lord GOD says:

'It will not arise;
it will not happen.
8 For the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.
Within sixty-five years
Ephraim will be shattered as a people.
9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.
If you do not stand firm in your faith,
then you will not stand at all.' "
10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
11 "Ask for a sign from the LORD your God, whether you ask it deep
below or high above.*"
12 But Ahaz replied, "I will not ask; I will not test the LORD."
13 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it not enough to try
the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God as well?
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the young
woman is with child† and will give birth to a son, and will call him
Immanuel.‡
15 By the time he knows enough to reject evil and choose good, he will be
eating curds and honey.
16 For before the boy knows enough to reject evil and choose good, the
land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.
17 The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of
your father a time unlike any since the day Ephraim separated from
Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."
18 On that day the LORD will whistle to the flies at the farthest streams of
the Nile and to the bees in the land of Assyria.
19 And they will all come and settle
in the steep ravines and clefts of the rocks,
in all the thornbushes and watering holes.
20 On that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the
Euphrates§—the king of Assyria—to shave your head and the hair of your
legs, and to remove your beard as well.
21 On that day a man will raise a young cow and two sheep,
22 and from the abundance of milk they give, he will eat curds; for all
who remain in the land will eat curds and honey.

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§ **7:6 7:6** Hebrew *split it open* * **7:11 7:11** Or (with a different vocalization) *whether from the depths of Sheol or the heights above* † **7:14 7:14** Or *will be with child* ‡ **7:14 7:14** *Immanuel* means *God is with us*; literally *and she will call his name Immanuel*; DSS *and his name will be called Immanuel* or *and he will call his name Immanuel*; LXX *and you will call his name Immanuel* § **7:20 7:20** Hebrew *the River*

23 And on that day, in every place that had a thousand vines worth a
thousand shekels of silver,* only briers and thorns will be found.
24 Men will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered
with briers and thorns.
25 For fear of the briers and thorns, you will no longer traverse the hills
once tilled by the hoe; they will become places for oxen to graze and sheep
to trample.

8

1 Then the LORD said to me, “Take a large scroll and write on it with an
ordinary* stylus: Maher-shalal-hash-baz.†
2 And I will appoint for myself trustworthy witnesses—Uriah the priest
and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah.”
3 And I had relations with the prophetess, and she conceived and gave
birth to a son. The LORD said to me, “Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz.
4 For before the boy knows how to cry ‘Father’ or ‘Mother,’ the wealth of
Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of
Assyria.”
5 And the LORD spoke to me further:

6 “Because this people has rejected
the gently flowing waters of Shiloah
and rejoiced in Rezin
and the son of Remaliah,
7 the Lord will surely bring against them
the mighty floodwaters of the Euphrates‡—
the king of Assyria and all his pomp.

It will overflow its channels
and overrun its banks.
8 It will pour into Judah,
swirling and sweeping over it,
reaching up to the neck;
its spreading streams will cover
your entire land, O Immanuel!§

9 Huddle together,* O peoples, and be shattered;
pay attention, all you distant lands;
prepare for battle, and be shattered;
prepare for battle, and be shattered!
10 Devise a plan, but it will be thwarted;
state a proposal, but it will not happen.
For God is with us.†”
11 For this is what the LORD has spoken to me with a strong hand,
instructing me not to walk in the way of this people:

12 “Do not call conspiracy

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* **7:23 7:23** Hebrew *a thousand of silver*; that is, approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver * **8:1 8:1** Hebrew *with a man's* † **8:1 8:1** *Maher-shalal-hash-baz* means *The spoil speeds, the prey hastens* or *Swift to plunder, quick to carry away*; also in verse 3. ‡ **8:7 8:7** Hebrew *the River* § **8:8 8:8** *Immanuel* means *God is with us.* * **8:9 8:9** Or *Raise the war cry* or *Be evil* or *Be broken* † **8:10 8:10** Hebrew *Immanuel*

everything these people regard as conspiracy.
Do not fear what they fear;‡
do not live in dread.§
13 The LORD of Hosts is the One
you shall regard as holy.
Only he should be feared;
only he should be dreaded.
14 And he will be a sanctuary—
but to both houses of Israel
a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense,
to the dwellers of Jerusalem
a trap and a snare.
15 Many will stumble over these;
they will fall and be broken;
they will be ensnared and captured."

16 Bind up the testimony
and seal the law among my disciples.
17 I will wait for the LORD,
who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob.
I will put my trust in him.*
18 Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me as signs and symbols in Israel from the LORD of Hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.
19 When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists who whisper and mutter, shouldn't a people consult their God instead? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?
20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.
21 They will roam the land, dejected and hungry. When they are famished, they will become enraged; and looking upward, they will curse their king and their God.
22 Then they will look to the earth and see only distress and darkness and the gloom of anguish. And they will be driven into utter darkness.
23 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations:

9

1 The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death,
a light has dawned.
2 You have enlarged the nation
and increased its joy.*
The people rejoice before you
as they rejoice at harvest time,
as men rejoice in dividing the plunder.

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‡ **8:12 8:12** Or *Do not fear their threats* § **8:12 8:12** LXX *do not be shaken* * **8:17 8:17** Or *I will eagerly look for him* * **9:2 9:2** Qere; Ketiv *not increased the joy*

3 For as in the day of Midian
you have shattered the yoke of their burden,
the bar across their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor.
4 For every trampling boot of battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

5 For to us a child has been born,
to us a son has been given,
and the government is upon his shoulders.
And he has been named
Pele-yoetz-el-gibbor-avi-ad-sar-shalom.†
6 Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on the throne of David
and over his kingdom,
to establish and sustain it
with justice and righteousness
from that time and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.
7 The Lord has sent a message against Jacob,
and it has fallen upon Israel.
8 All the people will know it—
Ephraim‡ and the dwellers of Samaria.
With pride and arrogance of heart
they will say:
9 “The bricks have fallen,
but we will rebuild with finished stone;
the sycamores have been felled,
but we will replace them with cedars.”

10 The LORD has raised up the foes of Rezin against him
and joined his enemies together.
11 Aram§ from the east and Philistia from the west
have devoured Israel with open mouths.

Despite all this, his anger is not turned away;
his hand is still upraised.
12 But the people did not return to him who struck them;
they did not seek the LORD of Hosts.
13 So the LORD will cut off Israel’s head and tail,
both palm branch and reed in a single day.
14 The head is the elder and honorable man,
and the tail is the prophet who teaches lies.
15 For those who guide this people mislead them,
and those they mislead are swallowed up.

† **9:5 9:5** The name may be read as a sentence about God, *A wonderful counselor is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father; a prince of peace* (compare 28:29); traditional Christian rendering, as titles of the child, *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace* ‡ **9:8 9:8** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel § **9:11 9:11** That is, Syria

16 Therefore the Lord takes no pleasure in their young men;
he has no compassion on their fatherless and widows.
For every one of them is godless and wicked,
and every mouth speaks folly.

Despite all this, his anger is not turned away;
his hand is still upraised.
17 For wickedness burns like a fire
that consumes the thorns and briers
and kindles the forest thickets,
which roll upward in billows of smoke.
18 By the wrath of the LORD of Hosts
the land is scorched,
and the people are fuel for the fire.
No man even spares his brother.

19 They carve out what is on the right,
but they are still hungry;
they eat what is on the left,
but they are still not satisfied.
Each one devours the flesh of his own offspring.*
20 Manasseh devours Ephraim,
and Ephraim Manasseh;
together they turn against Judah.

Despite all this, his anger is not turned away;
his hand is still upraised.

10

1 Woe to those who enact unjust statutes
and issue oppressive decrees,
2 to deprive the poor of fair treatment
and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people,
to make widows their prey
and orphans their plunder.

3 What will you do on the day of reckoning
when devastation comes from afar?
To whom will you flee for help?
Where will you leave your wealth?
4 Nothing will remain but to crouch among the captives
or fall among the slain.

Despite all this, his anger is not turned away;
his hand is still upraised.
5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger;
the staff in their hands is my wrath.
6 I will send him against a godless nation;
I will dispatch him against a people destined for my rage,
to take spoils and seize plunder,
and to trample them down like clay in the streets.

* **9:19 9:19** Literally *of his own arm*

7 But this is not his intention;
this is not his plan.
For it is in his heart to destroy
and cut off many nations.
8 “Are not all my commanders kings?” he says.
9 “Is not Calno like Carchemish?
Is not Hamath like Arpad?
Is not Samaria like Damascus?
10 As my hand seized the idolatrous kingdoms
whose images surpassed those of Jerusalem and Samaria,
11 and as I have done to Samaria and its idols,
will I not also do to Jerusalem and her idols?”
12 So when the Lord has completed all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, “I will punish the king of Assyria for the fruit of his arrogant heart and the proud look in his eyes.
13 For he says:

‘By the strength of my hand I have done this,
and by my wisdom, for I am clever.
I have removed the boundaries of nations
and plundered their treasures;
like a mighty one I subdued their rulers.
14 My hand reached as into a nest
to seize the wealth of the nations.
Like one gathering abandoned eggs,
I gathered all the earth.
No wing fluttered,
no beak opened or chirped.’ ”

15 Does an axe raise itself above the one who swings it?
Does a saw boast over him who saws with it?
It would be like a rod waving the one who lifts it,
or a staff lifting him who is not wood!

16 Therefore the Lord GOD of Hosts will send a wasting disease
among Assyria's stout warriors,
and under his pomp will be kindled
a fire like a burning flame.
17 And the Light of Israel will become a fire,
and its Holy One a flame.
In a single day it will burn and devour
Assyria’s thorns and thistles.
18 The splendor of its forests and orchards,
both soul and body,
it will completely destroy,
as a sickness consumes a man.
19 The remaining trees of its forests will be so few
that a child could count them.
20 On that day the remnant of Israel
and the survivors of the house of Jacob
will no longer depend
on him who struck them,
but they will truly rely on the LORD,

the Holy One of Israel.

21 A remnant will return*—a remnant of Jacob—
to the Mighty God.
22 Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand of the sea,
only a remnant will return.†
Destruction has been decreed,
overflowing with righteousness.
23 For the Lord GOD of Hosts will carry out
the destruction decreed upon the whole land.‡
24 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD of Hosts says:

"O my people who dwell in Zion,
do not fear Assyria,
who strikes you with a rod
and lifts his staff against you
as the Egyptians did.
25 For in just a little while
my fury against you will subside,
and my anger will turn to their destruction."

26 And the LORD of Hosts will brandish a whip against them,
as when he struck Midian at the rock of Oreb.
He will raise his staff over the sea,
as he did in Egypt.
27 On that day the burden will be lifted from your shoulders,
and the yoke from your neck.
The yoke will be broken
because of fatness.§

28 Assyria has entered Aiath
and passed through Migron,
storing their supplies at Michmash.
29 They have crossed at the ford:
"We will spend the night at Geba."
Ramah trembles;
Gibeah of Saul flees.
30 Cry aloud, O Daughter of Gallim!
Listen, O Laishah!
O wretched Anathoth!
31 Madmenah flees;
the people of Gebim take refuge.
32 Yet today they will halt at Nob,
shaking a fist at the mount of Daughter Zion,
at the hill of Jerusalem.

33 Behold, the Lord GOD of Hosts
will lop off the branches with terrifying power.

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* **10:21 10:21** Hebrew *Shear-jashub*; also in verse 22; see Isaiah 7:3. † **10:22 10:22** LXX *Though the people of Israel be like the sand of the sea, only a remnant will be saved.* ‡ **10:23 10:23** LXX *he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because the Lord will make a short work in all the world.* § **10:27 10:27** Or *because your neck will be too large*; LXX *broken from your shoulders*

The tall trees will be cut down,
the lofty ones will be felled.
34 He will clear the forest thickets with an axe,
and Lebanon will fall before the Mighty One.

11

1 Then a shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
2 The spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and strength,
the spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.
3 And he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what his eyes see,
and he will not decide by what his ears hear,
4 but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and with equity he will decide for the lowly of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth
and slay the wicked with the breath of his lips.
5 Righteousness will be the belt around his hips,
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the goat;
the calf and young lion and fatling will be together,*
and a little child will lead them.
7 The cow will graze with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
8 The infant will play by the cobra's den,
and the toddler will reach into the viper's nest.
9 They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the sea is full of water.
10 On that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples.
The nations will seek him,† and his place of rest will be glorious.
11 On that day the Lord will extend his hand a second time to recover
the remnant of his people from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from
Cush,‡ from Elam, from Shinar,§ from Hamath, and from the coastlands*
of the sea.

12 He will raise a banner for the nations
and gather the exiles of Israel;
he will collect the scattered of Judah
from the four corners of the earth.
13 Then the jealousy of Ephraim† will depart,
and the hostility‡ of Judah will be cut off.

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* **11:6 11:6** LXX *the young calf and bull and lion will feed together* † **11:10 11:10** LXX *On that day the root of Jesse will appear, one who will arise to rule over the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles will put their hope* ‡ **11:11 11:11** That is, the upper Nile region § **11:11 11:11** That is, Babylonia * **11:11 11:11** Or *islands* † **11:13 11:13** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel ‡ **11:13 11:13** Or *adversaries*

Ephraim will no longer envy Judah,
nor will Judah harass Ephraim.

14 They will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines to the west;
together they will plunder the sons of the east.
They will lay their hands on Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites will be subject to them.
15 The LORD will devote to destruction§
the gulf* of the Sea of Egypt;
with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand
over the Euphrates.†
He will split it into seven streams
for men to cross with dry sandals.
16 There will be a highway for the remnant of his people
who remain from Assyria,
as there was for Israel
when they came up from the land of Egypt.

12

1 In that day you will say:

"O LORD, I will praise you.
Although you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away,
and you have comforted me.
2 Surely God is my deliverance;
I will trust and not be afraid.
For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he also has become my deliverance."
3 With joy you will draw water from the springs of deliverance,
4 and on that day you will say:

"Give praise to the LORD;
proclaim his name!
Make his works known among the peoples;
declare that his name is exalted.
5 Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things.
Let this be known in all the earth.
6 Cry out and sing, O citizen of Zion,
for great among you is the Holy One of Israel."

13

1 This is the burden against Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz received:

2 Raise a banner on a barren hilltop;
call aloud to them.
Wave your hand,
that they may enter the gates of the nobles.
3 I have commanded my sanctified ones;
I have even summoned my warriors

§ **11:15 11:15** MT *heḥerim*; by emendation to *heḥeriv* (compare Targum and LXX) *will dry up* * **11:15 11:15** Hebrew *the tongue* † **11:15 11:15** Hebrew *the River*

to execute my wrath
and exult in my triumph.
4 Listen, a tumult on the mountains,
like that of a great multitude!
Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms,
like nations gathered together!
The LORD of Hosts is mobilizing
an army for war.
5 They are coming from faraway lands,
from the ends of the heavens—
the LORD and the weapons of his wrath—
to destroy the whole country.

6 Wail, for the Day of the LORD is near;
it will come as destruction from the Almighty.*
7 Therefore all hands will fall limp,
and every man's heart will melt.
8 Terror, pain, and anguish will seize them;
they will writhe like a woman in labor.
They will look at one another,
their faces flushed with fear.

9 Behold, the Day of the LORD is coming—
cruel, with fury and burning anger—
to make the earth a desolation
and to destroy the sinners within it.
10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations
will not give their light.
The rising sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light.
11 I will punish the world for its evil
and the wicked for their iniquity.
I will end the haughtiness of the arrogant
and lay low the pride of the ruthless.
12 I will make man scarcer than pure gold,
and mankind rarer than the gold of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,
and the earth will be shaken from its place
at the wrath of the LORD of Hosts
on the day of his burning anger.
14 Like a hunted gazelle,
like a sheep without a shepherd,
each will return to his own people,
each will flee to his native land.
15 Whoever is caught will be stabbed,
and whoever is captured will die by the sword.

16 Their infants will be dashed to pieces
before their eyes,
their houses will be looted,

* **13:6 13:6** Hebrew *Shaddai*

and their wives will be ravished.
17 Behold, I will stir up against them the Medes,
who have no regard for silver
and no desire for gold.
18 Their bows will dash young men to pieces;
they will have no mercy on the fruit of the womb;
they will not look with pity on the children.
19 And Babylon, the jewel of the kingdoms,
the glory of the pride of the Chaldeans,
will be overthrown by God
like Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 She will never be inhabited
or settled from generation to generation;
no nomad will pitch his tent there,
no shepherd will rest his flock there.
21 But desert creatures will lie down there,
and howling creatures will fill her houses.
Ostriches† will dwell there,
and wild goats will leap about.
22 Hyenas will howl in her fortresses
and jackals‡ in her luxurious palaces.
Babylon's time is at hand,
and her days will not be prolonged.

14

1 For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and settle them in their own land. The foreigner will join them and unite with the house of Jacob.
2 The nations will escort Israel and bring it to its homeland.
Then the house of Israel will possess the nations as male and female slaves in the LORD's land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors.
3 On the day that the LORD gives you rest from your pain and torment, and from the hard labor into which you were forced,
4 you will sing this song of contempt against the king of Babylon:

How the oppressor has ceased,
and how the golden city* has ended!
5 The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked,
the scepter of the rulers.
6 It struck the peoples in anger
with unceasing blows;
it subdued the nations in rage
with relentless persecution.
7 All the earth is at peace and at rest;
they break out in song.
8 Even the cypresses† and cedars of Lebanon
exult over you:

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† **13:21 13:21** Literally *Daughters of an ostrich* or *Daughters of an owl* ‡ **13:22 13:22** Or *serpents* or *dragons* * **14:4 14:4** DSS, LXX, and Syriac *his fury* † **14:8 14:8** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

“Since you have been laid low,
no woodcutter comes against us.”

9 Sheol beneath is eager
to meet you upon your arrival.
It stirs the spirits of the dead to greet you—
all the rulers of the earth.
It makes all the kings of the nations
rise from their thrones.
10 They will all respond to you, saying,
“You too have become weak, as we are;
you have become like us!”
11 Your pomp has been brought down to Sheol,
along with the music of your harps.
Maggots are your bed
and worms your blanket.

12 How you have fallen from heaven,
O shining one,‡ son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the ground,
O destroyer of nations.
13 You said in your heart:
“I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God.
I will sit on the mount of assembly,
on the heights of Zaphon.§
14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”

15 But you will be brought down to Sheol,
to the lowest depths of the Pit.
16 Those who see you will stare;
they will ponder your fate:
“Is this the man who shook the earth
and made the kingdoms tremble,
17 who turned the world into a desert
and destroyed its cities,
who refused to let the captives
return to their homes?”

18 All the kings of the nations lie in state,
each in his own tomb.*
19 But you are cast out of your grave like a rejected branch,
covered by those slain with the sword,
and dumped into a rocky pit
like a carcass trampled underfoot.
20 You will not join them in burial,
since you have destroyed your land
and slaughtered your own people.

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‡ **14:12 14:12** Or *morning star* or *day star* § **14:13 14:13** Or *in the far reaches of the north* or *in the remote parts of Zaphon* * **14:18 14:18** Hebrew *house*

The offspring of the wicked
will never again be mentioned.

21 Prepare a place to slaughter his sons
for the iniquities of their forefathers.
They will never rise up to possess a land
or cover the earth with their cities.
22 “I will rise up against them,”
declares the LORD of Hosts.
“I will cut off from Babylon
her name and her remnant,
her offspring and her posterity,”
declares the LORD.
23 “I will make her a place
for owls and for swamplands;
I will sweep her away
with the broom of destruction,”
declares the LORD of Hosts.
24 The LORD of Hosts has sworn:

“Surely, as I have planned, so will it be;
as I have purposed, so will it stand.
25 I will break Assyria in my land;
I will trample him on my mountain.
His yoke will be taken off my people,
and his burden removed from their shoulders.”

26 This is the plan devised for the whole earth,
and this is the hand stretched out over all the nations.
27 The LORD of Hosts has purposed,
and who can thwart him?
His hand is outstretched,
so who can turn it back?
28 In the year that King Ahaz died, this burden was received:

29 Do not rejoice, all you Philistines,
that the rod that struck you is broken.
For a viper will spring from the root of the snake,
and a flying serpent from its egg.
30 Then the firstborn of the poor will find pasture,
and the needy will lie down in safety,
but I will kill your root by famine,
and your remnant will be slain.

31 Wail, O gate! Cry out, O city!
Melt away, all you Philistines!
For a cloud of smoke comes from the north,
and there are no stragglers in its ranks.
32 What answer will be given
to the envoys of that nation?
“The LORD has founded Zion,
where his afflicted people will find refuge.”

15

1 This is the burden against Moab:

Ar in Moab is ruined,
destroyed in a night!
Kir in Moab is devastated,
destroyed in a night!
2 Dibon goes up to its temple
to weep at its high places.
Moab wails over Nebo,
as well as over Medeba.

Every head is shaved,
every beard is cut off.
3 In its streets they wear sackcloth;
on the rooftops and in the public squares
they all wail, falling down weeping.
4 Heshbon and Elealeh cry out;
their voices are heard as far as Jahaz.
Therefore the soldiers of Moab cry out;
their souls tremble within.

5 My heart cries out over Moab;
her fugitives flee as far as Zoar,
as far as Eglath-shelishiyah.*
With weeping they ascend the slope of Luhith;
they lament their destruction on the road to Horonaim.
6 The waters of Nimrim are dried up,
and the grass is withered;
the vegetation is gone,
and the greenery is no more.
7 So they carry their wealth and belongings
over the Brook of the Willows.†

8 For their outcry echoes to the border of Moab.
Their wailing reaches Eglaim;
it is heard in Beer-elim.
9 The waters of Dimon‡ are full of blood,
but I will bring more upon Dimon—
a lion upon the fugitives of Moab
and upon the remnant of the land.

16

1 Send the tribute lambs
to the ruler of the land,
from Sela in the desert
to the mount of Daughter Zion.
2 Like fluttering birds
pushed out of the nest,
so are the daughters of Moab

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* **15:5 15:5** Or *Zoar, like a heifer three years of age.* † **15:7 15:7** Or *Poplars* ‡ **15:9 15:9** DSS and Vulgate *Dibon* (twice in this verse); *Dimon*, a wordplay on *Dibon* (see verse 2), sounds like the Hebrew for *blood*.

at the fords of the Arnon:
3 “Give us counsel;
render a decision.
Shelter us at noonday
with shade as dark as night.
Hide the refugees;
do not betray the one who flees.
4 Let my fugitives stay with you;
be a refuge for Moab from the destroyer.”

When the oppressor has gone, destruction has ceased,
and the oppressors have vanished from the land,
5 in loving devotion* a throne will be established
in the tent of David.
A judge seeking justice and hastening righteousness
will sit on it in faithfulness.

6 We have heard of Moab’s pomposity,
his exceeding pride and conceit,
his overflowing arrogance.
But his boasting is empty.
7 Therefore let Moab wail;
let them wail together for Moab.
Moan for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth,
you who are utterly stricken.
8 For the fields of Heshbon have withered,
along with the grapevines of Sibmah.
The rulers of the nations
have trampled its choicest vines,
which had reached as far as Jazer
and spread toward the desert.
Their shoots had spread out
and passed over the sea.†

9 So I weep with Jazer
for the vines of Sibmah;
I drench Heshbon and Elealeh
with my tears.
Triumphant shouts have fallen silent
over your summer fruit and your harvest.
10 Joy and gladness are removed from the orchard;
no one sings or shouts in the vineyards.
No one tramples the grapes in the winepresses;
I have put an end to the cheering.
11 Therefore my heart laments for Moab like a harp,
my inmost being for Kir-heres.‡
12 When Moab appears on the high place,
when he wearies himself
and enters his sanctuary to pray,

* **16:5 16:5** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. † **16:8 16:8** Or *and had gone as far as the sea*; that is, probably the Dead Sea ‡ **16:11 16:11** *Kir-heres* is a variant of *Kir-hareseth*; see verse 7.

it will do him no good.
13 This is the message that the LORD spoke earlier concerning Moab.
14 And now the LORD says, “In three years, as a hired worker counts the
years, Moab’s splendor will become an object of contempt, with all her
many people. And those who are left will be few and feeble.”

17

1 This is the burden against Damascus:

“Behold, Damascus is no longer a city;
it has become a heap of ruins.
2 The cities of Aroer are forsaken;
they will be left to the flocks,
which will lie down with no one to fear.
3 The fortress will disappear from Ephraim,*
and the sovereignty from Damascus.
The remnant of Aram will be
like the splendor of the Israelites,”
declares the LORD of Hosts.
4 “In that day the splendor of Jacob will fade,
and the fat of his body will waste away,
5 as the reaper gathers the standing grain
and harvests the ears with his arm,
as one gleans heads of grain
in the Valley of Rephaim.
6 Yet gleanings will remain,
like an olive tree that has been beaten—
two or three berries atop the tree,
four or five on its fruitful branches,”
declares the LORD, the God of Israel.
7 In that day men will look to their Maker
and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.
8 They will not look to the altars
they have fashioned with their hands
or to the Asherahs and incense altars
they have made with their fingers.

9 In that day their strong cities
will be like forsaken thickets and summits,
abandoned to the Israelites
and to utter desolation.

10 For you have forgotten the God of your deliverance
and failed to remember the Rock of your refuge.
Therefore, though you cultivate delightful plots
and set out cuttings from exotic vines—
11 though on the day you plant
you make them grow,
and on that morning
you help your seed sprout—
yet the harvest will vanish

* **17:3 17:3** Or *The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim,* that is, from the northern kingdom of Israel

on the day of disease and incurable pain.

12 Alas, the tumult of many peoples;
they rage like the roaring seas and clamoring nations;
they rumble like the crashing of mighty waters.
13 The nations rage like the rush of many waters.
He rebukes them, and they flee far away,
driven before the wind like chaff on the hills,
like tumbleweeds before a gale.
14 In the evening, there is sudden terror!
Before morning, they are no more!
This is the portion of those who loot us
and the lot of those who plunder us.

18

1 Woe to the land of whirring wings,*
along the rivers of Cush,†
2 which sends couriers by sea,
in papyrus vessels on the waters.

Go, swift messengers,
to a people tall and smooth-skinned,
to a people widely feared,
to a powerful nation of strange speech,
whose land is divided by rivers.
3 All you people of the world
and dwellers of the earth,
when a banner is raised on the mountains,
you will see it;
when a ram's horn sounds,
you will hear it.

4 For this is what the LORD has told me:

"I will quietly look on from my dwelling place,
like shimmering heat in the sunshine,
like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."

5 For before the harvest, when the blossom is gone
and the flower becomes a ripening grape,
he will cut off the shoots with a pruning knife
and remove and discard the branches.
6 They will all be left to the mountain birds of prey,
and to the beasts of the land.
The birds will feed on them in summer,
and all the wild animals in winter.
7 At that time gifts will be brought to the LORD of Hosts—
from a people tall and smooth-skinned,
from a people widely feared,
from a powerful nation of strange speech,
whose land is divided by rivers—

* **18:1 18:1** Or *of many locusts* † **18:1 18:1** That is, the upper Nile region

to Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the LORD of Hosts.

19

1 This is the burden against Egypt:

Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud;
he is coming to Egypt.
The idols of Egypt will tremble before him,
and the hearts of the Egyptians will melt within them.

2 “So I will incite Egyptian against Egyptian;
brother will fight against brother, neighbor against neighbor,
city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.
3 Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be emptied out from among them,
and I will frustrate their plans,
so that they will resort to idols and spirits of the dead,
to mediums and spiritists.
4 I will deliver the Egyptians into the hands of a harsh master,
and a fierce king will rule over them,”
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts.
5 The waters of the Nile will dry up,
and the riverbed will be parched and empty.
6 The canals will stink;
the streams of Egypt will trickle and dry up;
the reeds and rushes will wither.
7 The bulrushes by the Nile,
by the mouth of the river,
and all the fields sown along the Nile,
will wither, blow away, and be no more.

8 Then the fishermen will mourn,
all who cast a hook into the Nile will lament,
and those who spread nets on the waters will pine away.
9 The workers in flax will be dismayed,
and the weavers of fine linen will turn pale.
10 Its pillars* will be dejected,
and all the hired workers will be sick at heart.

11 The princes of Zoan are mere fools;
Pharaoh’s wise counselors give senseless advice.
How can you say to Pharaoh,
“I am one of the wise,
a son of eastern kings”?
12 Where are your wise men now?
Let them tell you and reveal
what the LORD of Hosts has planned against Egypt.

13 The princes of Zoan have become fools;
the princes of Memphis† are deceived.
The cornerstones of her tribes
have led Egypt astray.

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* **19:10 19:10** Or *The workers in cloth* † **19:13 19:13** Hebrew *Noph*

14 The LORD has poured into her
a spirit of confusion.
Egypt has been led astray in all she does,
as a drunkard staggers through his own vomit.
15 There is nothing Egypt can do—
head or tail, palm or reed.
16 In that day the Egyptians will be like women. They will tremble with fear beneath the uplifted hand of the LORD of Hosts, when he brandishes it against them.
17 The land of Judah will bring terror to Egypt; whenever Judah is mentioned, Egypt will tremble over what the LORD of Hosts has planned against it.
18 In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD of Hosts. One of them will be called the City of Destruction.‡
19 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the center of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD near her border.
20 It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of Hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender to rescue them.
21 The LORD will make himself known to Egypt, and on that day Egypt will acknowledge the LORD. They will worship with sacrifices and offerings; they will make vows to the LORD and fulfill them.
22 And the LORD will strike Egypt with a plague; he will strike them but heal them. They will turn to the LORD, and he will hear their prayers and heal them.
23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt, and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together.
24 In that day Israel will join a three-party alliance with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing upon the earth.
25 The LORD of Hosts will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance."

20

1 In the year that the chief commander, sent by Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and attacked and captured it,
2 the LORD had already* spoken through Isaiah son of Amoz, saying, "Go, remove the sackcloth from your waist and the sandals from your feet."
And Isaiah did so, walking around naked and barefoot.
3 Then the LORD said, "Just as my servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and omen against Egypt and Cush,†
4 so the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, young and old alike, naked and barefoot, with bared buttocks—to Egypt's shame.
5 Those who made Cush their hope and Egypt their boast will be dismayed and ashamed.

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‡ **19:18 19:18** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some MT manuscripts, DSS, and Vulgate *City of the Sun* * **20:2 20:2** Literally *At that time* † **20:3 20:3** That is, the upper Nile region; similarly in verses 4 and 5

6 And on that day the dwellers of this coastland will say, ‘See what has
happened to our source of hope, those to whom we fled for help and
deliverance from the king of Assyria! How then can we escape?’ ”

21

1 This is the burden against the Desert by the Sea:

Like whirlwinds sweeping through the Negev,
an invader comes from the desert,
from a land of terror.
2 A dire vision is declared to me:
“The traitor still betrays,
and the destroyer still destroys.
Go up, O Elam! Lay siege, O Media!
I will put an end to all her groaning.”

3 Therefore my body is filled with anguish.
Pain grips me, like the pains of a woman in labor.
I am bewildered to hear,
I am dismayed to see.
4 My heart falters;
fear makes me tremble.
The twilight I desired
has turned to horror.
5 They prepare a table, they lay out a carpet,
they eat, they drink!

Rise up, O princes, oil the shields!
6 For this is what the Lord says to me:

“Go, post a lookout
and have him report what he sees.
7 When he sees chariots with teams of horsemen,
riders on donkeys, riders on camels,
he must be alert, fully alert.”

8 Then like a lion* he shouted:

“Day after day, my lord,
I stand on the watchtower;
night after night
I stay at my post.
9 Look, here come the riders,
horsemen in pairs.”

And one answered, saying:

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon!
All the images of her gods
lie shattered on the ground!”

10 O my people, crushed on the threshing floor,

* **21:8 21:8** DSS and Syriac *the lookout*

I tell you what I have heard
from the LORD of Hosts,
the God of Israel.
11 This is the burden against Dumah:†

One calls to me from Seir,‡
"Watchman, what is left of the night?
Watchman, what is left of the night?"

12 The watchman replies,
"Morning has come, but also the night.
If you would inquire, then inquire.
Come back yet again."
13 This is the burden against Arabia:

In the thickets of Arabia you must lodge,
O caravans of Dedanites.
14 Bring water for the thirsty,
O dwellers of Tema;
meet the refugees with food.
15 For they flee from the sword—
the sword that is drawn—
from the bow that is bent,
and from the stress of battle.
16 For this is what the Lord says to me: "Within one year, as a hired
worker would count it, all the glory of Kedar will be gone.
17 The remaining archers, the warriors of Kedar, will be few."
For the LORD, the God of Israel, has spoken.

22

1 This is the burden against the Valley of Vision:

What ails you now,
that you have all gone up to the rooftops,
2 O city of commotion,
O town of revelry?

Your slain did not die by the sword,
nor were they killed in battle.
3 All your rulers have fled together,
captured without a bow.
All your fugitives were captured together,
having fled to a distant place.
4 Therefore I said,
"Turn away from me, let me weep bitterly!
Do not try to console me
over the destruction of the daughter of my people."

5 For the Lord GOD of Hosts has set a day
of tumult and trampling and confusion in the Valley of Vision—
of breaking down the walls

† **21:11 21:11** *Dumah* is a wordplay on *Edom*, meaning *silence*. ‡ **21:11 21:11** *Seir* is another name for Edom.

and crying to the mountains.
6 Elam takes up a quiver, with chariots and horsemen,
and Kir uncovers the shield.
7 Your choicest valleys are full of chariots,
and horsemen are posted at the gates.
8 He has uncovered
the defenses of Judah.
On that day you looked to the weapons in the House of the Forest.
9 You saw that there were many breaches in the walls of the City of David. You collected water from the lower pool.
10 You counted the houses of Jerusalem and tore them down to strengthen the wall.
11 You built a reservoir between the walls for the waters of the ancient pool, but you did not look to the One who made it, or consider him who planned it long ago.

12 On that day the Lord GOD of Hosts
called for weeping and wailing,
for shaven heads
and the wearing of sackcloth.
13 But look, there is joy and gladness,
butchering of cattle and slaughtering of sheep,
eating of meat and drinking of wine:
"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"
14 The LORD of Hosts has revealed in my hearing:

"Until your dying day,
this sin of yours will never be atoned for,"
says the Lord GOD of Hosts.
15 This is what the Lord GOD of Hosts says: "Go, say to Shebna, the steward in charge of the palace:
16 What are you doing here, and who authorized you to carve out a tomb for yourself here—to chisel your tomb in the height and cut your resting place in the rock?
17 Look, O mighty man! The LORD is about to shake you violently. He will take hold of you,
18 roll you into a ball, and sling you into a wide land. There you will die, and there your glorious chariots will remain—a disgrace to the house of your master.
19 I will remove you from office, and you will be ousted from your position.
20 On that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
21 I will clothe him with your robe and tie your sash around him. I will put your authority in his hand, and he will be a father to the dwellers of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.
22 I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.
23 I will drive him like a peg into a firm place, and he will be a throne of glory for the house of his father.
24 So they will hang on him all the glory of his father's house: the descendants and the offshoots—all the lesser vessels, from bowls to every kind of jar.

25 In that day, declares the LORD of Hosts, the peg driven into a firm
place will give way; it will be sheared off and fall, and the load upon it will
be cut down."
Indeed, the LORD has spoken.

23

1 This is the burden against Tyre:

Wail, O ships of Tarshish,*
for Tyre is laid waste,
without house or harbor.
Word has reached them
from the land of Cyprus.†
2 Be silent, O dwellers of the coastland,
you merchants of Sidon,
whom the seafarers have enriched.‡
3 On the great waters
came the grain of Shihor;
the harvest of the Nile was the revenue of Tyre;
she was the merchant of the nations.
4 Be ashamed, O Sidon, the stronghold of the sea,
for the sea has spoken:
"I have not been in labor
or given birth.
I have not raised young men
or brought up young women."
5 When the report reaches Egypt,
they will writhe in agony over the news of Tyre.

6 Cross over to Tarshish;
wail, O inhabitants of the coastland!
7 Is this your jubilant city,
whose origin is from antiquity,
whose feet have taken her
to settle far away?
8 Who planned this against Tyre,
the bestower of crowns,
whose traders are princes,
whose merchants are renowned on the earth?
9 The LORD of Hosts planned it,
to defile all its glorious beauty,
to disgrace all the renowned of the earth.

10 Overflow§ your land like the Nile, O Daughter of Tarshish;
there is no longer a harbor.
11 The LORD has stretched out his hand over the sea;
he has made kingdoms tremble.
He has given a command
that the strongholds of Canaan be destroyed.
12 He said, "You shall rejoice no more,

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* **23:1 23:1** Or *Wail, O fleet of trading ships*; also in verse 14 † **23:1 23:1** Hebrew *Kittim*; also in verse 12 ‡ **23:2 23:2** DSS and LXX *whose traders have crossed the sea* § **23:10 23:10** DSS and some LXX manuscripts *Cultivate*

O oppressed Virgin Daughter of Sidon.
Get up and cross over to Cyprus—
even there you will find no rest."

13 Look at the land of the Chaldeans*—
a people now of no account.
The Assyrians destined it for the desert creatures;
they set up their siege towers and stripped its palaces.
They brought it to ruin.

14 Wail, O ships of Tarshish,
for your harbor has been destroyed!
15 At that time Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years—the span of a king's life. But at the end of seventy years, it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the harlot:

16 "Take up your harp,
stroll through the city,
O forgotten harlot.
Make sweet melody,
sing many a song,
so you will be remembered."
17 And at the end of seventy years, the LORD will restore Tyre. Then she will return to hire as a prostitute and sell herself to all the kingdoms on the face of the earth.
18 Yet her profits and wages will be set apart to the LORD; they will not be stored or saved, for her profit will go to those who live before the LORD, for abundant food and fine clothing.

24

1 Behold, the LORD lays waste the earth
and leaves it in ruins.
He will twist its surface
and scatter its inhabitants—
2 people and priest alike, slave and master,
slave woman and mistress, buyer and seller,
lender and borrower, creditor and debtor.
3 The earth will be utterly laid waste
and thoroughly plundered.
For the LORD has spoken this word.
4 The earth mourns and withers;
the world languishes and fades;
the exalted people of the earth waste away.
5 The earth is defiled by its people;
they have transgressed the laws;
they have overstepped the decrees
and broken the everlasting covenant.
6 Therefore a curse has consumed the earth,
and its inhabitants must bear the guilt;
the earth's dwellers have been burned,
and only a few survive.

* **23:13 23:13** That is, the Babylonians

7 The new wine dries up, the vine withers.
All the merrymakers now groan.
8 The joyful tambourines have ceased;
the noise of revelers has stopped;
the joyful harp is silent.
9 They no longer sing and drink wine;
strong drink is bitter to those who consume it.

10 The city of chaos is shattered;
every house is closed to entry.
11 In the streets they cry out for wine.
All joy turns to gloom;
rejoicing is exiled from the land.
12 The city is left in ruins;
its gate is reduced to rubble.
13 So will it be on the earth
and among the nations,
like a harvested olive tree,
like a gleaning after a grape harvest.

14 They raise their voices, they shout for joy;
from the sea* they proclaim the majesty of the LORD.
15 Therefore glorify the LORD in the east.
Extol the name of the LORD, the God of Israel
in the coastlands† of the sea.
16 From the ends of the earth we hear singing:
"Glory to the righteous."

But I said, "I am wasting away! I am wasting away!
Woe is me."
The treacherous betray;
the treacherous deal in treachery.
17 Terror and pit and snare await you,
O dweller of the earth.
18 Whoever flees the sound of panic
will fall into the pit,
and whoever climbs from the pit
will be caught in the snare.

For the windows of heaven are open,
and the foundations of the earth are shaken.
19 The earth is utterly broken apart,
the earth is split open,
the earth is shaken violently.
20 The earth staggers like a drunkard
and sways like a shack.
Earth's rebellion weighs it down,
and it falls, never to rise again.

21 In that day the LORD will punish
the host of heaven above

* **24:14 24:14** Or *from the west* † **24:15 24:15** Or *islands*

and the kings of the earth below.
22 They will be gathered together
like prisoners in a pit.
They will be confined to a dungeon
and punished after many days.
23 The moon will be confounded
and the sun will be ashamed;
for the LORD of Hosts will reign
on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,
and before his elders with great glory.

25

1 O LORD, you are my God!

I will exalt you;
I will praise your name.
For you have worked wonders—
plans formed long ago—
in perfect faithfulness.
2 Indeed, you have made the city a heap of rubble,
the fortified town a ruin.
The fortress of strangers is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore, a strong people will honor you.
The cities of ruthless nations will revere you.

4 For you have been a refuge for the poor,
a stronghold for the needy in distress,
a refuge from the storm,
a shade from the heat.
For the breath of the ruthless
is like rain against a wall,
5 like heat in a dry land.
You subdue the uproar of foreigners.
As the shade of a cloud cools the heat,
so the song of the ruthless is silenced.

6 On this mountain the LORD of Hosts
will prepare a lavish banquet for all the peoples,
a feast of aged wine, of choice meat,
of finely aged wine.
7 On this mountain he will swallow up
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
8 he will swallow up death forever.*
The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face
and remove the disgrace of his people
from the whole earth.
For the LORD has spoken.
9 And in that day it will be said, “Surely this is our God;
we have waited for him, and he has saved us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited.

* **25:8 25:8** Or *he will swallow up death in victory*

Let us rejoice and be glad in his deliverance."

10 For the hand of the LORD
will rest on this mountain.
But Moab will be trampled in his place
as straw is trodden into the dung pile.†
11 He will spread out his hands within it,
as a swimmer spreads his arms to swim.
His pride will be brought low,
along with‡ the skill of his hands.
12 The high-walled fortress will be brought down,
cast to the ground, into the dust.

26

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

We have a strong city;
deliverance is established as its walls and ramparts.
2 Open the gates so a righteous nation may enter—
one that remains faithful.
3 You will keep in perfect peace the steadfast of mind,
because he trusts in you.
4 Trust in the LORD forever,
because GOD the LORD is the Rock eternal.
5 For he has humbled those who dwell on high;
he lays the lofty city low.
He brings it down to the ground;
he casts it into the dust.
6 Feet trample it down—
the feet of the oppressed,
the steps of the poor.

7 The path of the righteous is level;
you clear a straight path for the upright.
8 Yes, we wait for you, O LORD;
we walk in the path of your judgments.
Your name and renown
are the desire of our souls.
9 My soul longs for you in the night;
indeed, my spirit within me seeks you.*
For when your judgments come upon the earth,
the people of the world learn righteousness.
10 Though grace is shown to the wicked man,
he does not learn righteousness.
In the land of righteousness he acts unjustly
and fails to see the majesty of the LORD.

11 O LORD, your hand is upraised,
but they do not see it.
They will see your zeal for your people
and be put to shame.

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† **25:10 25:10** Qere; Ketiv *trodden in the water of the dung pile* ‡ **25:11 25:11** Or *despite* * **26:9 26:9** Or *my spirit seeks you at dawn.*

The fire set for your enemies
will consume them!
12 O LORD, you will establish peace for us.
For all that we have accomplished,
you have done for us.
13 O LORD our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us,
but your name alone do we confess.

14 The dead will not live;
the departed spirits will not rise.
Therefore you have punished and destroyed them;
you have wiped out all memory of them.
15 You have enlarged the nation, O LORD;
you have enlarged the nation.
You have gained glory for yourself;
you have extended all the borders of the land.

16 O LORD, they sought you in their distress;
when you disciplined them, they poured out a quiet prayer.
17 As a woman with child about to give birth
writhes and cries out in pain,
so were we in your presence, O LORD.
18 We were with child; we writhed in pain;
but we gave birth to wind.
We have given no deliverance to the earth,
nor brought any life into the world.

19 Your dead will live; my dead bodies will rise.†
Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust!
For your dew is like the dew of the morning,
and the earth will bring forth her dead.

20 Go, my people, enter your rooms
and shut your doors behind you.
Hide yourselves a little while
until the wrath has passed.
21 For behold, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling
to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.
The earth will reveal her bloodshed
and will no longer conceal her slain.

27

1 In that day the LORD will take his sharp, great, and mighty sword, and bring judgment on Leviathan the fleeing serpent*—Leviathan the coiling serpent—and he will slay the dragon of the sea.
2 In that day:

“Sing about a fruitful vineyard.†
3 I, the LORD, am its keeper;

† **26:19 26:19** Hebrew *my corpse*, used collectively; Syriac and Targum *their bodies* * **27:1 27:1** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*; twice in this verse † **27:2 27:2** Leningrad Codex; Aleppo Codex *a vineyard of wine*

I water it continually.
I guard it night and day
so no one can disturb it;
4 I am not angry.
If only thorns and briers confronted me,
I would march and trample them,
I would burn them to the ground.
5 Or let them lay claim to my protection;
let them make peace with me—
yes, let them make peace with me."

6 In the days to come, Jacob will take root.
Israel will bud and blossom
and fill the whole world with fruit.

7 Has the LORD struck Israel as he struck her oppressors?
Was she killed like those who slayed her?
8 By warfare and exile‡ you contended with her
and removed her with a fierce wind,
as on the day the east wind blows.
9 Therefore Jacob's guilt will be atoned for,
and the full fruit of the removal of his sin will be this:§
When he makes all the altar stones
like crushed bits of chalk,
no Asherah poles or incense altars
will remain standing.

10 For the fortified city lies deserted—
a homestead abandoned, a wilderness forsaken.
There the calves graze, and there they lie down;
they strip its branches bare.
11 When its limbs are dry,
they are broken off.
Women come and use them for kindling;
for this is a people without understanding.
Therefore their Maker has no compassion on them,
and their Creator shows them no favor.
12 In that day the LORD will thresh from the flowing Euphrates* to the Wadi of Egypt, and you, O Israelites, will be gathered one by one.
13 And in that day a great ram's horn will sound, and those who were perishing in Assyria will come forth with those who were exiles in Egypt. And they will worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

28

1 Woe to the majestic crown of Ephraim's* drunkards,
to the fading flower of his glorious splendor,
set on the summit above the fertile valley,
the pride of those overcome by wine.
2 Behold, the Lord has one

‡ **27:8 27:8** Or *By driving her away into exile* or *Measure by measure, by exile* § **27:9 27:9** LXX *Therefore the guilt of Jacob will be taken away, and this is his blessing when I take away his sin* * **27:12 27:12** Hebrew *River* * **28:1 28:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 3

who is strong and mighty.
Like a hailstorm or destructive tempest,
like a driving rain or flooding downpour,
he will smash that crown to the ground.
3 The majestic crown of Ephraim's drunkards
will be trampled underfoot.
4 The fading flower of his beautiful splendor,
set on the summit above the fertile valley,
will be like a ripe fig before the summer harvest:
Whoever sees it will take it in his hand and swallow it.

5 On that day the LORD of Hosts will be a crown of glory,
a diadem of splendor to the remnant of his people,
6 a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment,
and a strength to those who repel the onslaught at the gate.

7 These also stagger from wine
and stumble from strong drink:
Priests and prophets reel from strong drink
and are befuddled by wine.
They stumble because of strong drink,
muddled in their visions and stumbling in their judgments.
8 For all their tables are covered with vomit;
there is not a place without filth.

9 Whom is he trying to teach?
To whom is he explaining his message?
To infants just weaned from milk?
To babies removed from the breast?
10 For it is:†
"Sav lasav sav lasav,
kav lakav kav lakav;‡
a little here, a little there."
11 Indeed, with mocking lips and foreign tongues,
he will speak to this people
12 to whom he has said:
"This is the place of rest, let the weary rest;
this is the place of repose."

But they would not listen.

13 Then the word of the LORD to them will become:
"Sav lasav sav lasav,
kav lakav kav lakav;§
a little here, a little there,"
so that they will go stumbling backward
and will be injured, ensnared, and captured.
14 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, O scoffers
who rule this people in Jerusalem.

† **28:10 28:10** Or *For they hear:* or *For he says*; literally *For* ‡ **28:10 28:10** Hebrew words of uncertain meaning, possibly meaningless sounds mimicking a teacher of small children; or *Order on order, order on order, line on line, line on line*, or *Do this, do that, a rule for this, a rule for that*; see also verse 13 § **28:13 28:13** See verse 10.

15 For you said, “We have made a covenant with death;
we have fashioned an agreement with Sheol.
When the overwhelming scourge passes through
it will not touch us,
because we have made lies our refuge
and falsehood* our hiding place.”
16 So this is what the Lord GOD says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;
the one who believes will never be shaken.†
17 I will make justice the measuring line
and righteousness the level.
Hail will sweep away your refuge of lies,
and water will flood your hiding place.
18 Your covenant with death will be dissolved,
and your agreement with Sheol will not stand.
When the overwhelming scourge passes through,
you will be trampled by it.
19 As often as it passes through,
it will carry you away;
it will sweep through morning after morning,
by day and by night.”

The understanding of this message
will bring sheer terror.
20 Indeed, the bed is too short to stretch out on,
and the blanket too small to wrap around you.
21 For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim.
He will rouse himself as in the Valley of Gibeon,
to do his work, his strange work,
and to perform his task, his disturbing task.

22 So now, do not mock,
or your shackles will become heavier.
Indeed, I have heard from the Lord GOD of Hosts
a decree of destruction against the whole land.
23 Listen and hear my voice.
Pay attention and hear what I say.
24 Does the plowman plow for planting every day?
Does he continuously loosen and harrow the soil?
25 When he has leveled its surface,
does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin?
He plants wheat in rows and barley in plots,
and rye within its border.

26 For his God instructs
and teaches him properly.
27 Surely caraway is not threshed with a sledge,
and the wheel of a cart is not rolled over the cumin.

* **28:15 28:15** Or *false gods* † **28:16 28:16** LXX *will never be put to shame*

But caraway is beaten out with a stick,
and cumin with a rod.
28 Grain for bread must be ground,
but it is not endlessly threshed.
Though the wheels of the cart roll over it,
the horses do not crush it.
29 This also comes from the LORD of Hosts,
who is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom.

29

1 Woe to you, O Ariel,*
the city of Ariel where David camped!
Year upon year
let your festivals recur.
2 And I will constrain Ariel,
and there will be mourning and lamentation;
she will be like Ariel† before me.
3 I will camp in a circle around you;
I will besiege you with towers
and set up siege works against you.
4 You will be brought low,
you will speak from the ground,
and out of the dust
your words will be muffled.
Your voice will be like a spirit from the ground;
your speech will whisper out of the dust.

5 But your many foes will be like fine dust,
the multitude of the ruthless like blowing chaff.
Then suddenly, in an instant,
6 you will be visited by the LORD of Hosts
with thunder and earthquake and loud noise,
with windstorm and tempest and consuming flame of fire.
7 All the many nations
going out to battle against Ariel—
even all who war against her,
laying siege and attacking her—
will be like a dream,
like a vision in the night,
8 as when a hungry man dreams he is eating,
then awakens still hungry;
as when a thirsty man dreams he is drinking,
then awakens faint and parched.
So will it be for all the many nations
who go to battle against Mount Zion.

9 Stop and be astonished;
blind yourselves and be sightless;
be drunk, but not with wine;

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* **29:1 29:1** Or *Altar Hearth* or *Lion of God*; probably a nickname for Jerusalem; twice in this verse, twice in verse 2, and once in verse 7 † **29:2 29:2** Or *like an altar hearth*; see the footnote for verse 1.

stagger, but not from strong drink.
10 For the LORD has poured out on you
a spirit of deep sleep.
He has shut your eyes, O prophets;
he has covered your heads, O seers.
11 And the entire vision will be to you like the words sealed in a scroll. If it is handed to someone who can read, saying, “Read this, please,” he will say, “I cannot, because it is sealed.”
12 Or if the scroll is handed to one unable to read, saying, “Read this, please,” he will say, “I cannot read.”
13 Therefore the Lord said:

“These people draw near to me with their mouths
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
Their worship of me is but rules taught by men.‡
14 Therefore I will again confound these people
with wonder upon wonder.
The wisdom of the wise will vanish,
and the intelligence of the intelligent will be hidden.§”

15 Woe to those who dig deep
to hide their plans from the LORD.
In darkness they do their works and say,
“Who sees us, and who will know?”
16 You have turned things upside down,
as if the potter were regarded as clay.
Shall what is formed say to him who formed it,
“He did not make me”?
Can the pottery say of the potter,
“He has no understanding”?
17 In a very short time,
will not Lebanon become an orchard,
and the orchard seem like a forest?
18 On that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll,
and out of the deep darkness the eyes of the blind will see.
19 The humble will increase their joy in the LORD,
and the poor among men will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

20 For the ruthless will vanish,
the mockers will disappear,
and all who look for evil
will be cut down—
21 those who indict a man with a word,
who ensnare the mediator at the gate,
and who with false charges
deprive the innocent of justice.
22 Therefore the LORD who redeemed Abraham says of the house of Jacob:

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‡ **29:13** **29:13** LXX *They worship me in vain; they teach as doctrine the precepts of men.* § **29:14** **29:14** LXX *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will hide the intelligence of the intelligent.*

“No longer will Jacob be ashamed
and no more will his face grow pale.
23 For when he sees his children around him,
the work of my hands,
they will honor my name,
they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob,
and they will stand in awe
of the God of Israel.
24 Then the wayward in spirit will come to understanding,
and those who grumble will accept instruction.”

30

1 “Woe to the rebellious children,”
declares the LORD,
“to those who carry out a plan that is not mine,
who form an alliance, but against my will,
heaping up sin upon sin.
2 They set out to go down to Egypt
without asking my advice,
to seek shelter under Pharaoh’s protection
and take refuge in Egypt’s shade.

3 But Pharaoh’s protection will become your shame,
and the refuge of Egypt’s shade your disgrace.
4 For though their princes are at Zoan
and their envoys have arrived in Hanes,
5 everyone will be put to shame*
because of a people useless to them.
They bring neither help nor benefit,
but only shame and disgrace.”

6 This is the burden against the beasts of the Negev:

Through a land of hardship and distress,
of lioness and lion,
of viper and flying serpent,
they carry their wealth on the backs of donkeys
and their treasures on the humps of camels,
to a people of no profit to them.
7 Egypt’s help is futile and empty;
therefore I have called her
Rahab Who Sits Still.†

8 Go now, write it on a tablet in their presence
and inscribe it on a scroll;
it will be for the days to come,
forever and ever.‡
9 These are rebellious people, deceitful children,
children unwilling to obey the LORD’s instruction.
10 They say to the seers,

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* **30:5 30:5** Qere; Ketiv *everyone has become odious* † **30:7 30:7** Hebrew *Rahab-hem-shebeth*
‡ **30:8 30:8** Syriac, Targum, and Vulgate *a witness forever*

“Stop seeing visions!”
and to the prophets,
“Do not prophesy to us the truth!
Speak to us pleasant words;
prophesy illusions.
11 Get out of the way; turn off the road.
Rid us of the Holy One of Israel!”
12 Therefore this is what the Holy One of Israel says:

“Because you have rejected this message,
trusting in oppression and relying on deceit,
13 this iniquity of yours is like a breach about to fail,
a bulge in a high wall,
whose collapse will come suddenly—
in an instant!
14 It will break in pieces like a potter’s jar,
shattered so that no fragment can be found.
Not a shard will be found in the dust
large enough to scoop the coals from a hearth
or to skim the water from a cistern.”
15 For the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said:

“By repentance and rest
you would be saved;
your strength would lie in quiet confidence—
but you were not willing.”

16 “No,” you say, “we will flee on horses.”
Therefore you will flee!
“We will ride swift horses,”
but your pursuers will be faster.
17 A thousand will flee at the threat of one;
at the threat of five you will all flee,
until you are left alone like a pole on a mountaintop,
like a banner on a hill.
18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
therefore he rises to show you compassion,
for the LORD is a just God.
Blessed are all who wait for him.

19 O people in Zion who dwell in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. He will surely be gracious when you cry for help; when he hears, he will answer you.
20 The Lord will give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, but your Teacher will no longer hide himself—with your own eyes you will see him.
21 And whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: “This is the way. Walk in it.”
22 So you will desecrate your silver-plated idols and your gold-plated images. You will throw them away like menstrual cloths, saying to them, “Be gone!”

23 Then he will send rain for the seed that you have sown in the ground,
and the food that comes from your land will be rich and plentiful. On that
day your cattle will graze in open pastures.
24 The oxen and donkeys that work the ground will eat salted fodder,
winnowed with shovel and pitchfork.
25 And from every high mountain and every raised hill, streams of water
will flow in the day of great slaughter, when the towers fall.
26 The light of the moon will be as bright as the sun, and the light of the
sun will be seven times brighter—like the light of seven days—on the day
that the LORD binds up the brokenness of his people and heals the
wounds he has inflicted.

27 Behold, the Name of the LORD comes from afar,
with burning anger and dense smoke.
His lips are full of fury,
and his tongue is like a consuming fire.
28 His breath is like a rushing torrent
that rises to the neck.
He comes to sift the nations in a sieve of destruction;
he bridles the jaws of the peoples to lead them astray.

29 You will sing
as on the night of a holy festival,
and your heart will rejoice
like one who walks to the music of a flute,
going up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the Rock of Israel.
30 And the LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard
and his mighty arm to be revealed,
striking in angry wrath with a flame of consuming fire,
and with cloudburst, storm, and hailstones.

31 For Assyria will be shattered at the voice of the LORD;
he will strike them with his scepter.
32 And with every stroke of the appointed rod§
that the LORD brings down on them,
the tambourines and lyres will sound
as he battles with weapons brandished.
33 For Topheth has long been prepared;
it has been made ready for the king.
Its funeral pyre is deep and wide,
with plenty of fire and wood.
The breath of the LORD, like a torrent of burning sulfur,
sets it ablaze.

31

1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help,
who rely on horses,
who trust in their abundance of chariots
and in their multitude of horsemen.
They do not look to the Holy One of Israel;

§ **30:32 30:32** Literally *the rod of foundation*; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *the rod of punishment*; DSS *the rod of his foundation*

they do not seek the LORD.
2 Yet he too is wise and brings disaster;
he does not call back his words.
He will rise up against the house of the wicked
and against the allies of evildoers.
3 But the Egyptians are men, not God;
their horses are flesh, not spirit.
When the LORD stretches out his hand,
the helper will stumble,
and the one he helps will fall;
both will perish together.

4 For this is what the LORD has said to me:

"Like a lion roaring
or a young lion over its prey—
and though a band of shepherds is called out against it,
it is not terrified by their shouting
or subdued by their clamor—
so the LORD of Hosts will come down
to do battle on Mount Zion and its heights.
5 Like birds hovering overhead,
so the LORD of Hosts will protect Jerusalem.
He will shield it and deliver it;
he will pass over it and preserve it."
6 Return to the One against whom you have so blatantly rebelled, O children of Israel.
7 For on that day, every one of you will reject the idols of silver and gold that your own hands have sinfully made.

8 "Then Assyria will fall,
but not by the sword of man;
a sword will devour them,
but not one made by mortals.
They will flee before the sword,
and their young men will be put to forced labor.
9 Their rock will pass away for fear,
and their princes will panic at the sight of the battle standard,"
declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion,
whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

32

1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness,
and princes will rule with justice.
2 Each will be like a shelter from the wind,
a refuge from the storm,
like streams of water in a dry land,
like the shadow of a great rock in an arid land.
3 Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed,
and the ears of those who hear will listen.
4 The mind of the rash will know and understand,
and the stammering tongue will speak clearly and fluently.

5 No longer will a fool be called noble,
nor a scoundrel be respected.
6 For a fool speaks foolishness;
his mind plots iniquity.
He practices ungodliness
and speaks falsely about the LORD;
he leaves the hungry empty
and deprives the thirsty of drink.
7 The weapons of the scoundrel are destructive;
he hatches plots to destroy the poor with lies,
even when the plea of the needy is just.
8 But a noble man makes honorable plans;
he stands up for worthy causes.
9 Stand up, you complacent women;
listen to me.
Give ear to my word,
you overconfident daughters.
10 In a little more than a year you will tremble,
O secure ones.
For the grape harvest will fail
and the fruit harvest will not arrive.

11 Shudder, you ladies of leisure;
tremble, you daughters of complacency.
Strip yourselves bare
and put sackcloth around your waists.
12 Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields,
for the fruitful vines,
13 and for the land of my people,
overgrown with thorns and briers—
even for every house of merriment
in this city of revelry.

14 For the palace will be forsaken,
the busy city abandoned.
The hill* and the watchtower will become caves forever—
the delight of wild donkeys
and a pasture for flocks—
15 until the spirit is poured out
upon us from on high.

Then the desert will be an orchard,
and the orchard will seem like a forest.
16 Then justice will inhabit the wilderness,
and righteousness will dwell in the fertile field.
17 The work of righteousness will be peace;
the service of righteousness will be quiet confidence forever.

18 Then my people will dwell in a peaceful place,
in safe and secure places of rest.
19 But hail will level the forest,

* **32:14 32:14** Hebrew *The Ophel*

and the city will sink to the depths.

20 Blessed are those who sow beside abundant waters,
who let the ox and donkey range freely.

33

1 Woe to you, O destroyer never destroyed,
O traitor never betrayed!
When you have finished destroying,
you will be destroyed.
When you have finished betraying,
you will be betrayed.

2 O LORD, be gracious to us!
We wait for you.
Be their strength* every morning
and our deliverance in time of trouble.
3 The peoples flee the thunder of your voice;
the nations scatter when you rise.
4 Your spoil, O nations,† is gathered as by locusts;
like a swarm of locusts men sweep over it.

5 The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high;
he has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.
6 He will be the sure foundation for your times,
a storehouse of deliverance, wisdom, and knowledge.
The fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

7 Behold, their valiant ones cry aloud in the streets;
the envoys of peace weep bitterly.
8 The highways are deserted;
travel has ceased.
The treaty‡ has been broken,
the cities§ are despised,
and human life is disregarded.
9 The land mourns and languishes;
Lebanon is ashamed and decayed.
Sharon is like a desert;
Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves.

10 "Now I will arise," says the LORD.
"Now I will lift myself up. Now I will be exalted.
11 You conceive chaff; you give birth to stubble.
Your breath is a fire that will consume you.
12 The peoples will be burned to ashes,
like thorns cut down and set ablaze.
13 You who are far off, hear what I have done;
you who are near, acknowledge my might."

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid;

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* **33:2 33:2** Syriac and Vulgate *our strength* † **33:4 33:4** *O nations* is added for clarity. ‡ **33:8 33:8** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*. § **33:8 33:8** DSS *the witnesses*

trembling grips the ungodly:
“Who of us can dwell with a consuming fire?
Who of us can dwell with everlasting flames?”
15 He who walks righteously
and speaks with sincerity,
who refuses gain from extortion,
whose hand never takes a bribe,
who stops his ears against murderous plots
and shuts his eyes tightly against evil—
16 he will dwell on the heights;
the mountain fortress will be his refuge;
his food will be provided
and his water assured.

17 Your eyes will see a king in his beauty
and behold a land that stretches afar.
18 Your mind will ponder the former terror:
“Where is he who tallies? Where is he who weighs?
Where is he who counts the towers?”
19 You will no longer see the insolent,
a people whose speech is unintelligible,
who stammer in a language you cannot understand.

20 Look upon Zion,
the city of our appointed feasts.
Your eyes will see Jerusalem,
a peaceful pasture, a tent that does not wander;
its tent pegs will not be pulled up,
nor will any of its cords be broken.
21 But there the Majestic One, our LORD,
will be for us a place of rivers and wide canals,
where no galley with oars will row,
and no majestic vessel will pass.

22 For the LORD is our Judge,
the LORD is our lawgiver,
the LORD is our King.
It is he who will save us.

23 Your ropes are slack;
they cannot secure the mast or spread the sail.
Then an abundance of spoils will be divided,
and even the lame will carry off plunder.
24 And no resident of Zion will say, “I am sick.”
The people who dwell there
will be forgiven of iniquity.

34

1 Come near, O nations, to listen;
pay attention, O peoples.
Let the earth hear, and all that fills it,
the world and all that springs from it.
2 The LORD is angry with all the nations

and furious with all their armies.
He will devote them to destruction;*
he will give them over to slaughter.
3 Their slain will be left unburied,
and the stench of their corpses will rise;
the mountains will flow with their blood.
4 All the stars of heaven will be dissolved.
The skies will be rolled up like a scroll,
and all their stars will fall
like withered leaves from the vine,
like foliage from the fig tree.
5 When my sword has drunk its fill in the heavens,
then it will come down upon Edom,
upon the people I have devoted to destruction.
6 The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood.
It drips with fat—
with the blood of lambs and goats,
with the fat of the kidneys of rams.
For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah,
a great slaughter in the land of Edom.
7 And the wild oxen will fall with them,
the young bulls with the strong ones.
Their land will be drenched with blood,
and their soil will be soaked with fat.

8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance,
a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.†
9 Edom's streams will be turned to tar,
and her soil to sulfur;
her land will become a blazing pitch.
10 It will not be quenched—day or night.
Its smoke will ascend forever.
From generation to generation it will lie desolate;
no one will ever again pass through it.
11 The desert owl and screech owl will possess it,
and the great owl and raven will dwell in it.‡

The LORD will stretch out over Edom
a measuring line of chaos
and a plumb line of destruction.
12 No nobles will be left to proclaim a king,
and all her princes will come to nothing.
13 Her towers will be overgrown with thorns,
her fortresses with thistles and briers.
She will become a haunt for jackals,§
an abode for ostriches.*
14 The desert creatures will meet with hyenas,
and one wild goat will call to another.
There the night creature† will settle

* **34:2 34:2** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verse 5. † **34:8 34:8** Or *of recompense for (Edom's) hostility against Zion.* ‡ **34:11 34:11** The precise identification of these birds is uncertain. § **34:13 34:13** Or *serpents* or *dragons* * **34:13 34:13** Literally *for daughters of an ostrich* or *for daughters of an owl* † **34:14 34:14** Hebrew *Lilith*

and find her place of repose.
15 There the owl will make her nest;
she will lay and hatch her eggs
and gather her brood under her shadow.
Even there the birds of prey will gather,
each with its mate.
16 Search and read the scroll of the LORD:

Not one of these will go missing,
not one will lack her mate,
because my mouth has ordered it,‡
and he will gather them by his spirit.
17 He has allotted their portion;
his hand has distributed it by measure.
They will possess it forever;
they will dwell in it from generation to generation.

35

1 The wilderness and the dry land will be glad;
the desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose.
2 It will bloom profusely
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

3 Strengthen the limp hands
and steady the feeble knees!
4 Say to those with anxious hearts:
"Be strong, do not fear!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance.
With divine retribution he will come to save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
6 Then the lame will leap like a deer
and the mute tongue will shout for joy.
For waters will gush forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.
7 The parched ground will become a pool,
the thirsty land springs of water.
In the haunt where jackals* once lay,
there will be grass and reeds and papyrus.

8 And there will be a highway and a road;
it will be called the Way of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel it—
only those who walk in the Way—
and fools will not stray onto it.

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‡ **34:16 34:16** Dead Sea Scrolls and some Hebrew manuscripts *his mouth*

* **35:7 35:7** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

9 No lion will be there,
and no vicious beast will go up on it.
Such will not be found there,
but the redeemed will walk upon it.
10 So the redeemed of the LORD will return
and enter Zion with singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee.

36

1 In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked and captured all the fortified cities of Judah.
2 And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh,* with a great army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And he stopped by the aqueduct of the upper pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field.
3 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the scribe, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder, went out to him.
4 The Rabshakeh said to them, "Tell Hezekiah that this is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: What is the basis of this confidence of yours?
5 I say that mere words are strategy and strength for war!† In whom are you now trusting, that you have rebelled against me?
6 Look now, you are trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff that will pierce the hand of anyone who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.
7 But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is he not the One whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You must worship before this altar'?
8 Now, therefore, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria. I will give you two thousand horses—if you can put riders on them!
9 For how can you repel a single officer among the least of my master's servants when you depend on Egypt for chariots and horsemen?
10 So now, was it apart from the LORD that I have come up against this land to destroy it? The LORD himself said to me, 'Go up against this land and destroy it.' "
11 Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Do not speak to us in the dialect of Judah‡ in the hearing of the people on the wall."
12 But the Rabshakeh replied, "Has my master sent me to speak these words only to you and your master, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are destined with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?"
13 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out loudly in the dialect of Judah: "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria!
14 This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he cannot deliver you.

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* **36:2 36:2** Hebrew *Rabshakeh* is the title of a high-ranking Assyrian military officer; here and throughout chapters 36 and 37, as well as 2 Kings 18 and 19 † **36:5 36:5** DSS and 2 Kings 18:20 *you speak*, that is, *you claim to have a strategy and strength for war, but these are empty words* ‡ **36:11 36:11** Or *in Hebrew*; also in verse 13

15 Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD when he says,
'The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand
of the king of Assyria.'
16 Do not listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria says:
Make peace with me§ and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat
from his own vine and his own fig tree, and drink water from his own
cistern,
17 until I come and take you away to a land like your own—a land of
grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.
18 Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, 'The LORD will deliver
us.' Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the
king of Assyria?
19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of
Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria from my hand?
20 Who among all the gods of these lands has delivered his land from my
hand? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"
21 But they remained silent* and did not answer a word, for Hezekiah
had commanded, "Do not answer him."
22 Then Hilkiah's son Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the
scribe, and Asaph's son Joah the recorder came to Hezekiah with their
clothes torn, and they relayed to him the words of the Rabshakeh.

37

1 On hearing this report, King Hezekiah tore his clothes, put on
sackcloth, and entered the house of the LORD.
2 And he sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the scribe, and
the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of
Amoz
3 to tell him, "This is what Hezekiah says: Today is a day of distress,
rebuke, and disgrace; for children have come to the point of birth, but
there is no strength to deliver them.
4 Perhaps the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh,
whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to defy the living God, and
he will rebuke him for the words that the LORD your God has heard.
Therefore lift up a prayer for the remnant that still survives."
5 So the servants of King Hezekiah went to Isaiah,
6 who replied, "Tell your master that this is what the LORD says: 'Do not
be afraid of the words you have heard, with which the servants of the king
of Assyria have blasphemed me.
7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and
return to his own land, where I will cause him to fall by the sword.' "
8 When the Rabshakeh heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish,
he withdrew and found the king fighting against Libnah.
9 Now Sennacherib had been warned about Tirhakah king of Cush:* "He
has set out to fight against you."
On hearing this, Sennacherib sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,
10 "Give this message to Hezekiah king of Judah:
'Do not let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you by saying that
Jerusalem will not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.

§ **36:16 36:16** Or *Make a blessing with me* * **36:21 36:21** Compare 2 Kings 18:36, *the people* * **37:9 37:9** That is, the upper Nile region

11 Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the
other countries, devoting them to destruction.† Will you then be spared?
12 Did the gods of the nations destroyed by my fathers rescue those
nations—the gods of Gozan, Haran, and Rezeph, and of the people of Eden
in Telassar?
13 Where are the kings of Hamath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Hena, and
Ivvah?' "
14 So Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers, read it, and
went up to the house of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD.
15 And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD:
16 "O LORD of Hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you
alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens
and the earth.
17 Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see.
Listen to all the words that Sennacherib has sent to defy the living God.
18 Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all these countries
and their lands.
19 They have cast their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they
were not gods, but only wood and stone—the work of human hands.
20 And now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, so that all the
kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the LORD.‡"
21 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "This is what the
LORD, the God of Israel, says: Because you have prayed to me concerning
Sennacherib king of Assyria,
22 this is the word that the LORD has spoken against him:

'The Virgin Daughter of Zion
despises you and mocks you;
the Daughter of Jerusalem
shakes her head behind you.
23 Whom have you taunted and blasphemed?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes in pride?
Against the Holy One of Israel!

24 Through your servants you have taunted the Lord,
and you have said:
"With my many chariots
I have ascended
to the heights of the mountains,
to the remote peaks of Lebanon.
I have cut down its tallest cedars,
the finest of its cypresses.§
I have reached its farthest heights,
the densest of its forests.
25 I have dug wells
and drunk* waters.
With the soles of my feet
I have dried up all the streams of Egypt."

† **37:11 37:11** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. ‡ **37:20 37:20** DSS (see also 2 Kings 19:19) *you alone, O LORD, are God* § **37:24 37:24** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs* * **37:25 37:25** DSS (see also 2 Kings 19:24) adds *foreign*

26 Have you not heard?
Long ago I ordained it;
in days of old I planned it.
Now I have brought it to pass,
that you should crush fortified cities
into piles of rubble.
27 Therefore their inhabitants, devoid of power,
are dismayed and ashamed.
They are like plants in the field,
tender green shoots,
grass on the rooftops
and terraced fields† before it is grown.

28 But I know your sitting down,
your going out and coming in,
and your raging against me.
29 Because your rage and arrogance against me
have reached my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth;
I will send you back
the way you came.'
30 And this will be a sign to you, O Hezekiah:

This year you will eat
what grows on its own,
and in the second year
what springs from the same.
But in the third year you will sow and reap;
you will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
31 And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah
will again take root below
and bear fruit above.
32 For a remnant will go forth from Jerusalem,
and survivors from Mount Zion.
The zeal of the LORD of Hosts
will accomplish this.
33 So this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria:

'He will not enter this city
or shoot an arrow into it.
He will not come before it with a shield
or build up a siege ramp against it.
34 He will go back the way he came,
and he will not enter this city,'
declares the LORD.
35 'I will defend this city
and save it
for my own sake
and for the sake of my servant David.' "

† **37:27 37:27** Leningrad Codex and most MT manuscripts; DSS, some MT manuscripts, and some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Kings 19:26) *on the rooftops, scorched*

36 Then the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 men in
the camp of the Assyrians. When the people got up‡ the next morning,
there were all the dead bodies!
37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He
returned to Nineveh and stayed there.
38 One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch,
his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer put him to the sword and escaped to
the land of Ararat. And his son Esar-haddon reigned in his place.

38

1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. The prophet Isaiah son of
Amoz came to him and said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Put your house
in order, for you are about to die; you will not recover.’ ”
2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,
3 saying, “Please, O LORD, remember how I have walked before you
faithfully and with wholehearted devotion; I have done what is good in
your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.
4 And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying,
5 “Go and tell Hezekiah that this is what the LORD, the God of your
father David, says: ‘I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears.
Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.
6 And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of
Assyria. I will defend this city.*
7 This will be a sign to you from the LORD that he will do what he has
promised:
8 I will make the sun’s shadow that falls on the stairway of Ahaz go back
ten steps.’ ”
So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had descended.
9 This is a writing by Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and
recovery:

10 I said, “In the middle† of my life
I must go through the gates of Sheol
and be deprived of the remainder of my years.”
11 I said, “I will never again see the LORD,
even the LORD, in the land of the living;
I will no longer look on mankind
with those who dwell in this world.
12 My dwelling has been picked up and removed from me
like a shepherd’s tent.
I have rolled up my life like a weaver;
he cuts me off from the loom;
from day until night you make an end of me.
13 I cried out‡ until the morning.
Like a lion he breaks all my bones;
from day until night you make an end of me.
14 I chirp like a swallow or crane;
I moan like a dove.
My eyes grow weak as I look upward.

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‡ **37:36 37:36** Hebrew *When they got up* * **38:6 38:6** MT and LXX; DSS includes *for my sake and for the sake of my servant David*; see 2 Kings 20:6. † **38:10 38:10** Or *In the quiet* or *In the prime*
‡ **38:13 38:13** Or *I composed myself*

O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security."

15 What can I say?
He has spoken to me, and he himself has done this.
I will walk slowly all my years
because of the anguish of my soul.
16 O Lord, by such things men live,
and in all of them my spirit finds life.
You have restored me to health
and have let me live.
17 Surely for my own welfare
I had such great anguish;
but your love has delivered me from the pit of oblivion,
for you have cast all my sins behind your back.
18 For Sheol cannot thank you;
Death cannot praise you.
Those who descend to the Pit
cannot hope for your faithfulness.
19 The living, only the living, can thank you,
as I do today;
fathers will tell their children
about your faithfulness.
20 The LORD will save me;
we will play songs on stringed instruments
all the days of our lives
in the house of the LORD.
21 Now Isaiah had said, "Prepare a lump of pressed figs and apply it to the boil, and he will recover."
22 And Hezekiah had asked, "What will be the sign that I will go up to the house of the LORD?"

39

1 At that time Merodach-baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he had heard about Hezekiah's illness and recovery.
2 And Hezekiah welcomed the envoys gladly and showed them what was in his treasure house—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the precious oil, as well as his entire armory—all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his palace or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.
3 Then the prophet Isaiah went to King Hezekiah and asked, "Where did those men come from, and what did they say to you?"
"They came to me from a distant land," Hezekiah replied, "from Babylon."
4 "What have they seen in your palace?" Isaiah asked.
"They have seen everything in my palace," answered Hezekiah. "There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them."
5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of Hosts:
6 The time will surely come when everything in your palace and all that your fathers have stored up until this day will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD.
7 And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, will be taken away to be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

8 But Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD that you have
spoken is good.” For he thought, “At least there will be peace and security
in my lifetime.”

40

1 “Comfort, comfort my people,”
says your God.
2 “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her forced labor has been completed;
her iniquity has been pardoned.
For she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.”
3 A voice of one calling:

“Prepare the way for the LORD in the wilderness;*
make a straight highway for our God in the desert.†
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill made low;
the uneven ground will become smooth,
and the rugged land a plain.‡
5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.”§
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
6 A voice says, “Cry out!”
And one asked,* “What should I cry out?”
“All flesh is like grass,
and all its glory like the flowers of the field.
7 The grass withers and the flowers fall
when the breath of the LORD blows on them;
indeed, the people are grass.
8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God stands forever.”
9 O herald of good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
Raise your voice loudly,
O herald of good news to Jerusalem.
Lift it up,†
do not be afraid!
Say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm establishes his rule.
His reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
11 He tends his flock like a shepherd;

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* **40:3 40:3** Or *A voice of one calling in the wilderness: “Prepare the way for the LORD* † **40:3 40:3** LXX *make straight the paths of our God* ‡ **40:4 40:4** LXX *Every valley shall be filled in, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low. All the crooked ways shall become straight, and the rough places plains.* § **40:5 40:5** Or *and all humanity together will see it.* * **40:6 40:6** Dead Sea Scrolls, LXX, and Vulgate *And I asked* † **40:9 40:9** Or *Go up on a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news. Raise your voice loudly, O Jerusalem, herald of good news. Lift it up,*

he gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart.
He gently leads the nursing ewes.

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand?
Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on a scale
and the hills with a balance?
13 Who has directed the mind of the LORD,‡
or informed him as his counselor?
14 Whom did he consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the paths of justice?
Who imparted knowledge to him
and showed him the way of understanding?

15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are considered a speck of dust on the scales;
he lifts up the coastlands§ like fine dust.
16 Lebanon is not sufficient for fuel,
nor its animals enough for a burnt offering.
17 All the nations are as nothing before him;
he regards them as nothingness and emptiness.

18 To whom will you liken God?
To what image will you compare him?
19 To an idol that a craftsman casts
and a metalworker overlays with gold
and fits with silver chains?
20 One lacking such an offering
chooses wood that will not rot.
He seeks a skilled craftsman
to set up an idol that will not topple.

21 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the foundation of the earth?
22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth;
its dwellers are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
23 He brings the princes to nothing
and makes the rulers* of the earth meaningless.
24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown,
no sooner have their stems taken root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like stubble.

25 “To whom will you liken me,
or who is my equal?” asks the Holy One.

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‡ **40:13 40:13** Or *spirit of the LORD* § **40:15 40:15** Or *islands* * **40:23 40:23** Or *judges*

26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created all these?
He leads forth the starry host by number;
he calls each one by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and why do you assert, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my claim is ignored by my God"?
28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary;
his understanding is beyond searching out.
29 He gives power to the faint
and increases the strength of the weak.
30 Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall.
31 But those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength;
they will mount up with wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not faint.

41

1 "Be silent before me, O coastlands,*
and let the peoples renew their strength.
Let them come forward and testify;
let us together draw near for judgment.
2 Who has aroused one from the east
and called him to his feet in righteousness†?
He hands nations over to him
and subdues kings before him.
He turns them to dust with his sword,
to windblown chaff with his bow.
3 He pursues them, going on safely,
hardly touching the path with his feet.
4 Who has performed this and carried it out,
calling forth the generations from the beginning?
I, the LORD—the first and the last—
I am he."

5 The coastlands see and fear;
the ends of the earth tremble.
They approach and come forward.
6 Each one helps the other
and says to his brother, "Be strong!"
7 The craftsman encourages the goldsmith,
and he who wields the hammer

* **41:1 41:1** Or *islands*; also in verse 5 † **41:2 41:2** Or *from the east, whom victory meets at every step*

cheers him who strikes the anvil,
saying of the welding, “It is good.”
He nails it down so it will not be toppled.

8 “But you, O Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
descendant of Abraham my friend—
9 I brought you from the ends of the earth
and called you from its farthest corners.
I said, ‘You are my servant.’
I have chosen and not rejected you.
10 Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you; I will surely help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

11 Behold, all who rage against you
will be ashamed and disgraced;
those who contend with you
will be reduced to nothing and will perish.
12 You will seek those who contend with you, but will not find them.
Those who wage war against you will come to nothing.
13 For I am the LORD your God,
who takes hold of your right hand
and tells you: Do not fear,
I will help you.
14 Do not fear, O Jacob, you worm,
O few men of Israel.
I will help you,” declares the LORD.
“Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
15 Behold, I will make you into a threshing sledge,
new and sharp, with many teeth.
You will thresh the mountains and crush them,
and reduce the hills to chaff.
16 You will winnow them, and a wind will carry them away;
a gale will scatter them.
But you will rejoice in the LORD;
you will glory in the Holy One of Israel.

17 The poor and needy seek water, but there is none;
their tongues are parched with thirst.
I, the LORD, will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.
18 I will open rivers on the barren heights,
and fountains in the middle of the valleys.
I will turn the desert into a pool of water,
and the dry land into flowing springs.
19 I will plant cedars in the wilderness,
acacias, myrtles, and olive trees.
I will set cypresses‡ in the desert,
elms and boxwood together,

‡ **41:19 41:19** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

20 so that all may see and know,
may consider and understand,
that the hand of the LORD has done this
and the Holy One of Israel has created it."
21 "Present your case," says the LORD.
"Submit your arguments," says the King of Jacob.
22 "Let them come and tell us what will happen.
Tell the former things,
so that we may reflect on them and know the outcome.
Or announce to us what is coming.
23 Tell us the things that are to come,
so that we may know that you are gods.
Yes, do something good or evil,
that we may look on§ together in dismay.
24 Behold, you are nothing
and your work is of no value.
Anyone who chooses you is detestable.

25 I have raised up one from the north, and he has come—
one from the east who calls on my name.
He will march over rulers as if they were mortar,
like a potter who treads the clay.
26 Who has declared this from the beginning,
so that we may know,
and from times past,
so that we may say: 'He was right'?
No one announced it, no one foretold it,
no one heard your words.

27 Formerly I said to Zion:*
'Look, here they are!'
And I gave to Jerusalem
a herald of good news.
28 When I look, there is no one;
there is no counselor among them;
when I ask them,
they have nothing to say.
29 See, they are all a delusion;
their works amount to nothing;
their images are as empty as the wind.

42

1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one, in whom my soul delights.
I will put my spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.
2 He will not cry out or raise his voice,
nor make his voice heard in the streets.
3 A bruised reed he will not break
and a smoldering wick he will not extinguish;

§ **41:23 41:23** Qere; Ketiv *fear* * **41:27 41:27** Or *I was the first to tell Zion:*

he will faithfully bring forth justice.
4 He will not grow weak or be bruised*
before he has established justice on the earth.
In his teaching the coastlands will put their hope."†

5 This is what God the LORD says—
he who created the heavens
and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and its offspring,
who gives breath to the people on it
and life to those who walk in it:

6 "I, the LORD, have called you
for a righteous purpose,
and I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and appoint you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring prisoners out of the dungeon
and those sitting in darkness
out from the prison house.

8 I am the LORD;
that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.
9 Behold, the former things have happened,
and now I declare new things.
Before they spring forth
I proclaim them to you."
10 Sing to the LORD a new song—
his praise from the ends of the earth—
you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it,
you coastlands,‡ and all who dwell in them.
11 Let the desert and its cities raise their voices;
let the villages of Kedar cry aloud.
Let the people of Sela sing for joy;
let them cry out from the mountaintops.
12 Let them give glory to the LORD
and declare his praise in the coastlands.
13 The LORD goes forth like a mighty one;
he stirs up his zeal like a warrior.
He shouts; yes, he roars
in triumph over his enemies:

14 "I have kept silent from ages past;
I have remained quiet and restrained.
But now I will groan like a woman in labor;

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* **42:4 42:4** Or *be discouraged* † **42:4 42:4** Or *In his law the islands will put their hope*; LXX *In his name the nations will put their hope* ‡ **42:10 42:10** Or *islands*; also in verse 12

I will at once gasp and pant.
15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation.
I will turn the rivers into islands§
and drain the marshes.
16 I will lead the blind by a way they did not know;
I will guide them on unfamiliar paths.
I will turn darkness into light before them
and rough places into level ground.
These things I will do for them,
and I will not forsake them.
17 But those who trust in idols
and say to molten images, 'You are our gods!'
will be turned back in utter shame.
18 Listen, you deaf ones;
look, you blind ones, that you may see!
19 Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf like the messenger I am sending?
Who is blind like my covenant partner,
or blind like the servant of the LORD?
20 Though seeing many things, you do not keep watch.
Though your ears are open, you do not hear."

21 The LORD was pleased, for the sake of his righteousness,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.
22 But this is a people plundered and looted,
all trapped in caves or imprisoned in dungeons.
They have become plunder with no one to rescue them,
and loot with no one to say, "Send them back!"
23 Who among you will pay attention to this?
Who will listen and obey hereafter?
24 Who gave Jacob up for spoil,
and Israel to the plunderers?
Was it not the LORD,
against whom we have sinned?
They were unwilling to walk in his ways,
and they would not obey his law.
25 So he poured out on them his furious anger
and the fierceness of battle.
It enveloped them in flames,
but they did not understand;
it consumed them,
but they did not take it to heart.

43

1 But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, O Jacob,
and he who formed you, O Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name; you are mine!
2 When you pass through the waters,

§ **42:15 42:15** Or *dry land* or *coastlands*

I will be with you;
and when you go through the rivers,
they will not overwhelm you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be scorched;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush* and Seba in your place.
4 Because you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give men in exchange for you
and nations in place of your life.

5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east
and gather you from the west.
6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back!'
Bring my sons from afar,
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
7 everyone called by my name and created for my glory,
whom I have indeed formed and made."

8 Bring out a people who have eyes but are blind,
and who have ears but are deaf.
9 All the nations gather together
and the peoples assemble.
Who among them can declare this,
and proclaim to us the former things?
Let them present their witnesses to vindicate them,
so that others may hear and say, "It is true."

10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may consider and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
and after me none will come.
11 I, yes I, am the LORD,
and there is no Savior but me.
12 I alone decreed and saved and proclaimed—
I, and not some foreign god among you.
So you are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"that I am God.
13 Even from eternity I am he,
and none can deliver out of my hand.
When I act, who can reverse it?"
14 Thus says the LORD your Redeemer,

* **43:3 43:3** That is, the upper Nile region

the Holy One of Israel:

“For your sake, I will send to Babylon
and bring them all as fugitives,
even the Chaldeans,†
in the ships in which they rejoice.
15 I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, and your King.”

16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea
and a path through the surging waters,
17 who brings out the chariots and horses,
the armies and warriors together,
to lie down, never to rise again;
to be extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

18 “Do not call to mind the former things;
pay no attention to the things of old.
19 Behold, I am about to do something new;
even now it is coming. Do you not see it?
Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
20 The beasts of the field will honor me,
the jackals‡ and the ostriches,§
because I provide water in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people.

21 The people I formed for myself
will declare my praise.
22 But you have not called on me, O Jacob,
because you have grown weary of me, O Israel.
23 You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings,
nor honored me with your sacrifices.
I have not burdened you with offerings,
nor wearied you with frankincense.
24 You have not bought me sweet cane with your silver,
nor satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.
But you have burdened me with your sins;
you have wearied me with your iniquities.

25 I, yes I, am he
who blots out your transgressions for my own sake
and remembers your sins no more.
26 Remind me, let us argue the matter together.
State your case, so that you may be vindicated.
27 Your first father sinned,
and your spokesmen rebelled against me.
28 So I will disgrace the princes of your sanctuary,

† **43:14 43:14** That is, the Babylonians ‡ **43:20 43:20** Or *serpents* or *dragons* § **43:20 43:20** Literally *and daughters of an ostrich* or *and daughters of an owl*

and I will devote Jacob to destruction* and Israel to reproach."

44

1 But now listen, O Jacob my servant,
Israel, whom I have chosen.
2 This is the word of the LORD, your Maker,
who formed you from the womb and who will help you:
"Do not be afraid, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun,* whom I have chosen.
3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and currents on the dry ground.
I will pour out my spirit on your descendants,
and my blessing on your offspring.
4 They will sprout among the grass
like willows† by flowing streams.
5 One will say, 'I belong to the LORD,'
another will call himself by the name of Jacob,
and still another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,'
and will take the name of Israel."

6 Thus says the LORD,
the King and Redeemer of Israel, the LORD of Hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last,
and there is no God but me.
7 Who then is like me?
Let him say so!
Let him declare his case before me,
since I established an ancient people.
Let him foretell the things to come,
and what is to take place.
8 Do not tremble or fear.
Have I not told you and declared it long ago?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any God but me?
There is no other Rock;
I know not one."

9 All makers of idols are nothing,
and the things they treasure are worthless.
Their witnesses fail to see or comprehend,
so they are put to shame.
10 Who fashions a god or casts an idol
which profits him nothing?
11 Behold, all his companions will be put to shame,
for the craftsmen themselves are only human.
Let them all assemble and take their stand;
they will all be brought to terror and shame.

12 The blacksmith takes a tool

* **43:28 43:28** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **44:2 44:2** *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, a term of endearment for Israel. † **44:4 44:4** Or *poplars*

and labors over the coals;
he fashions an idol with hammers
and forges it with his strong arms.
Yet he grows hungry and loses his strength;
he fails to drink water and grows faint.
13 The woodworker extends a measuring line;
he marks it out with a stylus;
he shapes it with chisels
and outlines it with a compass.
He fashions it in the likeness of man,
like man in all his glory,
that it may dwell in a shrine.
14 He cuts down cedars
or retrieves a cypress‡ or oak.
He lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest.
He plants a laurel, and the rain makes it grow.
15 It serves as fuel for man.
He takes some of it to warm himself,
and he kindles a fire
and bakes his bread.
He also fashions it into a god and worships it;
he makes an idol and bows down to it.
16 He burns half of it in the fire,
and he roasts meat on that half.
He eats the roast and is satisfied.
Indeed, he warms himself and says,
"Ah! I am warm; I see the fire."
17 From the rest he makes a god, his graven image.
He bows down to it and worships;
he prays to it and says,
"Save me, for you are my god."

18 They do not comprehend or discern,
for he has shut their eyes so they cannot see
and closed their minds so they cannot understand.
19 And no one considers in his heart,
no one has the knowledge or insight to say,
"I burned half of it in the fire,
and I baked bread on its coals;
I roasted meat and I ate.
Shall I make something detestable with the rest of it?
Shall I bow down to a block of wood?"
20 He feeds on ashes.
His deluded heart has led him astray,
and he cannot deliver himself or say,
"Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?"
21 Remember these things, O Jacob,
for you are my servant, O Israel.
I have made you, and you are my servant;
O Israel, I will never forget you.
22 I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud,
and your sins like a mist.
Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

‡ **44:14 44:14** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

23 Sing for joy, O heavens, for the LORD has done this;
shout aloud, O depths of the earth.
Break forth in song, O mountains,
you forests and all your trees.
For the LORD has redeemed Jacob,
and revealed his glory in Israel.

24 Thus says the LORD,
your Redeemer who formed you from the womb:

"I am the LORD,
who has made all things,
who alone stretched out the heavens,
who by myself§ spread out the earth,
25 who foils the signs of false prophets
and makes fools of diviners,
who confounds the wise
and turns their knowledge into nonsense,
26 who confirms the message of his servant
and fulfills the counsel of his messengers,
who says of Jerusalem,
'She will be inhabited,'
and of the cities of Judah,
'They will be rebuilt, and I will restore their ruins,'
27 who says to the depths of the sea,
'Be dry, and I will dry up your currents,'
28 who says of Cyrus,
'My shepherd will fulfill all that I desire,'
who says of Jerusalem,
'She will be rebuilt,'
and of the temple,
'Let its foundation be laid.' "

45

1 This is what the LORD says to Cyrus his anointed,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him,
to disarm kings,
to open the doors before him,
so that the gates will not be shut:

2 "I will go before you
and level the terrain;*
I will break down the gates of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the LORD,
the God of Israel, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Jacob my servant
and Israel my chosen one,

§ **44:24 44:24** Qere; Ketiv *who was with me?* * **45:2 45:2** DSS and LXX *level the mountains*

I call you by name;
I have given you a title of honor,
though you have not known me.

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other;
there is no God but me.
I will equip you for battle,
though you have not known me,
6 so that all may know,
from where the sun rises to where it sets,
that there is none but me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
7 I form the light and create the darkness;
I bring prosperity and create calamity.
I, the LORD, do all these things.

8 Drip down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.
Let the earth open up that deliverance may sprout
and righteousness spring up with it;
I, the LORD, have created it.

9 Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker—
one clay pot among many.
Does the clay ask the potter,
'What are you making?'
Does your work say,
'He has no hands'?
10 Woe to him who says to his father,
'What have you begotten?'
or to his mother,
'What have you brought forth?' "

11 Thus says the LORD,
the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker:

"Concerning things to come, do you question me about my sons,
or instruct me in the work of my hands?
12 It is I who made the earth
and created man upon it.
It was my hands that stretched out the heavens,
and I ordained all their host.
13 I will raise up Cyrus in righteousness,
and I will make all his ways straight.
He will rebuild my city
and set my exiles free,
but not for payment or reward,
says the LORD of Hosts."
14 This is what the LORD says:

"The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush,†
along with the Sabeans, men of stature,

† **45:14 45:14** That is, the upper Nile region

will come over to you
and will be yours;
they will trudge behind you;
they will come over in chains and bow down to you.
They will confess to you:
'God is indeed with you, and there is no other;
there is no other God.' "

15 Truly you are a God who hides himself,
O God of Israel, the Savior.
16 They will all be put to shame and humiliated;
the makers of idols will depart together in disgrace.
17 But Israel will be saved by the LORD
with an everlasting deliverance;
you will not be put to shame or humiliated,
to ages everlasting.

18 For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens—he is God;
he formed the earth and fashioned it;
he established it;
he did not create it to be empty,
but formed it to be inhabited:

"I am the LORD,
and there is no other.
19 I have not spoken in secret,
from a place in a land of darkness.
I did not say to the descendants of Jacob,
'Seek me in a wasteland.'
I, the LORD, speak the truth;
I say what is right.

20 Come, gather together, and draw near,
you fugitives from the nations.
Ignorant are those who carry idols of wood
and pray to a god that cannot save.
21 Speak up and present your case—
yes, let them take counsel together.
Who foretold this long ago?
Who announced it from ancient times?
Was it not I, the LORD?
There is no other God but me,
a righteous God and Savior;
there is none but me.

22 Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth;
for I am God,
and there is no other.
23 By myself I have sworn;
truth has gone out from my mouth,
a word that will not be revoked:
Every knee will bow before me,

every tongue will swear allegiance.‡
24 Surely they will say of me,
'In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.' "

All who rage against him
will come to him and be put to shame.
25 In the LORD all descendants of Israel
will be justified and will exult.

46

1 Bel crouches; Nebo cowers.
Their idols weigh down beasts and cattle.
The images you carry are burdensome,
a load to the weary animal.
2 The gods cower; they crouch together,
unable to relieve the burden;
but they themselves go into captivity.

3 "Listen to me, O house of Jacob,
all the remnant of the house of Israel,
who have been sustained from the womb,
carried along since birth.
4 Even to your old age, I will be the same,
and I will bear you up when you turn gray.
I have made you, and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and deliver you.

5 To whom will you liken me or count me equal?
To whom will you compare me, that we should be alike?
6 They pour out their bags of gold
and weigh out silver on scales;
they hire a goldsmith to fashion it into a god,
so they can bow down and worship.
7 They lift it to their shoulder
and carry it along;
they set it in its place, and there it stands,
not budging from that spot.
They cry out to it, but it does not answer;
it saves no one from his troubles.

8 Remember this and be brave;
take it to heart, you transgressors!
9 Remember what happened long ago,
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.
10 I declare the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times what is still to come.
I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and all my good pleasure I will accomplish.'
11 I summon a bird of prey from the east,
a man for my purpose* from a far-off land.

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‡ **45:23 45:23** Literally *every tongue will swear*; LXX *every tongue will swear by God* * **46:11 46:11** Qere; Ketiv *his purpose*

Truly I have spoken,
and truly I will bring it to pass.
I have planned it,
and I will surely do it.

12 Listen to me, you stubborn people,
far removed from righteousness:
13 I am bringing my righteousness near;
it is not far away, and my deliverance will not be delayed.
I will grant deliverance to Zion
and adorn Israel with my splendor.

47

1 "Go down and sit in the dust,
O Virgin Daughter of Babylon.
Sit on the ground without a throne,
O Daughter of the Chaldeans!*
For you will no longer be called
tender or delicate.
2 Take millstones and grind flour;
remove your veil;
strip off your skirt, bare your thigh,
and wade through the streams.
3 Your nakedness will be uncovered
and your shame will be exposed.
I will take vengeance;
I will spare no one."

4 Our Redeemer—the LORD of Hosts is his name—
is the Holy One of Israel.

5 "Sit in silence and go into darkness,
O Daughter of the Chaldeans.
For you will no longer be called
the queen of kingdoms.
6 I was angry with my people;
I profaned my heritage,
and I placed them under your control.
You showed them no mercy;
even on the elderly you laid a most heavy yoke.
7 You said, 'I will be queen forever.'
You did not take these things to heart
or consider their outcome.

8 So now hear this,
O lover of luxury who sits securely,
who says to herself,
'I am, and there is none besides me.
I will never be a widow
or know the loss of children.'
9 These two things will overtake you in a moment,
in a single day:

* **47:1 47:1** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 5

loss of children, and widowhood.
They will come upon you in full measure,
in spite of your many sorceries
and the potency of your spells.
10 You were secure in your wickedness;
you said, 'No one sees me.'
Your wisdom and knowledge led you astray;
you told yourself, 'I am, and there is none besides me.'
11 But disaster will come upon you;
you will not know how to charm it away.
A calamity will befall you
that you will be unable to ward off.
Devastation will happen to you
suddenly and unexpectedly.

12 So take your stand with your spells
and with your many sorceries,
with which you have wearied yourself
from your youth.
Perhaps you will succeed;
perhaps you will inspire terror!
13 You are wearied by your many counselors;
let them come forward now and save you—
your astrologers who observe the stars,
who monthly predict your fate.
14 Surely they are like stubble;
the fire will burn them up.
They cannot deliver themselves
from the power of the flame.
There will be no coals to warm them
or fire to sit beside.
15 This is what they are to you—
those with whom you have labored and traded from youth—
each one strays in his own direction;
not one of them can save you.

48

1 "Listen to this, O house of Jacob,
you who are called by the name of Israel,
who have descended from the line of Judah,
who swear by the name of the LORD,
who invoke the God of Israel—
but not in truth or righteousness—
2 who indeed call yourselves after the holy city
and lean on the God of Israel;
the LORD of Hosts is his name.

3 I foretold the former things long ago;
they came out of my mouth and I proclaimed them.
Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.
4 For I knew that you are stubborn;
your neck is iron and your forehead is bronze.

5 Therefore I declared it to you long ago;
I announced it before it came to pass,
so that you could not claim, ‘My idol has done this;
my carved image and molten god has ordained it.’
6 You have heard these things; look at them all.
Will you not acknowledge them?

From now on I will tell you of new things,
hidden things unknown to you.
7 They are created now, and not long ago;
you have not heard of them before today.
So you cannot claim,
‘I already knew them!’
8 You have never heard; you have never understood;
for a long time your ears have not been open.
For I knew how deceitful you are;
you have been called a rebel from birth.

9 For the sake of my name I will delay my wrath;
for the sake of my praise I will restrain it,
so that you will not be cut off.
10 See, I have refined you, but not as silver;
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.
11 For my own sake, my very own sake, I will act;
for how can I let myself be defamed?
I will not yield my glory to another.
12 Listen to me, O Jacob,
and Israel, whom I have called:
I am he; I am the first,
and I am the last.
13 Surely my own hand founded the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;
when I summon them,
they stand up together.
14 Come together, all of you, and listen:
Which of the idols has foretold these things?
The LORD's chosen ally will carry out his desire against Babylon,
and his arm will be against the Chaldeans.*
15 I, even I, have spoken;
yes, I have called him.
I have brought him,
and he will succeed in his mission.

16 Come near to me and listen to this:

From the beginning I have not spoken in secret;
from the time it happened, I was there.”

And now the Lord GOD has sent me,
accompanied by his spirit.

* **48:14 48:14** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 20

17 Thus says the LORD your Redeemer,
the Holy One of Israel:

"I am the LORD your God,
who teaches you for your benefit,
who directs you in the way you should go.
18 If only you had paid attention to my commandments,
your peace would have been like a river,
and your righteousness like waves of the sea.
19 Your descendants would have been as countless as the sand,
and your offspring as numerous as its grains;†
their name would never be cut off
or eliminated from my presence."

20 Leave Babylon!
Flee from the Chaldeans!
Declare it with a shout of joy,
proclaim it,
let it go out to the ends of the earth, saying,
"The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!"
21 They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts;
he made water flow for them from the rock;
he split the rock, and water gushed out.

22 "There is no peace," says the LORD,
"for the wicked."

49

1 Listen to me, O coastlands;*
pay attention, O distant peoples:

The LORD called me from the womb;
from the body of my mother he named me.
2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
he hid me in the shadow of his hand.
He made me like a polished arrow;
he hid me in his quiver.
3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel,
in whom I will display my glory."

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength in futility and vanity;
yet my vindication is with the LORD,
and my reward is with my God."

5 And now says the LORD,
who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
that Israel might be gathered to him†—
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God is my strength—

† **48:19 48:19** Literally *like the sand, and your offspring like its grains* * **49:1 49:1** Or *islands* † **49:5 49:5** Qere; Ketiv *Israel is not gathered*

6 he says: “It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
and to restore the protected ones of Israel.
I will also make you a light for the nations,
to bring my deliverance to the ends of the earth.”

7 Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel,
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
to the servant of rulers:

“Kings will see you and rise,
and princes will bow down,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”
8 This is what the LORD says:

“In the time of favor I will answer you,
and in the day of deliverance I will help you;‡
I will keep you and appoint you
to be a covenant for the people,
to restore the land,
to apportion its desolate inheritances,
9 to say to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
and to those in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’
They will feed along the pathways,
and find pasture on every barren hill.
10 They will not hunger or thirst,
nor will scorching heat or sun beat down on them.
For he who has compassion on them will guide them
and lead them beside springs of water.
11 I will turn all my mountains into roads,
and my highways will be raised up.
12 Behold, they will come from far away,
from the north and from the west,§
and from the land of Sinim.*”

13 Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth;
break forth in song, O mountains!†
For the LORD has comforted his people,
and he will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

14 But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me;
the Lord has forgotten me!”

15 “Can a woman forget her nursing child,
or lack compassion for the son of her womb?
Even if she could forget,
I will not forget you!

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‡ **49:8 49:8** LXX *In the time of favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you;* § **49:12 49:12** Or *from the sea* * **49:12 49:12** DSS *the land of the Syenites*, that is, of Aswan in southern Egypt
† **49:13 49:13** Qere; Ketiv *let the mountains break forth in song*

16 Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are ever before me.
17 Your sons‡ hasten back;
your destroyers and wreckers depart from you.
18 Lift up your eyes and look around.
They all gather together; they come to you.
As surely as I live," declares the LORD,
"you will wear them all as jewelry
and put them on like a bride.
19 For your ruined and desolate places
and your ravaged land
will now indeed be too small for your people,
and those who devoured you will be far away.
20 Yet the children of your bereavement
will say in your hearing,
'This place is too small for us;
make room for us to live here.'

21 Then you will say in your heart,
'Who has begotten these for me?
I was bereaved and barren;
I was exiled and rejected.
So who has reared them?
Look, I was left all alone,
so where did they come from?' "
22 This is what the Lord GOD says:

"Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations,
and raise my banner to the peoples.
They will bring your sons in their arms§
and carry your daughters on their shoulders.
23 Kings will be your foster fathers,
and their queens your nursing mothers.
They will bow to you facedown
and lick the dust at your feet.
Then you will know that I am the LORD;
those who hope in me will never be put to shame."

24 Can the plunder be snatched from the mighty,
or the captives of the righteous* be delivered?
25 Indeed, this is what the LORD says:

"Even the captives of the mighty will be taken away,
and the plunder of the tyrant will be retrieved;
I will contend with those who contend with you,
and I will save your children.
26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh;
they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine.
Then all mankind will know that I, the LORD,
am your Savior and your Redeemer,

‡ **49:17 49:17** DSS *your builders* § **49:22 49:22** Hebrew *in their bosom* * **49:24 49:24** DSS, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also verse 25) *of a tyrant*

the Mighty One of Jacob."

50

1 This is what the LORD says:

"Where is your mother's certificate of divorce
with which I sent her away?
Or to which of my creditors
did I sell you?
Look, you were sold for your iniquities,
and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.
2 Why was no one there when I arrived?
Why did no one answer when I called?
Is my hand too short to redeem you?
Or do I lack the strength to deliver you?
Behold, my rebuke dries up the sea;
I turn the rivers into a desert;
the fish rot for lack of water
and die of thirst.
3 I clothe the heavens in black
and make sackcloth their covering."
4 The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of discipleship,
to sustain the weary with a word.
He awakens me morning by morning;
he awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.
5 The Lord GOD has opened my ears,
and I have not been rebellious,
nor have I turned back.
6 I offered my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who tore out my beard.
I did not hide my face from scorn and spittle.
7 Because the Lord GOD helps me,
I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I will not be put to shame.
8 The One who vindicates me is near.
Who will dare to contend with me?
Let us confront each other!
Who has a case against me?
Let him approach me!
9 Surely the Lord GOD helps me.
Who is there to condemn me?
See, they will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will devour them.

10 Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Who among you walks in darkness
and has no light?
Let him trust in the name of the LORD;
let him lean on his God.
11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire,
who array yourselves with firebrands,

walk in the light of your fire
and of the firebrands you have lit!
This is what you will receive from my hand:
You will lie down in a place of torment.

51

1 “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
Look to the rock from which you were cut,
and to the quarry from which you were hewn.
2 Look to Abraham your father,
and to Sarah who gave you birth.
When I called him, he was but one;
then I blessed him and multiplied him.
3 For the LORD will comfort Zion
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;
he will make her wilderness like Eden
and her desert like the garden of the LORD.
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and melodious song.

4 Pay attention to me, my people,
and listen to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and my justice will become a light to the nations;
I will bring it about quickly.

5 My righteousness draws near,
my deliverance is on the way,
and my arms will bring justice to the nations.
The coastlands* will look for me
and wait in hope for my arm.
6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth below;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and its people will die like gnats.
But my deliverance will last forever,
and my righteousness will never fail.

7 Listen to me, you who know what is right,
you people with my law in your hearts:
Do not fear the scorn of men;
do not be broken by their insults.
8 For the moth will devour them like a garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool.
But my righteousness will last forever,
my deliverance through all generations.”

9 Awake, awake,
put on strength, O arm of the LORD.
Wake up as in days past,

* **51:5 51:5** Or *islands*

as in generations of old.
Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces,
who pierced through the dragon?
10 Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep,
who made a road in the depths of the sea
for the redeemed to cross over?
11 So the redeemed of the LORD will return
and enter Zion with singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee.

12 "I, even I, am he who comforts you.
Why should you be afraid of mortal man,
of a son of man who withers like grass?
13 But you have forgotten the LORD, your Maker,
who stretched out the heavens
and laid the foundations of the earth.
You live in terror all day long
because of the fury of the oppressor
who is bent on destruction.
But where is the fury of the oppressor?
14 The captive will soon be freed;
he will not die in the dungeon,
and his bread will not be lacking.
15 For I am the LORD your God
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—
the LORD of Hosts is his name.
16 I have put my words in your mouth,
and covered you with the shadow of my hand,
to plant† the heavens, to found the earth,
and to say to Zion, 'You are my people.' "
17 Awake, awake!
Rise up, O Jerusalem,
you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD
the cup of his fury;
you who have drained the goblet to the dregs—
the cup that makes men stagger.
18 Among all the sons she bore,
there is no one to guide her;
among all the sons she brought up,
there is no one to take her hand.
19 These pairs have befallen you:
devastation and destruction,
famine and sword.
Who will grieve for you?
How can I comfort you?‡
20 Your sons have fainted;
they lie at the head of every street,
like an antelope in a net.

† **51:16 51:16** Or *to establish* ‡ **51:19 51:19** DSS, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Who can comfort you?*

They are full of the wrath of the LORD,
the rebuke of your God.

21 Therefore now hear this, you afflicted one,
drunken, but not with wine.
22 Thus says your Lord, the LORD,
even your God, who defends his people:

"See, I have removed from your hand
the cup of staggering.
From that goblet, the cup of my fury,
you will never drink again.
23 I will place it in the hands of your tormentors,
who told you: 'Lie down, so we can walk over you,'
so that you made your back like the ground,
like a street to be traversed."

52

1 Awake, awake,
clothe yourself with strength, O Zion!
Put on your garments of splendor,
O Jerusalem, holy city!
For the uncircumcised and unclean
will no longer enter you.
2 Shake off your dust!
Rise up and sit on your throne, O Jerusalem.
Remove the chains from your neck,
O captive Daughter of Zion.
3 For this is what the LORD says:

"You were sold for nothing,
and without money you will be redeemed."
4 For this is what the Lord GOD says:

"At first my people went down to Egypt to live,
then Assyria oppressed them without cause.
5 And now what have I here?*
declares the LORD.
For my people have been taken without cause;
those who rule them wail,†
declares the LORD,
and my name is blasphemed continually
all day long.‡
6 Therefore my people will know my name;
therefore they will know on that day
that I am he who speaks.
Here I am!"

7 How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,

* **52:5 52:5** Qere; Ketiv *who have I here?* † **52:5 52:5** DSS and Vulgate *taunt* ‡ **52:5 52:5** LXX —*on account of you my name is blasphemed continually among the Gentiles*

who proclaim deliverance,
who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”
8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices,
together they shout for joy.
For every eye will see
when the LORD returns to Zion.
9 Break forth in joy, sing together,
O ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 The LORD has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will see
the deliverance of our God.

11 Depart, depart, go out from there!
Touch no unclean thing;
come out from it, purify yourselves,
you who carry the vessels of the LORD.
12 For you will not leave in a hurry
nor flee in haste,
for the LORD goes before you,
and the God of Israel is your rear guard.
13 Behold, my servant will prosper;§
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.
14 Just as many were appalled at you*—
his appearance was disfigured beyond that of any man,
and his form was marred beyond human likeness—
15 so he will startle† many nations.
Kings will shut their mouths because of him.
For they will see what they have not been told,
and they will understand what they have not heard.‡

53

1 Who has believed our message?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no stately form or majesty to attract us,
no beauty that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.
Like one from whom men hide their faces,
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows;*
yet we considered him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

§ **52:13 52:13** Or *will act wisely* * **52:14 52:14** Syriac *at him* † **52:15 52:15** Or *sprinkle* ‡ **52:15 52:15** LXX *For those who were not told will see, and those who have not heard will understand.* * **53:4 53:4** LXX *This one bears our sins and is pained for us*

5 But he was wounded because of our transgressions,†
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his stripes we are healed.
6 We all like sheep have gone astray,
each one has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid upon him
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth.
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away,
and who can recount his descendants?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;‡
he was stricken for the transgression of my people.
9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him
and to cause him to suffer;
and though he makes his life a guilt offering,§
he will see his offspring, he will prolong his days,
and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in his hand.
11 After the anguish of his soul,
he will see* and be satisfied.
By his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.
12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the many,†
and he will divide the spoils with the numerous,‡
because he has poured out his life unto death,
and he was numbered with the transgressors.
Yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.

54

1 "Shout for joy, O barren woman,
who bears no children;
break forth in song and cry aloud,
you who have never travailed;
because more are the children of the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband,"
says the LORD.
2 "Enlarge the site of your tent,

† **53:5 53:5** Or *pierced for our transgressions* ‡ **53:8 53:8** LXX *In humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can recount his descendants? For his life was removed from the earth;* § **53:10 53:10** Or *and when his soul is made a guilt offering* * **53:11 53:11** DSS (see also LXX) adds *the light of life*
† **53:12 53:12** Or *great* ‡ **53:12 53:12** Or *strong*

stretch out the curtains of your dwellings,
do not hold back.
Lengthen your ropes
and drive your stakes in deep.*
3 For you will spread out to the right and left;
your descendants will dispossess the nations
and inhabit the desolate cities.

4 Do not be afraid, for you will not be put to shame;
do not be intimidated, for you will not be humiliated.
For you will forget the shame of your youth
and will remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.
5 For your husband is your Maker—
the LORD of Hosts is his name—
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
he is called the God of all the earth.
6 For the LORD has called you back,
like a wife deserted and wounded in spirit,
like the rejected wife of one's youth,"
says your God.

7 "For a brief moment I forsook you,
but with great compassion I will bring you back.
8 In a surge of anger
I hid my face from you for a moment,
but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD your Redeemer.

9 "For this is like the waters of Noah to me,†
when I swore that the waters of Noah
would never again cover the earth.
So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you
or rebuke you.
10 Though the mountains may be removed
and the hills may be shaken,
my loving devotion will not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace will not be broken,"
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

11 "O afflicted city, lashed by storms,
without solace,
surely I will set your stones in antimony
and lay your foundations with sapphires.‡
12 I will make your pinnacles of rubies,
your gates of sparkling jewels,
and all your walls of precious stones.
13 Then all your sons will be taught by the LORD,
and great will be their prosperity.
14 In righteousness you will be established,
far from oppression,

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* **54:2 54:2** Or *and strengthen your stakes* † **54:9 54:9** Many Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate *For to me this is like the days of Noah* ‡ **54:11 54:11** Or *lapis lazuli*

for you will have no fear.
Terror will be far removed,
for it will not come near you.

15 If anyone attacks you, it is not from me;
whoever assails you will fall before you.
16 Behold, I have created the craftsman
who fans the coals into flame
and forges a weapon fit for its task;
and I have created the destroyer
to wreak havoc.
17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper,
and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,
and their vindication is from me,"
declares the LORD.

55

1 "Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you without money,
come, buy, and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost!
2 Why spend money on that which is not bread,
and your labor on that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and your soul will delight in the richest of foods.

3 Incline your ear and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant—
my loving devotion promised to David.
4 Behold, I have made him a witness to the nations,
a leader and commander of the peoples.
5 Surely you will summon a nation you do not know,
and nations who do not know you will run to you.
For the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
has bestowed glory on you."

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
7 Let the wicked man forsake his way
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD,
that he may have compassion,
and to our God,
for he will freely pardon.

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.
9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
10 For just as rain and snow fall from heaven
and do not return without watering the earth,
making it bud and sprout,
and providing seed to sow and food to eat,
11 so my word that proceeds from my mouth
will not return to me empty,
but it will accomplish what I please,
and it will prosper where I send it.

12 You will indeed go out with joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thornbush, the cypress* will grow,
and instead of the brier, the myrtle will spring up;
this will make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign, never to be destroyed."

56

1 This is what the LORD says:

"Maintain justice and do what is right,
for my deliverance is coming soon,
and my righteousness will be revealed.
2 Blessed is the man who does this,
and the son of man who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it
and keeps his hand from doing any evil."

3 Let no foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
"The LORD will utterly exclude me from his people."
And let the eunuch not say,
"I am but a dry tree."
4 For this is what the LORD says:

"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose what pleases me
and hold fast to my covenant—
5 I will give them, in my house and within my walls,
a memorial and a name
better than that of sons and daughters.
I will give them an everlasting name
that will not be cut off.

6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants—
all who keep the Sabbath without profaning it

* **55:13 55:13** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

and who hold fast to my covenant—
7 I will bring them to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house will be called a house of prayer
for all the nations."

8 Thus declares the Lord GOD,
who gathers the dispersed of Israel:

"I will gather to them still others
besides those already gathered."
9 Come, all you beasts of the field;
eat greedily, all you beasts of the forest.
10 Israel's watchmen are blind,
they are all oblivious;
they are all mute dogs,
they cannot bark;
they are dreamers lying around,
loving to slumber.
11 Like ravenous dogs,
they are never satisfied.
They are shepherds with no discernment;
they all turn to their own way,
each one seeking his own gain:
12 "Come, let me get the wine,
let us imbibe the strong drink,
and tomorrow will be like today,
only far better!"

57

1 The righteous perish,
and no one takes it to heart;
devout men are taken away,
while no one considers
that the righteous are taken away
from the presence of evil.

2 Those who walk uprightly enter into peace;
they find rest, lying down in death.
3 "But come here, you sons of a sorceress,
you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes!
4 Whom are you mocking?
At whom do you sneer and stick out your tongue?
Are you not children of transgression,
offspring of deceit,
5 who burn with lust among the oaks,
under every luxuriant tree,
who slaughter your children in the valleys,
under the clefts of the rocks?
6 Your portion is among the smooth stones of the valley;

indeed, they are your lot.
Even to them you have poured out a drink offering
and offered a grain offering.
Should I relent because of these?

7 On a high and lofty hill you have made your bed,
and there you went up to offer sacrifices.
8 Behind the door and doorpost
you have set up your memorial.
Forsaking me, you uncovered your bed;
you climbed up and opened it wide.
And you have made a pact with those whose bed you have loved;
you have gazed upon their nakedness.
9 You went to the king* with oil
and multiplied your perfumes.
You have sent your envoys† a great distance;
you have descended even to Sheol itself.
10 You are wearied by your many journeys,
but you did not say, “There is no hope!”
You found renewal of your strength;
therefore you did not grow weak.

11 Whom have you dreaded and feared,
so that you lied and failed
to remember me or take this to heart?
Is it not because I have long been silent
that you do not fear me?
12 I will expose your righteousness and your works,
and they will not profit you.
13 When you cry out,
let your companies of idols deliver you!
Yet the wind will carry off all of them,
a breath will take them away.
But he who seeks refuge in me will inherit the land
and possess my holy mountain.”
14 And it will be said,

“Build it up, build it up, prepare the way,
take every obstacle out of the way of my people.”

15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

“I dwell in a high and holy place,
and with the oppressed and humble in spirit,
to restore the spirit of the lowly
and revive the heart of the contrite.
16 For I will not accuse you forever,
nor will I always be angry;
for then the spirit of man would grow weak before me—
the breath of life I have made.

* **57:9 57:9** Or *to Molech* † **57:9 57:9** Or *idols*

17 I was enraged by his sinful greed,
so I struck him and hid my face in anger;
yet he kept turning back
to the desires of his heart.
18 I have seen his ways,
but I will heal him;
I will guide him and restore comfort
to him and his mourners,
19 bringing praise to their lips.
Peace, peace to those far and near," says the LORD,
"and I will heal them."

20 But the wicked are like the storm-tossed sea,
for it cannot be still,
and its waves churn up mire and muck.

21 "There is no peace," says my God,
"for the wicked."

58

1 "Cry aloud, do not hold back!
Raise your voice like a ram's horn.
Declare to my people their transgression
and to the house of Jacob their sins.
2 For day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
like a nation that does what is right
and does not forsake the justice of their God.
They ask me for righteous judgments;
they delight in the nearness of God."

3 "Why have we fasted,
and you have not seen?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?"

"Behold, on the day of your fast, you do as you please,
and you oppress all your workers.
4 You fast with contention and strife
to strike viciously with your fist.
You cannot fast as you do today
and have your voice be heard on high.

5 Is this the fast I have chosen:
a day for a man to deny himself,
to bow his head like a reed,
and to spread out sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

6 Isn't this the fast that I have chosen:
to break the chains of wickedness,
to untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free
and tear off every yoke?
7 Isn't it to share your bread with the hungry,
to bring the poor and homeless into your home,
to clothe the naked when you see him,
and not to turn away
from your own flesh and blood?

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will come quickly.
Your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
9 Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry out, and he will say, 'Here I am.'
If you remove the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger and malicious talk,
10 and if you give yourself to the hungry
and satisfy the afflicted soul,
then your light will go forth in the darkness,
and your night will be like noonday.
11 The LORD will always guide you;
he will satisfy you in a sun-scorched land
and strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins;
you will restore the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of the Breach,
Restorer of the Streets of Dwelling.

13 If you turn your foot from breaking the Sabbath,
from doing as you please on my holy day,
if you call the Sabbath a delight,
and the LORD's holy day honorable,
if you honor it by not going your own way
or seeking your own pleasure or speaking idle words,
14 then you will delight yourself in the LORD,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the land
and feed you with the heritage of your father Jacob."
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

59

1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.
2 But your iniquities have built barriers
between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he does not hear.
3 For your hands are stained with blood,
and your fingers with iniquity;
your lips have spoken lies,
and your tongue mutters injustice.

4 No one calls for justice;
no one pleads his case honestly.
They rely on empty pleas; they tell lies;
they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.
5 They hatch the eggs of vipers
and weave a spider's web.
Whoever eats their eggs will die;
crack one open, and a viper is hatched.
6 Their cobwebs cannot be made into clothing,
and they cannot cover themselves with their works.
Their deeds are sinful deeds,
and acts of violence are in their hands.

7 Their feet run to evil;
they are swift to shed innocent blood.
Their thoughts are sinful thoughts;
ruin and destruction* lie in their wake.
8 The way of peace they have not known,
and there is no justice in their tracks.
They have turned them into crooked paths;
no one who treads on them will know peace.

9 Therefore justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not reach us.
We hope for light, but there is darkness;
for brightness, but we walk in gloom.
10 Like the blind, we feel our way along the wall,
groping like those without eyes.
We stumble at midday as in the twilight;
among the vigorous we are like the dead.
11 We all growl like bears
and moan like doves.
We hope for justice, but find none,
for deliverance, but it is far from us.

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before you,
and our sins testify against us.
Our transgressions are indeed with us,
and we know our iniquities:
13 rebelling and denying the LORD,
turning away from our God,
speaking oppression and revolt,
conceiving and uttering lies from the heart.
14 So justice is turned away,
and righteousness stands at a distance.
For truth has stumbled in the public square,
and honesty cannot enter.
15 Truth is missing,
and whoever turns from evil becomes prey.

The LORD looked and was displeased†

* **59:7 59:7** LXX *misery* † **59:15 59:15** Hebrew *and it was evil in his eyes*

that there was no justice.
16 He saw that there was no man;
he was amazed that there was no one to intercede.
So his own arm brought deliverance,
and his own righteousness sustained him.
17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate,
and the helmet of deliverance on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in a cloak of zeal.
18 So he will repay according to their deeds:
fury to his enemies,
retribution to his foes,
and recompense to the coastlands.‡
19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD
where the sun sets,
and his glory where it rises.
For he will come like a raging flood,
driven by the breath of the LORD.§

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,*"
declares the LORD.
21 "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My spirit, which is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth† or from the mouths of your children and grandchildren, from now on and forevermore," says the LORD.

60

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
2 For behold, darkness covers the earth,
and thick darkness is over the peoples;
but the LORD will rise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around:
They all gather and come to you;
your sons will come from afar,
and your daughters will be carried on the arm.
5 Then you will look and be radiant,
and your heart will tremble and swell with joy,
because the riches of the sea will be brought to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you.
6 Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah,
and all from Sheba will come,

‡ **59:18 59:18** Or *islands* § **59:19 59:19** Or *When the enemy comes like a raging flood, the spirit of the LORD will drive him back* * **59:20 59:20** LXX *to remove godlessness from Jacob* † **59:21 59:21** Or *my spirit will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth*

bearing gold and frankincense
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.
7 All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered to you;
the rams of Nebaioth will serve you
and go up on my altar with acceptance;
I will adorn my glorious house.

8 Who are these who fly like clouds,
like doves to their shelters?
9 Surely the coastlands* will wait for me,
with the ships of Tarshish† in the lead,
to bring your children from afar,
with their silver and gold,
to the honor of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

10 Foreigners will rebuild your walls,
and their kings will serve you.
Although I struck you in anger,
yet in favor I will show you mercy.
11 Your gates will always stand open;
they will never be shut, day or night,
so that the wealth of the nations may be brought into you,
with their kings being led in procession.
12 For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish;
it will be utterly destroyed.

13 The glory of Lebanon will come to you—
its cypress,‡ elm, and boxwood together—
to adorn the place of my sanctuary,
and I will glorify the place of my feet.
14 The sons of your oppressors
will come and bow down to you;
all who reviled you
will fall facedown at your feet
and call you the City of the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

15 Whereas you have been forsaken and despised,
with no one passing through,
I will make you an everlasting pride,
a joy from age to age.
16 You will drink the milk of nations
and nurse at the breasts of royalty;
you will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

17 Instead of bronze I will bring you gold;
I will bring silver in place of iron,

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* **60:9 60:9** Or *islands* † **60:9 60:9** Or *a fleet of trading ships* ‡ **60:13 60:13** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

bronze instead of wood,
and iron instead of stones.
I will appoint peace as your governor
and righteousness as your ruler.
18 No longer will violence be heard in your land,
nor ruin or destruction within your borders.
But you will name your walls Deliverance
and your gates Praise.

19 No longer will the sun be your light by day,
nor the brightness of the moon shine on you;§
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your splendor.*
20 Your sun will no longer set,
and your moon will not wane;
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and the days of your sorrow will cease.

21 Then all your people will be righteous;
they will possess the land forever;
they are the branch of my planting,†
the work of my hands,
so that I may be glorified.
22 The least of you will become a thousand,
and the smallest a mighty nation.
I am the LORD;
in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

61

1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and freedom to the prisoners,*
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor†
and the day of our God's vengeance,
to comfort all who mourn,
3 to console the mourners in Zion—
to give them a crown of beauty for ashes,
the oil of joy for mourning,
and a garment of praise for a spirit of despair.
So they will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins;
they will restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities,

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§ **60:19 60:19** DSS, LXX, and Targum Yonaton *shine on your night* * **60:19 60:19** Or *your beauty*
† **60:21 60:21** Qere; Ketiv *his planting* * **61:1 61:1** LXX *to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind* † **61:2 61:2** Or *to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD*

the desolations of many generations.
5 Strangers will stand and feed your flocks,
and foreigners will be your plowmen and vinedressers.
6 But you will be called the priests of the LORD;
they will speak of you as ministers of our God;
you will feed on the wealth of nations,
and you will boast in their riches.
7 Instead of shame, my people will have a double portion,
and instead of humiliation, they will rejoice in their share;
and so they will inherit a double portion in their land,
and everlasting joy will be theirs.

8 For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery and iniquity;
in my faithfulness I will give them their recompense
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
9 Their descendants will be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the LORD has blessed.

10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD,
my soul will exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with garments of deliverance
and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom wears a priestly headdress,
as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its growth,
and as a garden enables seed to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

62

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep still,
until her righteousness shines like a bright light,
her deliverance like a blazing torch.
2 Nations will see your righteousness,
and all kings your glory.
You will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.
3 You will be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD,
a royal diadem in the palm of your God.
4 No longer will you be called Forsaken,*
nor your land named Desolate;†
but you will be called Hephzibah,‡
and your land Beulah;§
for the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be his bride.

* **62:4 62:4** Hebrew *Azubah* † **62:4 62:4** Hebrew *Shemamah* ‡ **62:4 62:4** *Hephzibah* means *my delight is in her.* § **62:4 62:4** *Beulah* means *married.*

5 For as a young man marries a young woman,
so your sons will marry you;
and as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so your God will rejoice over you.

6 On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen;
they will never be silent day or night.
You who call on the LORD
shall take no rest for yourselves,
7 nor give him any rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth.

8 The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
"Never again will I give your grain
to your enemies for food,
nor will foreigners drink the new wine
for which you have toiled.
9 For those who harvest grain
will eat it and praise the LORD,
and those who gather grapes
will drink the wine in my holy courts."

10 Go out, go out through the gates;
prepare the way for the people!
Build it up, build up the highway;
clear away the stones;
raise a banner for the nations!

11 Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the ends of the earth,
"Say to Daughter Zion:
See, your Savior comes!
Look, his reward is with him,
and his recompense goes before him."

12 And they will be called the Holy People,
the Redeemed of The LORD;
and you will be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

63

1 Who is this coming from Edom,
from Bozrah with crimson-stained garments?
Who is this robed in splendor,
marching in the greatness of his strength?

"It is I, proclaiming vindication,*
mighty to save."

* **63:1 63:1** Or *It is I, speaking in righteousness,*

2 Why are your clothes red,
and your garments like one who treads the winepress?

3 “I have trodden the winepress alone,
and no one from the nations was with me.
I trampled them in my anger
and trod them down in my fury;
their blood spattered my garments,
and all my clothes were stained.
4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart,
and the year of my redemption had come.
5 I looked, but there was no one to help;
I was appalled that no one assisted.
So my arm brought me deliverance,
and my own wrath upheld me.
6 I trampled the nations in my anger;
in my wrath I made them drunk
and poured out their blood on the ground.”
7 I will make known the LORD’s loving devotion
and his praiseworthy acts,
because of all that the LORD has done for us—
the many good things for the house of Israel
according to his great compassion and loving devotion.

8 For he said, “They are surely my people,
sons who will not be disloyal.”
So he became their Savior.
9 In all their distress, he too was afflicted,†
and the angel of his Presence saved them.
In his love and compassion he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

10 But they rebelled
and grieved his holy spirit.
So he turned and became their enemy,
and he himself fought against them.

11 Then his people remembered the days of old,
the days of Moses.
Where is he who brought them through the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is the One who set
his holy spirit among them,
12 who sent his glorious arm
to lead them by the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to gain for himself everlasting renown,
13 who led them through the depths
like a horse in the wilderness,
so that they did not stumble?

† **63:9 63:9** Qere; Ketiv *he was not afflicted*

14 Like cattle going down to the valley,
the spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
You led your people this way
to make for yourself a glorious name.
15 Look down from heaven and see,
from your holy and glorious habitation.
Where are your zeal and might?
Your yearning and compassion for me are restrained.
16 Yet you are our Father,
though Abraham does not know us
and Israel does not acknowledge us.
You, O LORD, are our Father;
our Redeemer from Everlasting is your name.

17 Why, O LORD, do you make us stray from your ways
and harden our hearts from fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
18 For a short while your people possessed your holy place,
but our enemies have trampled your sanctuary.
19 We have become like those you never ruled,
like those not called by your name.
If only you would rend the heavens and come down,
so that mountains would quake at your presence,

64

1 as fire kindles the brushwood
and causes the water to boil,
to make your name known to your enemies,
so that the nations will tremble at your presence!

2 When you did awesome works that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled at your presence.
3 From ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

4 You welcome those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
Surely you were angry, for we sinned.
How can we be saved if we remain in our sins?
5 Each of us has become like something unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;*
we all wither like a leaf,
and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.
6 No one calls on your name
or strives to take hold of you.
For you have hidden your face from us
and made us melt in the hand† of our iniquity.

* **64:5 64:5** Or *like a stained menstrual garment* † **64:6 64:6** LXX, Syriac, and Targum Yonaton *delivered us into the hand*

7 But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
8 Do not be angry, O LORD, beyond measure;
do not remember our iniquity forever.
Oh, look upon us, we pray;
we are all your people!
9 Your holy cities have become a wilderness.
Zion has become a wasteland and Jerusalem a desolation.
10 Our holy and beautiful temple,
where our fathers praised you,
has been burned with fire,
and all that was dear to us lies in ruins.
11 After all this, O LORD,
will you restrain yourself?
Will you keep silent
and afflict us beyond measure?

65

1 "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me;
I was found by those who did not seek me.
To a nation that was not called by my name,*
I said, 'Here I am! Here I am!'
2 All day long I have held out my hands
to an obstinate people†
who walk in the wrong path,
who follow their own imaginations,
3 to a people who continually provoke me to my face,
sacrificing in the gardens
and burning incense on altars of brick,
4 sitting among the graves,
spending nights in secret places,
eating the meat of pigs
and polluted broth‡ from their bowls.
5 They say, 'Keep to yourself;
do not come near me, for I am holier than you!'
Such people are smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.
6 Behold, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will pay it back into their laps,
7 both for your iniquities
and for those of your fathers,"
says the LORD.
"Because they burned incense on the mountains
and scorned me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
full payment for their former deeds."
8 This is what the LORD says:

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* **65:1 65:1** LXX *that did not call on my name* † **65:2 65:2** LXX *to a disobedient and obstinate people*
‡ **65:4 65:4** Qere; Ketiv *pieces of polluted meat*

“As the new wine is found in a cluster of grapes,
    and men say, ‘Do not destroy it, for it contains a blessing,’
so I will act on behalf of my servants;
    I will not destroy them all.
9 And I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
    and heirs
to my mountains out of Judah; my elect will possess them,§
    and my servants will dwell there.
10 Sharon will become a pasture for flocks,
    and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds,
    for my people who seek me.

11 But you who forsake the LORD,
    who forget my holy mountain,
who set a table for Fortune*
    and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny,†
12 I will destine you for the sword,
    and you will all kneel down to be slaughtered,
because I called and you did not answer,
    I spoke and you did not listen;
you did evil in my sight
    and chose that in which I did not delight.”
13 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says:

“My servants will eat,
    but you will go hungry;
my servants will drink,
    but you will go thirsty;
my servants will rejoice,
    but you will be put to shame.
14 My servants will shout for joy with a glad heart,
    but you will cry out with a heavy heart
    and wail with a broken spirit.

15 You will leave behind your name
    as a curse for my chosen ones,
and the Lord GOD will slay you;
    but to his servants he will give another name.
16 Whoever invokes a blessing in the land
    will do so by the God of truth,
and whoever takes an oath in the land
    will swear by the God of truth.
For the former troubles will be forgotten
    and hidden from my sight.
17 For behold, I will create
    new heavens and a new earth.‡
The former things will not be remembered,
    nor will they come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever

§ **65:9 65:9** Or *and heirs from Judah; my elect will possess my mountains* * **65:11 65:11** Hebrew *Gad,* the Babylonian god of fortune † **65:11 65:11** Hebrew *Meni,* the Babylonian god of fate ‡ **65:17 65:17** LXX *a new heaven and a new earth*; see also Isaiah 66:22.

in what I create;
for I will create Jerusalem to be a joy
and its people to be a delight.
19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and take delight in my people.
The sounds of weeping and crying
will no longer be heard in her.

20 No longer will a nursing infant live but a few days,
or an old man fail to live out his years.
For the youth will die at a hundred years,
and he who fails to reach a hundred
will be considered accursed.
21 They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 No longer will they build houses for others to inhabit,
nor plant for others to eat.
For as is the lifetime of a tree,
so will be the days of my people,
and my chosen ones will fully enjoy
the work of their hands.

23 They will not labor in vain
or bear children doomed to disaster;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD—
they and their descendants with them.
24 Even before they call, I will answer,
and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
but the food of the serpent§ will be dust.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.

66

1 This is what the LORD says:

"Heaven is my throne,
and earth is my footstool.
What kind of house will you build for me?
Or where will my place of repose be?
2 Has not my hand made all these things?
And so they came into being,"
declares the LORD.
"This is the one I will esteem:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit,
who trembles at my word.

§ **65:25 65:25** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

3 Whoever slaughters an ox is like one who slays a man;
whoever sacrifices a lamb is like one who breaks a dog's neck;
whoever presents a grain offering is like one who offers pig's blood;
whoever offers frankincense is like one who blesses an idol.
Indeed, they have chosen their own ways
and delighted in their abominations.
4 So I will choose their punishment
and I will bring terror upon them,
because I called and no one answered,
I spoke and no one listened.
But they did evil in my sight
and chose that in which I did not delight."

5 You who tremble at his word,
hear the word of the LORD:

"Your brothers who hate you
and exclude you because of my name
have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified
that we may see your joy!'
But they will be put to shame."

6 Hear the uproar from the city;
listen to the voice from the temple!
It is the voice of the LORD,
repaying his enemies what they deserve!
7 "Before she was in labor, she gave birth;
before she was in pain, she delivered a boy.
8 Who has heard of such as this?
Who has seen such things?
Can a country be born in a day
or a nation be delivered in an instant?
Yet as soon as Zion was in labor,
she gave birth to her children.
9 Shall I bring a baby to the point of birth and not deliver it?"
says the LORD.
"Or will I who deliver close the womb?"
says your God.

10 Be glad for Jerusalem and rejoice over her,
all who love her.
Rejoice greatly with her,
all who mourn over her,
11 so that you may nurse and be satisfied
at her comforting breasts;
you may drink deeply and delight yourselves
in her glorious abundance.
12 For this is what the LORD says:

"I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the wealth of nations like a flowing stream;
you will nurse and be carried on her arm,
and bounced upon her knees.

13 As a mother comforts her son,
so will I comfort you,
and you will be consoled over Jerusalem."

14 When you see, you will rejoice,
and you will flourish like grass;
then the hand of the LORD will be revealed to his servants,
but his wrath will be shown to his enemies.
15 For behold, the LORD will come with fire—
his chariots are like a whirlwind—
to execute his anger with fury
and his rebuke with flames of fire.
16 For by fire and by his sword,
the LORD will execute judgment on all flesh,
and many will be slain by the LORD.
17 "Those who consecrate and purify themselves to enter the groves—to follow one in the center of those who eat the flesh of swine and vermin and rats—will perish together," declares the LORD.
18 "And I, knowing their deeds and thoughts, am coming* to gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory.
19 I will establish a sign among them, and I will send survivors from among them to the nations—to Tarshish, Pul,† and the archers of Lud; to Tubal, Javan, and the coastlands‡ far away who have not heard of my fame or seen my glory.
So they will proclaim my glory among the nations.
20 And they will bring all your brothers from all the nations as a gift to the LORD on horses and chariots and wagons, on mules and camels, to my holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "just as the Israelites bring an offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD."
21 "And I will select some of them as priests and Levites," says the LORD.

22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth,§
which I will make, will endure before me,"
declares the LORD,
"so your descendants and your name will endure.
23 From one New Moon to another
and from one Sabbath to another,
all mankind will come to worship before me,"
says the LORD.
24 "As they go forth, they will see the corpses
of the men who have rebelled against me;
for their worm will never die,
their fire will never be quenched,
and they will be a horror
to all mankind."

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* **66:18 66:18** Literally *And I, their deeds and their thoughts, am coming* † **66:19 66:19** LXX *Put*
‡ **66:19 66:19** Or *islands* § **66:22 66:22** LXX *the new heaven and the new earth*; see also Isaiah 65:17.

Jeremiah

1 These are the words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests in
Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.
2 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in the thirteenth year of the
reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah,
3 and through the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, until the
fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah,
when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.
4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying:

5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I set you apart
and appointed you as a prophet to the nations."
6 "Ah, Lord GOD," I said, "I surely do not know how to speak, for I am
only a child!"
7 But the LORD told me:

"Do not say,
'I am only a child.'
For to everyone I send you,
you must go,
and all that I command you,
you must speak.
8 Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,"
declares the LORD.
9 Then the LORD reached out his hand, touched my mouth, and said to
me:

"Behold, I have put my words
in your mouth.
10 See, I have appointed you today
over nations and kingdoms
to uproot and tear down,
to destroy and overthrow,
to build and plant."
11 And the word of the LORD came to me, asking, "Jeremiah, what do you
see?"
"I see a branch of an almond tree," I replied.
12 "You have observed correctly," said the LORD, "for I am watching*
over my word to accomplish it."
13 Again the word of the LORD came to me, asking, "What do you see?"
"I see a boiling pot," I replied, "and it is tilting toward us from the north."
14 Then the LORD said to me, "Disaster from the north will be poured out
on all who live in the land.
15 For I am about to summon all the clans and kingdoms of the north,"
declares the LORD.

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* **1:12 1:12** The Hebrew for *watching* sounds like the Hebrew for *almond tree*.

“Their kings will come and set up their thrones
at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem.
They will attack all her surrounding walls
and all the other cities of Judah.
16 I will pronounce my judgments against them
for all their wickedness,
because they have forsaken me,
and they have burned incense to other gods
and worshiped the works of their own hands.
17 Get yourself ready.† Stand up and tell them everything that I
command you. Do not be intimidated by them, or I will terrify you before
them.
18 Now behold, this day I have made you like a fortified city, an iron
pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land—against the kings of
Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land.
19 They will fight against you but will never overcome you, since I am
with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.

2

1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem that this is what the
LORD says:

‘I remember the devotion of your youth,
your love as a bride,
how you followed me in the wilderness,
in a land not sown.
3 Israel was holy to the LORD,
the firstfruits of his harvest.
All who devoured her
were found guilty;
disaster came upon them,’ ”
declares the LORD.
4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all you families of
the house of Israel.
5 This is what the LORD says:

“What fault did your fathers find in me
that they strayed so far from me?
They followed worthless idols,
and became worthless themselves.
6 They did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us through the wilderness,
through a land of deserts and pits,
a land of drought and darkness,
a land where no one travels and no one lives?’

7 I brought you into a fertile land
to eat its fruit and bounty,
but you came and defiled my land
and made my inheritance detestable.

† **1:17 1:17** Hebrew *Gird up your loins.*

8 The priests did not ask,
'Where is the LORD?'
The experts in the law no longer knew me,
and the leaders rebelled against me.
The prophets prophesied by Baal
and followed useless idols.

9 Therefore, I will contend with you again,
declares the LORD,
and I will bring a case
against your children's children.
10 Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus*
and take a look;
send to Kedar and consider carefully;
see if there has ever been anything like this:
11 Has a nation ever changed its gods?
(Yet they are not gods at all.)
But my people have exchanged their Glory†
for useless idols.
12 Be stunned by this, O heavens;
be shocked and utterly appalled,"
declares the LORD.
13 "For my people have committed two evils:

They have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water,
and they have dug their own cisterns—
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
14 Is Israel a slave?
Was he born into slavery?
Why then has he become prey?
15 The young lions have roared at him;
they have sounded their voices.
They have laid waste his land;
his cities lie in ruins, without inhabitant.
16 The men of Memphis‡ and Tahpanhes
have shaved the crown of your head.
17 Have you not brought this on yourself
by forsaking the LORD your God
when he led you in the way?

18 Now what will you gain on your way to Egypt
to drink the waters of the Nile§?
What will you gain on your way to Assyria
to drink the waters of the Euphrates*?
19 Your own evil will discipline you;
your own apostasies will reprimand you.
Consider and realize
how evil and bitter it is
for you to forsake the LORD your God

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* **2:10 2:10** Hebrew *Kittim* † **2:11 2:11** Or *their glorious God* ‡ **2:16 2:16** Hebrew *Noph* § **2:18 2:18** Hebrew *of Shihor*, a branch of the Nile River * **2:18 2:18** Hebrew *the River*

and to have no fear of me,"
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts.
20 "For long ago I broke your yoke
and tore off your chains,†
and you said, 'I will not transgress!'‡
Indeed, on every high hill
and under every green tree
you lay down as a prostitute.
21 I had planted you like a choice vine
from the very best seed.
How could you turn yourself before me
into a rotten, wild vine?
22 Although you wash with lye
and use an abundance of soap,
the stain of your guilt
is still before me,"
declares the Lord GOD.
23 "How can you say, 'I am not defiled;
I have not run after the Baals'?
Look at your behavior in the valley;
acknowledge what you have done.
You are a swift young she-camel
galloping here and there,
24 a wild donkey at home in the wilderness,
sniffing the wind in the heat of her desire.§
Who can restrain her passion?
All who seek her need not weary themselves;
in mating season they will find her.
25 You should have kept your feet from going bare
and your throat from being thirsty.
But you said, 'It is hopeless!
For I love foreign gods,
and I must go after them.'

26 As the thief is ashamed when he is caught,
so the house of Israel is disgraced.
They, their kings, their officials,
their priests, and their prophets
27 say to a tree, 'You are my father,'
and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.'*
They have turned their backs to me
and not their faces.
Yet in the time of trouble, they say,
'Rise up and save us!'
28 But where are the gods you made for yourselves?
Let them rise up in your time of trouble
and save you if they can;
for your gods are as numerous
as your cities, O Judah.

† **2:20 2:20** LXX *you broke your yoke and tore off your chains* ‡ **2:20 2:20** Qere; Ketiv *I will not serve*
§ **2:24 2:24** Qere; Ketiv *his desire* * **2:27 2:27** Ketiv; Qere *you gave us birth*

29 Why do you bring a case against me?
You have all rebelled against me,"
declares the LORD.
30 "I have struck your sons in vain;
they accepted no discipline.
Your own sword has devoured your prophets
like a voracious lion."
31 You people of this generation, consider the word of the LORD:

"Have I been a wilderness to Israel
or a land of dense darkness?
Why do my people say,
'We are free to roam;
we will come to you no more'?
32 Does a maiden forget her jewelry
or a bride her wedding sash?
Yet my people have forgotten me
for days without number.

33 How skillfully you pursue love!
Even the most immoral of women
could learn from your ways.
34 Moreover, your skirts are stained
with the blood of the innocent poor,
though you did not find them breaking in.

But in spite of all these things
35 you say, 'I am innocent.
Surely his anger will turn from me.'
Behold, I will judge you,
because you say, 'I have not sinned.'

36 How impulsive you are,
constantly changing your ways!
You will be disappointed by Egypt
just as you were by Assyria.
37 Moreover, you will leave that place
with your hands on your head,
for the LORD has rejected those you trust;
you will not prosper by their help."

3

1 "If a man divorces his wife
and she leaves him to marry another,
can he ever return to her?
Would not such a land be completely defiled?
But you have played the harlot with many lovers—
and you would return to me?"
declares the LORD.
2 "Lift up your eyes to the barren heights and see.
Is there any place where you have not been violated?
You sat beside the highways waiting for your lovers,
like a nomad in the desert.

You have defiled the land
with your prostitution and wickedness.
3 Therefore the showers have been withheld,
and no spring rains have fallen.
Yet you have the brazen look of a prostitute;
you refuse to be ashamed.

4 Have you not just called to me,
'My Father, you are my friend from youth.
5 Will he be angry forever?
Will he be indignant to the end?'
This you have spoken,
but you keep doing all the evil you can."
6 Now in the days of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every green tree to prostitute herself there.
7 I thought that after she had done all these things, she would return to me. But she did not return, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it.
8 I saw* that because faithless Israel had committed adultery, I gave her a certificate of divorce and sent her away. Yet that unfaithful sister Judah had no fear and prostituted herself as well.
9 Indifferent to her own infidelity, Israel had defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees.
10 Yet in spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense," declares the LORD.
11 And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than unfaithful Judah.
12 Go, proclaim this message toward the north:

'Return, O faithless Israel,' declares the LORD.
'I will no longer look on you with anger,
for I am merciful,' declares the LORD.
'I will not be angry forever.
13 Only acknowledge your guilt,
that you have rebelled against the LORD your God.
You have scattered your favors to foreign gods
under every green tree
and have not obeyed my voice,' "
declares the LORD.
14 "Return, O faithless children," declares the LORD, "for I am your master, and I will take you—one from a city and two from a family—and bring you to Zion.
15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."
16 "In those days, when you multiply and increase in the land," declares the LORD, "they will no longer discuss the ark of the covenant of the LORD. It will never come to mind, and no one will remember it or miss it, nor will another one be made.
17 At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations will be gathered in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. They will no longer follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.

* **3:8 3:8** DSS, one LXX manuscript, and Syriac *She saw*

18 In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel,
and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I
gave to your fathers as an inheritance.

19 Then I said, ‘How I long to make you my sons
and give you a desirable land,
the most beautiful inheritance
of all the nations!’
I thought you would call me ‘Father’
and never turn away from following me.
20 But as a woman may betray her husband,
so you have betrayed me, O house of Israel,”
declares the LORD.
21 A voice is heard on the barren heights,
the children of Israel weeping and begging for mercy,
because they have perverted their ways
and forgotten the LORD their God.

22 “Return, O faithless children,
and I will heal your faithlessness.”

“Here we are. We come to you,
for you are the LORD our God.
23 Surely deception comes from the hills,
and commotion from the mountains.
Surely the deliverance of Israel
is in the LORD our God.
24 From our youth, that shameful god
has consumed what our fathers have worked for—
their flocks and herds,
their sons and daughters.
25 Let us lie down in our shame;
let our disgrace cover us.
We have sinned against the LORD our God,
both we and our fathers;
from our youth even to this day
we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.”

4

1 “If you will return, O Israel,
return to me,” declares the LORD.
“If you will remove your detestable idols from my sight
and no longer waver,
2 and if you can swear, ‘As surely as the LORD lives,’
in truth, in justice, and in righteousness,
then the nations will be blessed by him,
and in him they will glory.”

3 For this is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and Jerusalem:

“Break up your unplowed ground,
and do not sow among the thorns.
4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,

and remove the foreskins of your hearts,
O men of Judah and people of Jerusalem.
Otherwise, my wrath will break out like fire
and burn with no one to extinguish it,
because of your evil deeds."
5 Announce in Judah, proclaim in Jerusalem, and say:

"Blow the ram's horn throughout the land.
Cry aloud and say,
'Assemble yourselves
and let us flee to the fortified cities.'
6 Raise a signal flag toward Zion.
Seek refuge! Do not delay!
For I am bringing disaster from the north,
and terrible destruction.
7 A lion has gone up from his thicket,
and a destroyer of nations has set out.
He has left his lair
to lay waste your land.
Your cities will be reduced to ruins
and lie uninhabited.
8 So put on sackcloth,
mourn and wail,
for the fierce anger of the LORD
has not turned away from us."

9 "In that day," declares the LORD,
"the king and officials will lose their courage.
The priests will tremble in fear,
and the prophets will be astounded."
10 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, how completely you have deceived this people and Jerusalem by saying, 'You will have peace,' while a sword is at our throats."
11 At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, "A searing wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward the daughter of my people, but not to winnow or to sift;
12 a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I also pronounce judgments against them."

13 Behold, he advances like the clouds,
his chariots like the whirlwind.
His horses are swifter than eagles.
Woe to us, for we are ruined!
14 Wash the evil from your heart, O Jerusalem,
so that you may be saved.
How long will you harbor
wicked thoughts within you?
15 For a voice resounds from Dan,
proclaiming disaster from the hills of Ephraim.
16 Warn the nations now!
Proclaim to Jerusalem:
"A besieging army comes from a distant land;
they raise their voices against the cities of Judah.

17 They surround her like men guarding a field,
because she has rebelled against me," declares the LORD.
18 "Your ways and deeds
have brought this upon you.
This is your punishment; how bitter it is,
because it pierces to the heart!"
19 My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain!
Oh, the pain in my chest!
My heart pounds within me;
I cannot be silent.
For you, O my soul, have heard* the sound of the horn,
the alarm of battle.
20 Disaster after disaster is proclaimed,
for the whole land is laid waste.
My tents are destroyed in an instant,
my curtains in a moment.
21 How long must I see the signal flag
and hear the sound of the horn?

22 "For my people are fools;
they have not known me.
They are foolish children,
without understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil,
but they know not how to do good."

23 I looked at the earth,
and it was formless and void;
I looked to the heavens,
and they had no light.
24 I looked at the mountains,
and behold, they were quaking;
all the hills were swaying.
25 I looked, and no man was left;
all the birds of the air had fled.
26 I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert.
All its cities were torn down
before the LORD,
before his fierce anger.

27 For this is what the LORD says:

"The whole land will be desolate,
but I will not finish its destruction.
28 Therefore the earth will mourn
and the heavens above will grow dark.
I have spoken, I have planned,
and I will not relent or turn back."

29 Every city flees
at the sound of the horseman and archer.
They enter the thickets
and climb among the rocks.

* **4:19 4:19** Qere; Ketiv *I have heard*

Every city is abandoned;
no inhabitant is left.

30 And you, O devastated one, what will you do,
though you dress yourself in scarlet,
though you adorn yourself with gold jewelry,
though you enlarge your eyes with paint?
You adorn yourself in vain; your lovers despise you;
they want to take your life.
31 For I hear a cry like a woman in labor,
a cry of anguish like one bearing her first child—
the cry of the Daughter of Zion gasping for breath,
stretching out her hands to say,
"Woe is me,
for my soul faints before the murderers!"

5

1 "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem.
Look now and take note; search her squares.
If you can find a single person,
anyone who acts justly,
anyone who seeks the truth,
then I will forgive the city.
2 Although they say, 'As surely as the LORD lives,'
they are swearing falsely."

3 O LORD, do not your eyes look for truth?
You struck them, but they felt no pain.
You finished them off,
but they refused to accept discipline.
They have made their faces harder than stone
and refused to repent.

4 Then I said, "They are only the poor;
they have played the fool,
for they do not know the way of the LORD,
the justice of their God.
5 I will go to the powerful
and speak to them.
Surely they know the way of the LORD,
the justice of their God."

But they too, with one accord, had broken the yoke
and torn off the chains.
6 Therefore a lion from the forest will strike them down,
a wolf from the desert will ravage them.
A leopard will lie in wait near their cities,
and everyone who ventures out will be torn to pieces.
For their rebellious acts are many,
and their unfaithful deeds are numerous.

7 "Why should I forgive you?

Your children have forsaken me
and sworn by gods that are not gods.
I satisfied their needs, yet they committed adultery
and assembled at the houses of prostitutes.
8 They are well-fed, lusty stallions,
each neighing after his neighbor's wife.
9 Should I not punish them for these things?"
declares the LORD.
"Should I not avenge myself
on such a nation as this?
10 Go up through her vineyards and ravage them,
but do not finish them off.
Strip off her branches,
for they do not belong to the LORD.
11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah
have been utterly unfaithful to me,"
declares the LORD.
12 They have lied about the LORD and said:

"He will not do anything; harm will not come to us;
we will not see sword or famine.
13 The prophets are but wind,
for the word is not in them.
So let this befall them.*"
14 Therefore this is what the LORD God of Hosts says:

"Because you have spoken this word,
I will make my words a fire in your mouth
and this people the wood it consumes.
15 Behold, I am bringing a distant nation against you,
O house of Israel," declares the LORD.
"It is an established nation,
an ancient nation,
a nation whose language you do not know
and whose speech you do not understand.
16 Their quivers are like open graves;
they are all mighty men.
17 They will devour your harvest and food;
they will consume your sons and daughters;
they will eat up your flocks and herds;
they will feed on your vines and fig trees.
With the sword they will destroy
the fortified cities in which you trust."
18 "Yet even in those days," declares the LORD, "I will not make a full end of you.
19 And when the people ask, 'For what offense has the LORD our God done all these things to us?' You are to tell them, 'Just as you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your land, so will you serve foreigners in a land that is not your own.' "

20 Declare this in the house of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah:

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* **5:13 5:13** Or *So let their own predictions befall them.*

21 “Hear this,
O foolish and senseless people,
who have eyes but do not see,
who have ears but do not hear.
22 Do you not fear me?”
declares the LORD.
“Do you not tremble before me,
the One who set the sand as the boundary for the sea,
an enduring barrier it cannot cross?
The waves surge, but they cannot prevail.
They roar but cannot cross it.

23 But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts.
They have turned aside and gone away.
24 They have not said in their hearts,
‘Let us fear the LORD our God,
who gives the rains, both autumn and spring, in season,
who keeps for us the appointed weeks of harvest.’

25 Your iniquities have diverted these from you;
your sins have deprived you of my bounty.
26 For among my people are wicked men;
they watch like fowlers lying in wait;
they set a trap to catch men.
27 Like cages full of birds,
so their houses are full of deceit.
Therefore they have become powerful and rich.

28 They have grown fat and sleek,
and have excelled in the deeds of the wicked.
They have not taken up the cause of the fatherless,
that they might prosper;
nor have they defended
the rights of the needy.
29 Should I not punish them for these things?”
declares the LORD.
“Should I not avenge myself
on such a nation as this?

30 A horrible and shocking thing
has happened in the land.
31 The prophets prophesy falsely,
and the priests rule by their own authority.
My people love it so,
but what will you do in the end?

6

1 “Run for cover, O sons of Benjamin;
flee from Jerusalem!
Sound the ram’s horn in Tekoa;
send up a signal over Beth-haccherem,
for disaster looms from the north,
even great destruction.

2 Though she is beautiful and delicate,
I will destroy the Daughter of Zion.*
3 Shepherds and their flocks
will come against her;
they will pitch their tents all around her,
each tending his own portion:
4 'Prepare for battle against her;
rise up, let us attack at noon.
Woe to us, for the daylight is fading;
the evening shadows grow long.
5 Rise up, let us attack by night
and destroy her fortresses!' "
6 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Cut down the trees
and raise a siege ramp against Jerusalem.
This city must be punished;
there is nothing but oppression in her midst.
7 As a well gushes its water,
so she pours out her evil.
Violence and destruction resound in her;
sickness and wounds are ever before me.
8 Be forewarned, O Jerusalem,
or I will turn away from you;
I will make you a desolation,
a land without inhabitant."
9 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"They will glean the remnant of Israel
as thoroughly as a vine.†
Pass your hand once more like a grape gatherer
over the branches."

10 To whom can I give this warning?
Who will listen to me?
Look, their ears are closed,‡
so they cannot hear.
See, the word of the LORD has become offensive to them;
they find no pleasure in it.
11 But I am full of the LORD's wrath;
I am tired of holding it back.

"Pour it out on the children in the street,
and on the young men gathered together.
For both husband and wife will be captured,
the old and the very old alike.
12 Their houses will be turned over to others,
their fields and wives as well,
for I will stretch out my hand
against the inhabitants of the land,"
declares the LORD.

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* **6:2 6:2** Or *To a lovely and delicate woman I have likened the Daughter of Zion* † **6:9 6:9** LXX *Glean …* ‡ **6:10 6:10** Hebrew *uncircumcised*

13 “For from the least of them to the greatest,
all are greedy for gain;
from prophet to priest,
all practice deceit.
14 They dress the wound of my people
with very little care,
saying, ‘Peace, peace,’
when there is no peace at all.
15 Are they ashamed of the abomination they have committed?
No, they have no shame at all;
they do not even know how to blush.
So they will fall among the fallen;
when I punish them, they will collapse,”
says the LORD.
16 This is what the LORD says:

“Stand at the crossroads and look.
Ask for the ancient paths: ‘Where is the good way?’
Then walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it!’
17 I appointed watchmen over you and said,
‘Listen for the sound of the ram’s horn.’
But they answered, ‘We will not listen!’
18 Therefore hear, O nations,
and learn, O congregations,
what will happen to them.
19 Hear, O earth! I am bringing disaster on this people,
the fruit of their own schemes,
because they have paid no attention to my word
and have rejected my instruction.
20 What use to me is frankincense from Sheba
or sweet cane from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable;
your sacrifices do not please me.”
21 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“I will lay stumbling blocks before this people;
fathers and sons alike will be staggered;
friends and neighbors will perish.”
22 This is what the LORD says:

“Behold, an army is coming
from the land of the north;
a great nation is stirred up
from the ends of the earth.
23 They grasp the bow and javelin;§
they are cruel and merciless.
Their voice roars like the sea,
and they ride upon horses,
lined up like men in formation
against you, O Daughter of Zion.”

§ **6:23 6:23** Or *spear*

24 We have heard the report;
our hands hang limp.
Anguish has gripped us,
pain like that of a woman in labor.
25 Do not go out to the fields;
do not walk the road.
For the enemy has a sword;
terror is on every side.
26 O daughter of my people,
dress yourselves in sackcloth and roll in ashes.
Mourn with bitter wailing,
as you would for an only son,
for suddenly the destroyer
will come upon us.

27 "I have appointed you to examine my people like ore,*
so you may know and try their ways.
28 All are hardened rebels,
walking around as slanderers.
They are bronze and iron;
all of them are corrupt.
29 The bellows blow fiercely,
blasting away the lead with fire.†
The refining proceeds in vain,
for the wicked are not purged.
30 They are called rejected silver,
because the LORD has rejected them."

7

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
2 "Stand in the gate of the house of the LORD and proclaim this message: Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who enter through these gates to worship the LORD.
3 Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: Correct your ways and deeds, and I will let you live in this place.
4 Do not trust in deceptive words, saying:

'This is the temple of the LORD,
the temple of the LORD,
the temple of the LORD.'
5 For if you really correct your ways and deeds, if you act justly toward one another,
6 if you no longer oppress the foreigner and the fatherless and the widow, and if you no longer shed innocent blood in this place or follow other gods to your own harm,
7 then I will let you live in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.
8 But look, you keep trusting in deceptive words to no avail.
9 Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal, and follow other gods that you have not known,

* **6:27 6:27** Or *to examine my people, a fortress* † **6:29 6:29** Qere; Ketiv *the lead from their fire*

10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my
Name, and say, ‘We are delivered, so we can continue with all these
abominations’?
11 Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers in
your sight? Yes, I too have seen it, declares the LORD.
12 But go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my
Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people
Israel.
13 And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD,
and because I have spoken to you again and again* but you would not
listen, and I have called to you but you would not answer,
14 therefore what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my
Name, the house in which you trust, the place that I gave to you and your
fathers.
15 And I will cast you out of my presence, just as I have cast out all your
brothers, all the descendants of Ephraim.
16 As for you, do not pray for these people, do not offer a plea or petition
on their behalf, and do not beg me, for I will not listen to you.
17 Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the
streets of Jerusalem?
18 The sons gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead
the dough to make cakes for the Queen of Heaven; they pour out drink
offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger.
19 But am I the One they are provoking? declares the LORD. Is it not
themselves they spite, to their own shame?
20 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, my anger and my
fury will be poured out on this place, on man and beast, on the trees of the
field and the produce of the land, and it will burn and not be extinguished.
21 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Add your
burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat yourselves!
22 For when I brought your fathers out of the land of Egypt, I did not
merely command them about burnt offerings and sacrifices,
23 but this is what I commanded them: Obey me, and I will be your God,
and you will be my people. You must walk in all the ways I have
commanded you, so that it may go well with you.
24 Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but they followed the
stubborn inclinations of their own evil hearts. They went backward and
not forward.
25 From the day your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day,
I have sent you all my servants the prophets again and again.†
26 Yet they would not listen to me or incline their ear, but they stiffened
their necks and did more evil than their fathers.
27 When you tell them all these things, they will not listen to you. When
you call to them, they will not answer.
28 Therefore you must say to them, ‘This is the nation that would not
listen to the voice of the LORD their God and would not receive correction.
Truth has perished; it has disappeared from their lips.
29 Cut off your hair and throw it away. Raise up a lamentation on the
barren heights, for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of
his wrath.’

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* **7:13 7:13** Literally *I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,* † **7:25 7:25** Literally *I have sent you all my servants the prophets daily, rising up early and sending (them).*

30 For the people of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the LORD.
They have set up their abominations in the house that bears my Name,
and so have defiled it.
31 They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of
Ben-hinnom so they could burn their sons and daughters in the
fire—something I never commanded, nor did it even enter my mind.
32 So behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when this place
will no longer be called Topheth and the Valley of Ben-hinnom, but the
Valley of Slaughter. For they will bury the dead in Topheth until there is
no more room.
33 The corpses of this people will become food for the birds of the air
and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to scare them away.
34 I will remove from the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem the
sounds of joy and gladness and the voices of the bride and bridegroom, for
the land will become a wasteland."

8

1 "At that time," declares the LORD, "the bones of the kings of Judah, the
bones of the officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets,
and the bones of the people of Jerusalem will be removed from their
graves.
2 They will be exposed to the sun and moon, and to all the host of
heaven which they have loved, served, followed, consulted, and
worshiped. Their bones will not be gathered up or buried, but will
become like dung lying on the ground.
3 And wherever I have banished them, the remnant of this evil family
will choose death over life," declares the LORD of Hosts.
4 So you are to tell them this is what the LORD says:

"Do men fall and not get up again?
Does one turn away and not return?
5 Why then have these people turned away?
Why does Jerusalem always turn away?
They cling to deceit;
they refuse to return.
6 I have listened and heard;
they do not speak what is right.
No one repents of his wickedness,
asking, 'What have I done?'
Everyone has pursued his own course
like a horse charging into battle.
7 Even the stork in the sky
knows her appointed seasons.
The turtledove, the swift, and the thrush*
keep their time of migration,
but my people do not know
the requirements of the LORD.

8 How can you say, 'We are wise,
and the Teaching of the LORD is with us,'
when in fact the lying pen of the scribes

* **8:7 8:7** The precise identification of some of these birds is uncertain.

has produced a deception?
9 The wise will be put to shame;
they will be dismayed and trapped.
Since they have rejected the word of the LORD,
what wisdom do they really have?

10 Therefore I will give their wives to other men
and their fields to new owners.
For from the least of them to the greatest,
all are greedy for gain;
from prophet to priest,
all practice deceit.
11 They dress the wound of the daughter of my people
with very little care,
saying, 'Peace, peace,'
when there is no peace at all.
12 Are they ashamed of the abomination they have committed?
No, they have no shame at all;
they do not even know how to blush.
So they will fall among the fallen;
when I punish them, they will collapse,
says the LORD.

13 I will surely make an end of them,†
declares the LORD.
There will be no grapes on the vine,
nor figs on the tree,
and even the leaf will wither.
Whatever I have given them will be lost to them."
14 Why are we just sitting here?
Gather together,
let us flee to the fortified cities and perish there,
for the LORD our God has doomed us.
He has given us poisoned water to drink,
because we have sinned against the LORD.
15 We hoped for peace,
but no good has come,
for a time of healing,
but there was only terror.

16 The snorting of enemy horses
is heard from Dan.
At the sound of the neighing of mighty steeds,
the whole land quakes.
They come to devour the land and everything in it,
the city and all who dwell in it.

17 "For behold, I will send snakes among you,
vipers that cannot be charmed,
and they will bite you,"
declares the LORD.

† **8:13 8:13** Or (with a different vocalization) *I will take away their harvest*

18 My sorrow is beyond healing;‡
my heart is faint within me.
19 Listen to the cry of the daughter of my people
from a land far away:

"Is the LORD no longer in Zion?
Is her King no longer there?"

"Why have they provoked me to anger
with their carved images,
with their worthless foreign idols?"

20 "The harvest has passed, the summer has ended,
but we have not been saved."

21 For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am crushed.
I mourn; horror has gripped me.
22 Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is no physician there?
Why then has the health of the daughter of my people
not been restored?
23 Oh, that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
over the slain daughter of my people.

9

1 If only I had a traveler's lodge in the wilderness,
I would abandon my people and depart from them,
for they are all adulterers,
a crowd of faithless people.

2 "They bend their tongues like bows;
lies prevail over truth in the land.
For they proceed from evil to evil,
and they do not take me into account,"
declares the LORD.
3 "Let everyone guard against his neighbor;
do not trust any brother,
for every brother deals craftily,
and every friend spreads slander.
4 Each one betrays his friend;
no one tells the truth.
They have taught their tongues to lie;
they wear themselves out committing iniquity.
5 You dwell* in the midst of deception;
in their deceit they refuse to know me,"
declares the LORD.
6 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Behold, I will refine them and test them,

‡ **8:18 8:18** Or *O my Comforter in sorrow,* * **9:5 9:5** That is, Jeremiah dwells (the Hebrew is singular)

for what else can I do
because of† the daughter of my people?
7 Their tongues are deadly arrows;
they speak deception.
With his mouth a man speaks peace to his neighbor,
but in his heart he sets a trap for him.
8 Should I not punish them for these things?
declares the LORD.
Should I not avenge myself
on such a nation as this?"

9 I will take up a weeping and wailing for the mountains,
a dirge over the wilderness pasture,
for they have been scorched so no one passes through,
and the lowing of cattle is not heard.
Both the birds of the air and the beasts have fled;
they have gone away.

10 "And I will make Jerusalem a heap of rubble,
a haunt for jackals;‡
and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation,
without inhabitant."

11 Who is the man wise enough to understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may explain it? Why is the land destroyed and scorched like a desert, so no one can pass through it?
12 And the LORD answered, "It is because they have forsaken my law, which I set before them; they have not walked in it or obeyed my voice.
13 Instead, they have followed the stubbornness of their hearts and gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them."
14 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:
"Behold, I will feed this people wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink.
15 I will scatter them among the nations that neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send a sword after them until I have finished them off."
16 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Take note, and summon the wailing women;
send for the most skillful among them.
17 Let them come quickly
and take up a lament over us,
that our eyes may overflow with tears,
and our eyelids may gush with water.
18 For the sound of wailing
is heard from Zion:
'How devastated we are!
How great is our shame!
For we have abandoned the land
because our dwellings have been torn down.' "

19 Now, O women, hear the word of the LORD.

† **9:6 9:6** LXX *because of the wickedness of* ‡ **9:10 9:10** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

Open your ears to the word of his mouth.
Teach your daughters to wail,
and one another to lament.
20 For death has climbed in through our windows;
it has entered our fortresses
to cut off the children from the streets,
the young men from the town squares.
21 Declare that this is what the LORD says:

"The corpses of men will fall like dung
upon the open field,
like newly cut grain behind the reaper,
with no one to gather it."
22 This is what the LORD says:

"Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom,
nor the strong man in his strength,
nor the wealthy man in his riches.
23 But let him who boasts boast in this,
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD,
who exercises loving devotion,§
justice and righteousness on the earth—
for I delight in these things,"
declares the LORD.
24 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will punish
all who are circumcised only in the flesh—
25 Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab, and all the inhabitants of the
desert who clip the hair of their temples. For all these nations are
uncircumcised, and the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart."

10

1 Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.
2 This is what the LORD says:

"Do not learn the ways of the nations
or be terrified by the signs in the heavens,
though the nations themselves are terrified by them.
3 For the customs of the peoples are worthless;
they cut down a tree from the forest;
it is shaped with a chisel
by the hands of a craftsman.
4 They adorn it with silver and gold
and fasten it with hammer and nails,
so that it will not totter.

5 Like scarecrows in a cucumber patch,
their idols cannot speak.
They must be carried
because they cannot walk.

§ **9:23 9:23** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

Do not fear them, for they can do no harm,
and neither can they do any good."

6 There is none like you, O LORD.
You are great, and your name is mighty in power.
7 Who would not fear you, O King of nations?
This is your due.
For among all the wise men of the nations,
and in all their kingdoms,
there is none like you.

8 But they are altogether senseless and foolish,
instructed by worthless idols made of wood!
9 Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish,
and gold from Uphaz—
the work of a craftsman
from the hands of a goldsmith.
Their clothes are blue and purple,
all fashioned by skilled workers.
10 But the LORD is the true God;
he is the living God and eternal King.
The earth quakes at his wrath,
and the nations cannot endure his indignation.
11 Thus you are to tell them: "These gods, who have made neither the heavens nor the earth, will perish from this earth and from under these heavens."*

12 The LORD made the earth by his power;
he established the world by his wisdom
and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.
13 When he thunders,
the waters in the heavens roar;
he causes the clouds to rise
from the ends of the earth.
He generates the lightning with the rain
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

14 Every man is senseless and devoid of knowledge;
every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols.
For his molten images are a fraud,
and there is no breath in them.
15 They are worthless, a work to be mocked.
In the time of their punishment they will perish.

16 The Portion of Jacob is not like these,
for he is the Maker of all things,
and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance—
the LORD of Hosts is his name.
17 Gather up your belongings from this land, you who live under siege.
18 For this is what the LORD says:

* **10:11 10:11** The original text of this verse is in Aramaic.

“Behold, at this time I will sling out
the inhabitants of the land
and bring distress upon them
so that they may find it so.”†

19 Woe to me because of my brokenness;
my wound is grievous!
But I said, “This is truly my sickness,
and I must bear it.”
20 My tent is destroyed,
and all its ropes are snapped.
My sons have departed from me
and are no more.
I have no one left to pitch my tent
or set up my curtains.

21 For the shepherds have become senseless;
they do not seek the LORD.
Therefore they have not prospered,
and all their flock is scattered.
22 Listen! The sound of a report is coming—
a great commotion from the land to the north.
It will make the cities of Judah a desolation,
a haunt for jackals.‡

23 I know, O LORD, that a man’s way is not his own;
no one who walks directs his own steps.
24 Correct me, O LORD,
but only with justice—
not in your anger,
or you will bring me to nothing.

25 Pour out your wrath on the nations
that do not acknowledge you,
and on the families
that do not call on your name.
For they have devoured Jacob;
they have consumed him and finished him off;
they have devastated his homeland.

11

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
2 “Listen to the words of this covenant and tell them to the men of Judah
and the residents of Jerusalem.
3 You must tell them that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:
Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant,
4 which I commanded your forefathers when I brought them out of the
land of Egypt, out of the iron furnace, saying, ‘Obey me, and do everything
I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God.’
5 This was in order to establish the oath I swore to your forefathers, to
give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is to this day.”

† **10:18 10:18** Or (with a different vocalization) *so that they may be found* or *captured* ‡ **10:22 10:22** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

"Amen, LORD," I answered.
6 Then the LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of
Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying: Hear the words of this
covenant and carry them out.
7 For from the time I brought your fathers out of the land of Egypt until
today, I strongly warned them again and again,* saying, 'Obey my voice.'
8 Yet they would not obey or incline their ears, but each one followed
the stubbornness of his evil heart. So I brought on them all the curses of
this covenant I had commanded them to follow but they did not keep."
9 And the LORD told me, "There is a conspiracy among the men of Judah
and the residents of Jerusalem.
10 They have returned to the sins of their forefathers who refused to
obey my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. The house
of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the covenant I made with
their fathers.
11 Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'I am about to bring upon them
a disaster that they cannot escape. They will cry out to me, but I will not
listen to them.
12 Then the cities of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem will go and cry
out to the gods to which they have been burning incense, but these gods
certainly will not save them in their time of disaster.
13 Your gods are indeed as numerous as your cities, O Judah; the altars
of shame you have set up—the altars to burn incense to Baal—are as
many as the streets of Jerusalem.'
14 As for you, do not pray for these people. Do not raise up a cry or a
prayer on their behalf, for I will not be listening when they call out to me
in their time of disaster.

15 What right has my beloved in my house,
having carried out so many evil schemes?
Can consecrated meat avert your doom? When you are wicked,
then you rejoice.
16 The LORD once called you a flourishing olive tree,
beautiful with well-formed fruit.
But with a mighty roar he will set it on fire,
and its branches will be consumed.
17 The LORD of Hosts, who planted you, has decreed disaster against you
on account of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have
brought upon themselves, provoking me to anger by burning incense to
Baal."
18 And the LORD informed me, so I knew.
Then you showed me their deeds.
19 For I was like a gentle lamb led to slaughter;
I did not know that they had plotted against me:
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
that his name may be remembered no more."

20 O LORD of Hosts, who judges righteously,
who examines the heart† and mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,

* **11:7 11:7** Literally *I earnestly warned them, rising up early and warning (them),* † **11:20 11:20** Hebrew *the kidneys*

for to you I have committed my cause.
21 Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the people of
Anathoth who are seeking your life and saying, “You must not prophesy in
the name of the LORD, or you will die by our hand.”
22 So this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “I will punish them. Their
young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine.
23 There will be no remnant, for I will bring disaster on the people of
Anathoth in the year of their punishment.”

12

1 Righteous are you, O LORD,
when I plead before you.
Yet about your judgments
I wish to contend with you:

Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all the faithless live at ease?
2 You planted them, and they have taken root.
They have grown and produced fruit.
You are ever on their lips,
but far from their hearts.*
3 But you know me, O LORD;
you see me and test my heart toward you.
Drag away the wicked like sheep to the slaughter
and set them apart for the day of carnage.
4 How long will the land mourn
and the grass of every field be withered?
Because of the evil of its residents,
the animals and birds have been swept away,
for the people have said,
“He cannot see what our end will be.”
5 “If you have raced with men on foot
and they have worn you out,
how can you compete with horses?
If you stumble in a peaceful land,
how will you do in the thickets of the Jordan?
6 Even your brothers—
your own father’s household—
even they have betrayed you;
even they have cried aloud against you.
Do not trust them,
though they speak well of you.

7 I have forsaken my house;
I have abandoned my inheritance.
I have given the beloved of my soul
into the hands of her enemies.
8 My inheritance has become to me
like a lion in the forest.
She has roared against me;
therefore I hate her.

* **12:2 12:2** Hebrew *their kidneys*

9 Is not my inheritance to me
like a speckled bird of prey
with other birds of prey† circling against her?
Go, gather all the beasts of the field;
bring them to devour her.

10 Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard;
they have trampled my plot of ground.
They have turned my pleasant field
into a desolate wasteland.
11 They have made it a desolation;
desolate before me, it mourns.
All the land is laid waste,
but no man takes it to heart.
12 Over all the barren heights in the wilderness
the destroyers have come,
for the sword of the LORD devours
from one end of the earth to the other.
No flesh has peace.

13 They have sown wheat but harvested thorns.
They have exhausted themselves to no avail.
Bear the shame of your harvest
because of the fierce anger of the LORD."
14 This is what the LORD says: "As for all my evil neighbors who attack the inheritance that I bequeathed to my people Israel, I am about to uproot them from their land, and I will uproot the house of Judah from among them.
15 But after I have uprooted them, I will once again have compassion on them and return each one to his inheritance and to his land.
16 And if they will diligently learn the ways of my people and swear by my name, saying, 'As surely as the LORD lives'—just as they once taught my people to swear by Baal—then they will be established among my people.
17 But if they will not obey, then I will uproot that nation; I will uproot it and destroy it, declares the LORD."

13

1 This is what the LORD said to me: "Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water."
2 So I bought a loincloth in accordance with the word of the LORD, and I put it around my waist.
3 Then the word of the LORD came to me a second time:
4 "Take the loincloth that you bought and are wearing, and go at once to Perath* and hide it there in a crevice of the rocks."
5 So I went and hid it at Perath, as the LORD had commanded me.
6 Many days later the LORD said to me, "Arise, go to Perath, and get the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there."
7 So I went to Perath and dug up the loincloth, and I took it from the place where I had hidden it. But now it was ruined—of no use at all.
8 Then the word of the LORD came to me:

† **12:9 12:9** Or *like a speckled hyena with birds of prey*
* **13:4 13:4** Or possibly *to the Euphrates*; similarly in verses 5–7

9 “This is what the LORD says: In the same way I will ruin the pride of
Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.
10 These evil people, who refuse to listen to my words, who follow the
stubbornness of their own hearts, and who go after other gods to serve
and worship them, they will be like this loincloth—of no use at all.
11 For just as a loincloth clings to a man’s waist, so I have made the
whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares
the LORD, so that they might be my people for my renown and praise and
glory. But they did not listen.
12 Therefore you are to tell them that this is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: ‘Every wineskin shall be filled with wine.’
And when they reply, ‘Don’t we surely know that every wineskin should
be filled with wine?’
13 then you are to tell them that this is what the LORD says: ‘I am going
to fill with drunkenness all who live in this land—the kings who sit on
David’s throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the people of Jerusalem.
14 I will smash them against one another, fathers and sons alike, declares
the LORD. I will allow no mercy or pity or compassion to keep me from
destroying them.’ ”
15 Listen and give heed. Do not be arrogant,
for the LORD has spoken.
16 Give glory to the LORD your God
before he brings darkness,
before your feet stumble
on the dusky mountains.
You wait for light,
but he turns it into deep gloom and thick darkness.
17 But if you do not listen,
I will weep in secret because of your pride.
My eyes will overflow with tears,
because the LORD’s flock has been taken captive.

18 Say to the king
and to the queen mother:
“Take a lowly seat,
for your glorious crowns have fallen from your heads.”

19 The cities of the Negev have been shut tight,
and no one can open them.
All Judah has been carried into exile,
wholly taken captive.
20 Lift up your eyes and see
those coming from the north.
Where is the flock entrusted to you,
the sheep that were your pride?

21 What will you say when he sets over you
close allies whom you yourself trained?
Will not pangs of anguish grip you,
as they do a woman in labor?
22 And if you ask yourself,

"Why has this happened to me?"
It is because of the magnitude of your iniquity
that your skirts have been stripped off
and your body has been exposed.†
23 Can the Ethiopian‡ change his skin,
or the leopard his spots?
Neither are you able to do good—
you who are accustomed to doing evil.

24 "I will scatter them like chaff
driven by the desert wind.
25 This is your lot,
the portion I have measured to you,"
declares the LORD,
"because you have forgotten me
and trusted in falsehood.
26 So I will pull your skirts up over your face,
that your shame may be seen.
27 Your adulteries and lustful neighings,
your shameless prostitution
on the hills and in the fields—
I have seen your detestable acts.
Woe to you, O Jerusalem!
How long will you remain unclean?"

14

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

2 "Judah mourns
and her gates languish.
Her people wail for the land,
and a cry goes up from Jerusalem.
3 The nobles send their servants for water;
they go to the cisterns, but find no water;
their jars return empty.
They are ashamed and humiliated;
they cover their heads.
4 The ground is cracked
because no rain has fallen on the land.
The farmers are ashamed;
they cover their heads.
5 Even the doe in the field deserts her newborn fawn
because there is no grass.
6 Wild donkeys stand on barren heights;
they pant for air like jackals;*
their eyes fail for lack of pasture."

7 Although our iniquities testify against us, O LORD,
act for the sake of your name.

† **13:22 13:22** Literally *and your heels have suffered violence* ‡ **13:23 13:23** Hebrew *that Cushite*; that is, probably a person from the upper Nile region * **14:6 14:6** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

Indeed, our rebellions are many;
we have sinned against you.
8 O Hope of Israel,
its Savior in times of distress,
why are you like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler who stays but a night?
9 Why are you like a man taken by surprise,
like a warrior powerless to save?
Yet you are among us, O LORD,
and we are called by your name.

Do not forsake us!
10 This is what the LORD says about this people:

"Truly they love to wander;
they have not restrained their feet.
So the LORD does not accept them;
he will now remember their iniquity
and punish them for their sins."
11 Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for the well-being of this people.
12 Although they may fast, I will not listen to their cry; although they may offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Instead, I will finish them off by sword and famine and plague."
13 "Ah, Lord GOD!" I replied, "Look, the prophets are telling them, 'You will not see the sword or suffer famine, but I will give you lasting peace in this place.' "
14 "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name," replied the LORD. "I did not send them or appoint them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a false vision, a worthless divination, the futility and delusion of their own minds.
15 Therefore this is what the LORD says about the prophets who prophesy in my name: I did not send them, yet they say, 'No sword or famine will touch this land.'
By sword and famine these very prophets will meet their end!
16 And the people to whom they prophesy will be thrown into the streets of Jerusalem because of famine and sword. There will be no one to bury them or their wives, their sons or their daughters. I will pour out their own evil upon them.
17 You are to speak this word to them:

'My eyes overflow with tears;
day and night they do not cease,
for the virgin daughter of my people
has been shattered by a crushing blow,
a severely grievous wound.
18 If I go out to the country,
I see those slain by the sword;
if I enter the city,
I see those ravaged by famine!
For both prophet and priest
travel to a land they do not know.' "

19 Have you rejected Judah completely?
Do you despise Zion?
Why have you stricken us
so that we are beyond healing?
We hoped for peace,
but no good has come,
and for the time of healing,
but there was only terror.
20 We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
the guilt of our fathers;
indeed, we have sinned against you.

21 For the sake of your name do not despise us;
do not disgrace your glorious throne.
Remember your covenant with us;
do not break it.
22 Can the worthless idols of the nations bring rain?
Do the skies alone send showers?
Is this not by you, O LORD our God?
So we put our hope in you,
for you have done all these things.

15

1 Then the LORD said to me: “Even if Moses and Samuel should stand
before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them from my
presence, and let them go!
2 If they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ you are to tell them that this is
what the LORD says:

‘Those destined for death, to death;
those destined for the sword, to the sword;
those destined for famine, to famine;
and those destined for captivity, to captivity.’
3 I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, declares the LORD:
the sword to kill, the dogs to drag away, and the birds of the air and beasts
of the earth to devour and destroy.
4 I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of
what Manasseh son of Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem.

5 Who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem?
Who will mourn for you?
Who will turn aside
to ask about your welfare?
6 You have forsaken me, declares the LORD.
You have turned your back.
So I will stretch out my hand against you
and I will destroy you;
I am weary of showing compassion.

7 I will scatter them with a winnowing fork
at the gates of the land.
I will bereave and destroy my people
who have not turned from their ways.

8 I will make their widows more numerous
than the sand of the sea.
I will bring a destroyer at noon
against the mothers of young men.
I will suddenly bring upon them
anguish and dismay.

9 The mother of seven will grow faint;
she will breathe her last breath.
Her sun will set while it is still day;
she will be disgraced and humiliated.
And the rest I will put to the sword
in the presence of their enemies,"
declares the LORD.
10 Woe to me, my mother,
that you have borne me,
a man of strife and conflict
in all the land.
I have neither lent nor borrowed,
yet everyone curses me.
11 The LORD said:

"Surely I will deliver you for a good purpose;
surely I will intercede with your enemy
in your time of trouble,
in your time of distress.
12 Can anyone smash iron—
iron from the north—or bronze?
13 Your wealth and your treasures
I will give up as plunder,
without charge for all your sins
within all your borders.
14 Then I will cause your enemies
to bring you into a land* you do not know,
for my anger will kindle a fire
that will burn against you."

15 You understand, O LORD;
remember me and attend to me.
Avenge me against my persecutors.
In your patience, do not take me away.
Know that I endure reproach for your honor.
16 Your words were found, and I ate them.
Your word became my joy†
and my heart's delight.
For I bear your name,
O LORD God of Hosts.
17 I never sat with the band of revelers,
nor did I celebrate with them.
Because your hand was on me, I sat alone,
for you have filled me with indignation.

* **15:14 15:14** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also Jeremiah 17:4) *Then I will enslave you to your enemies in a land* † **15:16 15:16** Qere; Ketiv *your words*

18 Why is my pain unending,
and my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
You have indeed become like a mirage to me—
water that is not there.
19 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

"If you return, I will restore you;
you will stand in my presence.
And if you speak words that are noble instead of worthless,
you will be my spokesman.
It is they who must turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
20 Then I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you to save and deliver you,
declares the LORD.
21 I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

16

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "You must not marry or have sons or daughters in this place."
3 For this is what the LORD says concerning the sons and daughters born in this place, and the mothers who bore them, and the fathers who fathered them in this land:
4 "They will die from deadly diseases. They will not be mourned or buried, but will lie like dung on the ground. They will be finished off by sword and famine, and their corpses will become food for the birds of the air and beasts of the earth."
5 Indeed, this is what the LORD says: "Do not enter a house where there is a funeral meal. Do not go to mourn or show sympathy, for I have removed from this people my peace, my loving devotion, and my compassion," declares the LORD.
6 "Both great and small will die in this land. They will not be buried or mourned, nor will anyone cut himself or shave his head for them.
7 No food will be offered to comfort those who mourn the dead; not even a cup of consolation will be given for the loss of a father or mother.
8 You must not enter a house where there is feasting and sit down with them to eat and drink.
9 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I am going to remove from this place, before your very eyes and in your days, the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of the bride and bridegroom.
10 When you tell these people all these things, they will ask you, 'Why has the LORD pronounced all this great disaster against us? What is our iniquity? What is the sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?'
11 Then you are to answer them: 'It is because your fathers have forsaken me, declares the LORD, and followed other gods, and served and worshiped them. They abandoned me and did not keep my instruction.

12 And you have done more evil than your fathers. See how each of you
follows the stubbornness of his evil heart instead of obeying me.
13 So I will cast you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your
fathers have known. There you will serve other gods day and night, for I
will show you no favor.'
14 Yet behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they will no
longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out
of the land of Egypt.'
15 Instead they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the
Israelites up out of the land of the north and all the other lands to which
he had banished them.' For I will return them to their land that I gave to
their forefathers.
16 But for now I will send for many fishermen, declares the LORD, and
they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will
hunt them down on every mountain and hill, even from the clefts of the
rocks.
17 For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from my face,
and their guilt is not concealed from my eyes.
18 And I will first repay them double their iniquity and their sin, because
they have defiled my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and
they have filled my inheritance with their abominations."

19 O LORD, my strength and my fortress,
my refuge in the day of distress,
the nations will come to you
from the ends of the earth, and they will say,
"Our fathers inherited nothing but lies,
worthless idols of no benefit at all.
20 Can man make gods for himself?
Such are not gods!"

21 "Therefore behold, I will inform them,
and this time I will make them know
my power and my might;
then they will know
that my name is the LORD.

17

1 "The sin of Judah is written with an iron stylus,
engraved with a diamond point
on the tablets of their hearts
and on the horns of your altars.*
2 Even their children remember their altars and Asherah poles
by the green trees and on the high hills.
3 O my mountain in the countryside,
I will give over your wealth
and all your treasures as plunder,
because of the sin of your high places,
within all your borders.
4 And you yourself will relinquish
the inheritance that I gave you.

* **17:1 17:1** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate *their altars*

I will enslave you to your enemies
in a land that you do not know,
for you have kindled a fire in my anger;
it will burn forever.”
5 This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind,
who makes mere flesh his strength†
and turns his heart from the LORD.
6 He will be like a shrub in the desert;
he will not see when prosperity comes.
He will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

7 But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.
8 He is like a tree planted by the waters
that sends out its roots toward the stream.
It does not see‡ when the heat comes,
and its leaves are always green.
It does not worry in a year of drought,
nor does it cease to produce fruit.

9 The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?
10 I, the LORD, search the heart;
I examine the mind§
to reward a man according to his ways,*
by what his deeds deserve.
11 Like a partridge hatching eggs it did not lay
is the man who makes a fortune unjustly.
In the middle of his days his riches will desert him,
and in the end he will be the fool.”
12 A glorious throne, exalted from the beginning,
is the place of our sanctuary.
13 O LORD, the hope of Israel,
all who abandon you will be put to shame.
All who turn away will be written in the dust,
for they have abandoned the LORD,
the fountain of living water.

14 Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed;
save me, and I will be saved,
for you are my praise.
15 Behold, they keep saying to me,
“Where is the word of the LORD?
Let it come now!”
16 But I have not run away from being your shepherd;
I have not desired the day of despair.
You know that the utterance of my lips
was spoken in your presence.

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† **17:5 17:5** Hebrew *arm* ‡ **17:8 17:8** Qere; Ketiv *fear* § **17:10 17:10** Hebrew *kidneys* * **17:10 17:10** Qere; Ketiv *his way*

17 Do not become a terror to me;
you are my refuge in the day of disaster.
18 Let my persecutors be put to shame,
but do not let me be put to shame.
Let them be terrified,
but do not let me be terrified.
Bring upon them the day of disaster
and shatter them with double destruction.
19 This is what the LORD said to me: “Go and stand at the gate of the
people, through which the kings of Judah go in and out; and stand at all
the other gates of Jerusalem.
20 Say to them, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, all people
of Judah and Jerusalem who enter through these gates.
21 This is what the LORD says: Take heed for yourselves; do not carry a
load or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day.
22 You must not carry a load out of your houses or do any work on the
Sabbath day, but you must keep the Sabbath day holy, just as I
commanded your forefathers.
23 Yet they would not listen or incline their ear, but they stiffened their
necks and would not listen or receive my discipline.
24 If, however, you listen carefully to me, says the LORD, and bring no
load through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, and keep the
Sabbath day holy, and do no work on it,
25 then kings and princes will enter through the gates of this city. They
will sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses with their
officials, along with the men of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem, and
this city will be inhabited forever.
26 And people will come from the cities of Judah and the places around
Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, and from the foothills,† the hill
country, and the Negev, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain
offerings and frankincense, and thank offerings to the house of the LORD.
27 But if you do not listen to me to keep the Sabbath day holy by not
carrying a load while entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day,
then I will kindle an unquenchable fire in its gates to consume the citadels
of Jerusalem.’ ”

18

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
2 “Go down at once to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my
message.”
3 So I went down to the potter’s house and saw him working at the
wheel.
4 But the vessel that he was shaping from the clay became flawed in his
hand; so he formed it into another vessel, as it seemed best for him to do.
5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
6 “O house of Israel, declares the LORD, can I not treat you as this potter
treats his clay? Just like clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O
house of Israel.
7 At any time I might announce that a nation or kingdom will be
uprooted, torn down, and destroyed.

† **17:26 17:26** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

8 But if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I will relent of the
disaster I had planned to bring.
9 And if at another time I announce that I will build up and establish a
nation or kingdom,
10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not listen to my voice, then I
will relent of the good I had intended for it.
11 Now therefore, tell the men of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem
that this is what the LORD says: 'Behold, I am planning a disaster for you
and devising a plan against you. Turn now, each of you, from your evil
ways, and correct your ways and deeds.'
12 But they will reply, 'It is hopeless. We will follow our own plans, and
each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.' "
13 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

"Inquire among the nations:
Who has ever heard things like these?
Virgin Israel has done a most terrible thing.
14 Does the snow of Lebanon
ever leave its rocky slopes?
Or do its cool waters flowing from a distance
ever run dry?
15 Yet my people have forgotten me.
They burn incense to worthless idols
that make them stumble in their ways,
leaving the ancient roads
to walk on rutted bypaths
instead of on the highway.
16 They have made their land a desolation,
a perpetual object of scorn;
all who pass by will be appalled
and shake their heads.
17 I will scatter them before the enemy
like the east wind.
I will show them my back and not my face
in the day of their calamity."
18 Then some said, "Come, let us make plans against Jeremiah, for the law
will never be lost to the priest, nor counsel to the wise, nor an oracle to the
prophet. Come, let us denounce him and pay no heed to any of his words."

19 Attend to me, O LORD.
Hear what my accusers are saying!
20 Should good be repaid with evil?
Yet they have dug a pit for me.
Remember how I stood before you
to speak good on their behalf,
to turn your wrath from them.

21 Therefore, hand their children over to famine;
pour out the power of the sword upon them.
Let their wives become childless and widowed;
let their husbands be slain by disease,
their young men struck down by the sword in battle.

22 Let a cry be heard from their houses
when you suddenly bring raiders against them,
for they have dug a pit to capture me
and have hidden snares for my feet.

23 But you, O LORD, know all their deadly plots against me.
Do not wipe out their guilt
or blot out their sin from your sight.
Let them be overthrown before you;
deal with them in the time of your anger.

19

1 This is what the LORD says: "Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take
some of the elders of the people and leaders of the priests,
2 and go out to the Valley of Ben-hinnom near the entrance of the
Potsherd Gate.
Proclaim there the words I speak to you,
3 saying, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and residents of
Jerusalem. This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I am
going to bring such disaster on this place that the ears of all who hear of it
will ring,
4 because they have abandoned me and made this a foreign place. They
have burned incense in this place to other gods that neither they nor their
fathers nor the kings of Judah have ever known. They have filled this
place with the blood of the innocent.
5 They have built high places to Baal on which to burn their children in
the fire as offerings to Baal—something I never commanded or
mentioned, nor did it even enter my mind.
6 So behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when this place
will no longer be called Topheth or the Valley of Ben-hinnom, but the
Valley of Slaughter.
7 And in this place I will ruin* the plans of Judah and Jerusalem. I will
make them fall by the sword before their enemies, by the hands of those
who seek their lives, and I will give their carcasses as food to the birds of
the air and the beasts of the earth.
8 I will make this city a desolation and an object of scorn.† All who pass
by will be appalled and will scoff at all her wounds.
9 I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and daughters, and they
will eat one another's flesh in the siege and distress inflicted on them by
their enemies who seek their lives.'
10 Then you are to shatter the jar in the presence of the men who
accompany you,
11 and you are to proclaim to them that this is what the LORD of Hosts
says: I will shatter this nation and this city, like one shatters a potter's jar
that can never again be repaired. They will bury the dead in Topheth until
there is no more room to bury them.
12 This is what I will do to this place and to its residents, declares the
LORD. I will make this city like Topheth.
13 The houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will be
defiled like that place, Topheth—all the houses on whose rooftops they

* **19:7 19:7** The Hebrew term for *ruin* sounds like the Hebrew for *jar*; see verses 1 and 10. † **19:8 19:8** Literally *and a hissing*

burned incense to all the host of heaven and poured out drink offerings to other gods."
14 Then Jeremiah returned from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the courtyard of the house of the LORD and proclaimed to all the people,
15 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'Behold, I am about to bring on this city and on all the villages around it every disaster I have pronounced against them, because they have stiffened their necks so as not to heed my words.' "

20

1 When Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer and the chief official in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things,
2 he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD.
3 The next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The LORD does not call you Pashhur, but Magor-missabib.*
4 For this is what the LORD says: 'I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They will fall by the sword of their enemies before your very eyes. And I will hand Judah over to the king of Babylon, and he will carry them away to Babylon and put them to the sword.
5 I will give away all the wealth of this city—all its products and valuables, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah—to their enemies. They will plunder them, seize them, and carry them off to Babylon.
6 And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house, will go into captivity. You will go to Babylon, and there you will die and be buried—you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied these lies.' "
7 You have deceived me, O LORD, and I was deceived.
You have overcome me and prevailed.
I am a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
8 For whenever I speak, I cry out;
I proclaim violence and destruction.
For the word of the LORD has become to me
a reproach and derision all day long.

9 If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
his message becomes a fire burning in my heart,
shut up in my bones,
and I become weary of holding it in,
and I cannot prevail.
10 For I have heard the whispering of many:
"Terror is on every side!
Report him; let us report him!"
All my trusted friends
watch for my fall:
"Perhaps he will be deceived
so that we may prevail against him

* **20:3 20:3** *Magor-missabib* means *terror on every side* or *the man who lives in terror.*

and take our vengeance upon him."

11 But the LORD is with me like a fearsome warrior.
Therefore, my persecutors will stumble and will not prevail.
Since they have not succeeded, they will be utterly put to shame,
with an everlasting disgrace that will never be forgotten.
12 O LORD of Hosts, who examines the righteous,
who sees the heart† and mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

13 Sing to the LORD!
Praise the LORD!
For he rescues the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

14 Cursed be the day I was born!
May the day my mother bore me never be blessed.
15 Cursed be the man who brought my father the news,
saying, "A son is born to you,"
bringing him great joy.
16 May that man be like the cities
that the LORD overthrew without compassion.
May he hear an outcry in the morning
and a battle cry at noon,
17 because he did not kill me in the womb
so that my mother might have been my grave,
and her womb forever enlarged.
18 Why did I come out of the womb
to see only trouble and sorrow,
and to end my days in shame?

21

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur son of Malchijah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah. They said,
2 "Please inquire of the LORD on our behalf, since Nebuchadrezzar* king of Babylon is waging war against us. Perhaps the LORD will perform for us something like all his past wonders, so that Nebuchadrezzar will withdraw from us."
3 But Jeremiah answered, "You are to tell Zedekiah that
4 this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I will turn against you the weapons of war in your hands, with which you are fighting the king of Babylon and the Chaldeans† who besiege you outside the wall, and I will assemble their forces in the center of this city.
5 And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm, with anger, fury, and great wrath.
6 I will strike down the residents of this city, both man and beast. They will die in a terrible plague.'

† **20:12 20:12** Hebrew *kidneys* * **21:2 21:2** A variant of *Nebuchadnezzar*; Jeremiah uses both spellings, and each verse follows its own Hebrew. † **21:4 21:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 9

7 ‘After that,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will hand over Zedekiah king of
Judah, his officers, and the people in this city who survive the plague and
sword and famine, to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and to their
enemies who seek their lives. He will put them to the sword; he will not
spare them or show pity or compassion.’
8 Furthermore, you are to tell this people that this is what the LORD
says: ‘Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.
9 Whoever stays in this city will die by sword and famine and plague,
but whoever goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who besiege you
will live; he will retain his life like a spoil of war.
10 For I have set my face against this city to bring disaster and not good,
declares the LORD. It will be delivered into the hand of the king of
Babylon, who will destroy it with fire.’
11 Moreover, tell the house of the king of Judah to hear the word of the
LORD.
12 O house of David, this is what the LORD says:

‘Administer justice every morning,
and rescue the victim of robbery
from the hand of his oppressor,
or my wrath will go forth like fire
and burn with no one to extinguish it
because of your evil deeds.‡

13 Behold, I am against you who dwell above the valley,
atop the rocky plateau—
declares the LORD—
you who say, “Who can come against us?
Who can enter our dwellings?”
14 I will punish you as your deeds deserve,
declares the LORD.
I will kindle a fire in your forest
that will consume everything around you.’ ”

22

1 This is what the LORD says: “Go down to the palace of the king of
Judah and proclaim this message there,
2 saying, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, who sits on the
throne of David—you and your officials and your people who enter these
gates.
3 This is what the LORD says: Administer justice and righteousness.
Rescue the victim of robbery from the hand of his oppressor. Do no wrong
or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless, or the widow. Do not shed
innocent blood in this place.
4 For if you will indeed carry out these commands, then kings who sit on
David’s throne will enter through the gates of this palace riding on
chariots and horses—they and their officials and their people.
5 But if you do not obey these words, then I swear by myself, declares
the LORD, that this house will become a pile of rubble.’ ”
6 For this is what the LORD says concerning the house of the king of
Judah:

‡ **21:12 21:12** Qere; Ketiv *their evil deeds*

"You are like Gilead to me,
like the summit of Lebanon;
but I will surely turn you into a desert,
like cities that are uninhabited.
7 I will appoint destroyers against you,
each man with his weapons,
and they will cut down the choicest of your cedars
and throw them into the fire.
8 And many nations will pass by this city and ask one another, 'Why has
the LORD done such a thing to this great city?'
9 Then people will reply, 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of
the LORD their God and have worshiped and served other gods.' "
10 Do not weep for him who is dead;
do not mourn his loss.
Weep bitterly for him who is exiled,
for he will never return
to see his native land.
11 For this is what the LORD says concerning Shallum* son of Josiah,
king of Judah, who succeeded his father Josiah but has gone forth from
this place: "He will never return,
12 but he will die in the place to which he was exiled; he will never see
this land again."
13 "Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness,
and his upper rooms without justice,
who makes his countrymen serve without pay,
and fails to pay their wages,
14 who says, 'I will build myself a great palace,
with spacious upper rooms.'
So he cuts windows in it,
panels it with cedar,
and paints it with vermilion.

15 Does it make you a king to excel† in cedar?
Did not your father have food and drink?
He administered justice and righteousness,
and so it went well with him.
16 He took up the cause of the poor and needy,
and so it went well with him.
Is this not what it means to know me?"
declares the LORD.
17 "But your eyes and heart are set on nothing
except your own dishonest gain,
on shedding innocent blood,
on practicing extortion and oppression."
18 Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning Jehoiakim son of
Josiah king of Judah:

"They will not mourn for him:
'Alas, my brother! Alas, my sister!'
They will not mourn for him:
'Alas, my master! Alas, his splendor!'

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* **22:11 22:11** *Shallum* was also called *Jehoahaz*. † **22:15 22:15** Or *because you enclose yourself*

19 He will be buried like a donkey,
dragged away and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem.
20 Go up to Lebanon and cry out;
raise your voice in Bashan;
cry out from Abarim,
for all your lovers have been crushed.

21 I warned you when you were secure.
You said, 'I will not listen.'
This has been your way from youth,
that you have not obeyed my voice.
22 The wind will drive away all your shepherds,
and your lovers will go into captivity.
Then you will be ashamed and humiliated
because of all your wickedness.
23 O inhabitant of Lebanon,‡
nestled in the cedars,
how you will groan when pangs of anguish come upon you,
agony like a woman in labor."
24 "As surely as I live," declares the LORD, "even if you, Coniah§ son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would pull you off.
25 In fact, I will hand you over to those you dread, who want to take your life—to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and to the Chaldeans.*
26 I will hurl you and the mother who gave you birth into another land, where neither of you were born—and there you both will die.
27 They will never return to the land for which they long."

28 Is this man Coniah a despised and shattered pot,
a jar that no one wants?
Why are he and his descendants hurled out
and cast into a land they do not know?
29 O land, land, land,
hear the word of the LORD!
30 This is what the LORD says:

"Enroll this man as childless,
a man who will not prosper in his lifetime.
None of his descendants will prosper
to sit on the throne of David
or to rule again in Judah."

23

1 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD.
2 Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who tend my people: "You have scattered my flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your deeds, declares the LORD.

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‡ **22:23 22:23** That is, the palace in Jerusalem; see 1 Kings 7:2. § **22:24 22:24** *Coniah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; also in verse 28. * **22:25 22:25** That is, the Babylonians

3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to
which I have banished them, and I will return them to their pasture,
where they will be fruitful and multiply.
4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will
no longer be afraid or dismayed, nor will any go missing, declares the
LORD.

5 Behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will raise up for David's line*
a righteous branch,
and he will reign wisely as king
and will administer justice and righteousness in the land.
6 In his days Judah will be saved,
and Israel will dwell securely.
And this is his name by which he will be called:
The LORD Is our Righteousness.†
7 So behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they will no
longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out
of the land of Egypt.'
8 Instead they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought and led
the descendants of the house of Israel up out of the land of the north and
all the other lands to which he had banished them.' Then they will dwell
once more in their own land."
9 As for the prophets:

My heart is broken within me,
and all my bones tremble.
I have become like a drunkard,
like a man overcome by wine,
because of the LORD,
because of his holy words.
10 For the land is full of adulterers—
because of the curse, the land mourns
and the pastures of the wilderness have dried up—
their course is evil
and their power is misused.

11 "For both prophet and priest are ungodly;
even in my house I have found their wickedness,"
declares the LORD.
12 "Therefore their path will become slick;
they will be driven away into the darkness and fall into it.
For I will bring disaster upon them
in the year of their punishment,"
declares the LORD.
13 "Among the prophets of Samaria
I saw an offensive thing:
They prophesied by Baal
and led my people Israel astray.
14 And among the prophets of Jerusalem

* **23:5 23:5** Or *up for David* † **23:6 23:6** Hebrew *YHWH Tsidqenu*; or *The LORD our Righteousness*

I have seen a horrible thing:
They commit adultery
and walk in lies.
They strengthen the hands of evildoers,
so that no one turns his back on wickedness.
They are all like Sodom to me;
the people of Jerusalem are like Gomorrah."
15 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts says concerning the
prophets:

"I will feed them wormwood
and give them poisoned water to drink,
for from the prophets of Jerusalem
ungodliness has spread throughout the land."
16 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.
They are filling you with false hopes.
They speak visions from their own minds,
not from the mouth of the LORD.
17 They keep saying to those who despise me,
'The LORD says that you will have peace,'
and to everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart,
'No harm will come to you.'

18 But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD
to see and hear his word?
Who has given heed to his word‡
and obeyed it?
19 Behold, the storm of the LORD
has gone out with fury,
a whirlwind swirling down
upon the heads of the wicked.
20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has fully accomplished the purposes of his heart.
In the days to come
you will understand this clearly.

21 I did not send these prophets,
yet they have run with their message;
I did not speak to them,
yet they have prophesied.
22 But if they had stood in my council,
they would have proclaimed my words to my people
and turned them back
from their evil ways and deeds."

23 "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far
away?"
24 "Can a man hide in secret places where I cannot see him?" declares
the LORD.
"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

‡ **23:18 23:18** Qere; Ketiv *my word*

25 “I have heard the sayings of the prophets who prophesy lies in my
name: ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’
26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these prophets who
prophesy falsehood, these prophets of the delusion of their own minds?
27 They suppose the dreams that they tell one another will make my
people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through the
worship of Baal.
28 Let the prophet who has a dream retell it, but let him who has my
word speak it truthfully. For what is straw compared to grain?” declares
the LORD.
29 “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that
smashes a rock?”
30 “Therefore behold,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who
steal from one another words they attribute to me.”
31 “Yes,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who wag their
own tongues and proclaim, ‘The LORD declares it.’ ”
32 “Indeed,” declares the LORD, “I am against those who prophesy false
dreams and retell them to lead my people astray with their reckless lies. It
was not I who sent them or commanded them, and they are of no benefit
at all to these people,” declares the LORD.
33 “Now when this people or a prophet or priest asks you, ‘What is the
burden of the LORD?’ you are to say to them, ‘What burden? I will forsake
you, declares the LORD.’
34 As for the prophet or priest or anyone who claims, ‘This is the burden
of the LORD,’ I will punish that man and his household.
35 This is what each man is to say to his friend and to his brother: ‘What
has the LORD answered?’ or ‘What has the LORD spoken?’
36 But refer no more to the burden of the LORD, for each man’s word
becomes the burden, so that you pervert the words of the living God, the
LORD of Hosts, our God.
37 Thus you are to say to the prophet: ‘What has the LORD answered
you?’ and ‘What has the LORD spoken?’
38 But if you claim, ‘This is the burden of the LORD,’ then this is what the
LORD says: Because you have said, ‘This is the burden of the LORD,’ and I
specifically told you not to make this claim,
39 therefore I will surely forget you and will cast you out of my presence,
both you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers.
40 And I will bring upon you everlasting shame and perpetual
humiliation that will never be forgotten.”

24

1 After Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away Jeconiah* son
of Jehoiakim king of Judah, as well as the officials of Judah and the
craftsmen and metalsmiths from Jerusalem, and had brought them to
Babylon,† the LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the
temple of the LORD.
2 One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early, but the other
basket contained very poor figs, so bad they could not be eaten.
3 “Jeremiah,” the LORD asked, “what do you see?”

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* **24:1 24:1** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12. † **24:1 24:1** Or *metalsmiths, and had brought them from Jerusalem to Babylon*

"Figs!" I replied. "The good figs are very good, but the bad figs are very bad, so bad they cannot be eaten."
4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
5 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Like these good figs, so I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans.‡
6 I will keep my eyes on them for good and will return them to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them.
7 I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.
8 But like the bad figs, so bad they cannot be eaten,' says the LORD, 'so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem—those remaining in this land and those living in the land of Egypt.
9 I will make them a horror and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a disgrace and an object of scorn, ridicule, and cursing wherever I have banished them.
10 And I will send against them sword and famine and plague, until they have perished from the land that I gave to them and their fathers.' "

25

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, which was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon.
2 So the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and all the residents of Jerusalem as follows:
3 "From the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—twenty-three years—the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken to you again and again,* but you have not listened.
4 And the LORD has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again,† but you have not listened or inclined your ear to hear.
5 The prophets told you, 'Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and deeds, and you can dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever.
6 Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them, and do not provoke me to anger with the works of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.'
7 'But to your own harm, you have not listened to me,' declares the LORD, 'so you have provoked me to anger with the works of your hands.'
8 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'Because you have not obeyed my words,
9 behold, I will summon all the families of the north, declares the LORD, and I will send for my servant Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, whom I will bring against this land, against its residents, and against all the surrounding nations. So I will devote them to destruction‡ and make them an object of horror and contempt, an everlasting desolation.

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‡ **24:5 24:5** That is, the Babylonians * **25:3 25:3** Literally *I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,* † **25:4 25:4** Literally *to you, rising up early and sending (them),* ‡ **25:9 25:9** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

10 Moreover, I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the
voices of the bride and bridegroom, the sound of the millstones, and the
light of the lamp.
11 And this whole land will become a desolate wasteland, and these
nations will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.
12 But when seventy years are complete, I will punish the king of
Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans,§ for their guilt,
declares the LORD, and I will make it an everlasting desolation.
13 I will bring upon that land all the words I have pronounced against it,
all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied against all
the nations.
14 For many nations and great kings will enslave them, and I will repay
them according to their deeds and according to the work of their hands.' "
15 This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my
hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I
send you drink from it.
16 And they will drink and stagger and go out of their minds, because of
the sword that I will send among them."
17 So I took the cup from the LORD's hand and made all the nations
drink from it, each one to whom the LORD had sent me,
18 to make them a ruin, an object of horror and contempt and cursing, as
they are to this day—Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and
officials;
19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, his officials, his leaders, and all his people;
20 all the mixed tribes; all the kings of Uz; all the kings of the Philistines:
Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod;
21 Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites;
22 all the kings of Tyre and Sidon; the kings of the coastlands across the
sea;
23 Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who cut the corners of their hair;
24 all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mixed tribes who dwell
in the desert;
25 all the kings of Zimri, Elam, and Media;
26 all the kings of the north, both near and far, one after another—all the
kingdoms on the face of the earth. And after all of them, the king of
Sheshach* will drink it too.
27 "Then you are to tell them that this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says: 'Drink, get drunk, and vomit. Fall down and never get up
again, because of the sword I will send among you.'
28 If they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink it, you are to
tell them that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'You most certainly
must drink it!
29 For behold, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that bears my
Name, so how could you possibly go unpunished? You will not go
unpunished, for I am calling down a sword upon all the inhabitants of the
earth, declares the LORD of Hosts.'
30 So you are to prophesy all these words against them and say to them:

'The LORD will roar from on high;
he will raise his voice from his holy habitation.
He will roar loudly over his pasture;

§ **25:12 25:12** That is, the Babylonians * **25:26 25:26** *Sheshach* is a code name for Babylon.

like those who tread the grapes,
he will call out with a shout
against all the inhabitants of the earth.
31 The tumult will resound to the ends of the earth
because the LORD brings a charge against the nations.
He brings judgment on all mankind
and puts the wicked to the sword,' "
declares the LORD.
32 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Behold! Disaster is spreading
from nation to nation;
a mighty storm is rising
from the ends of the earth."
33 Those slain by the LORD on that day will be spread from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned, gathered, or buried. They will be like dung lying on the ground.
34 Wail, you shepherds, and cry out;
roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock.
For the days of your slaughter have come;
you will fall and be shattered like fine pottery.†
35 Flight will evade the shepherds,
and escape will elude the leaders of the flock.
36 Hear the cry of the shepherds,
the wailing of the leaders of the flock,
for the LORD is destroying their pasture.
37 The peaceful meadows have been silenced
because of the LORD's burning anger.
38 He has left his den like a lion,
for their land has been made a desolation
by the anger‡ of the oppressor,
and because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

26

1 At the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came from the LORD:
2 "This is what the LORD says: Stand in the courtyard of the house of the LORD and speak all the words I have commanded you to speak to all the cities of Judah who come to worship there. Do not omit a word.
3 Perhaps they will listen and turn—each from his evil way of life—so that I may relent of the disaster I am planning to bring upon them because of the evil of their deeds.
4 And you are to tell them that this is what the LORD says: 'If you do not listen to me and walk in my law, which I have set before you,
5 and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent you again and again* even though you did not listen,
6 then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city an object of cursing among all the nations of the earth.' "

† **25:34 25:34** LXX *you will fall like the best of the rams* ‡ **25:38 25:38** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX (see also Jeremiah 46:16 and Jeremiah 50:16) *sword* * **26:5 26:5** Literally *I have sent you, rising up early and sending (them),*

7 Now the priests and prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah
speaking these words in the house of the LORD,
8 and as soon as he had finished telling all the people everything the
LORD had commanded him to say, the priests and prophets and all the
people seized him, shouting, “You must surely die!
9 How dare you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this house will
become like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted!”
And all the people assembled against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.
10 When the officials of Judah heard these things, they went up from the
king’s palace to the house of the LORD and sat there at the entrance of the
New Gate of the LORD.
11 Then the priests and prophets said to the officials and all the people,
“This man is worthy of death, for he has prophesied against this city, as
you have heard with your own ears!”
12 But Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people, “The LORD sent
me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that
you have heard.
13 So now, correct your ways and deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD
your God, so that he might relent of the disaster he has pronounced
against you.
14 As for me, here I am in your hands; do to me what you think is good
and right.
15 But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring
innocent blood upon yourselves, upon this city, and upon its residents; for
truly the LORD has sent me to speak all these words in your hearing.”
16 Then the officials and all the people told the priests and prophets,
“This man is not worthy of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of
the LORD our God!”
17 Some of the elders of the land stood up and said to the whole
assembly of the people,
18 “Micah† the Moreshite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of
Judah and told all the people of Judah that this is what the LORD of Hosts
says:

‘Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
and the temple mount a wooded ridge.’‡
19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death?
Did Hezekiah not fear the LORD and seek his favor, and did not the LORD
relent of the disaster he had pronounced against them? But we are about
to bring great harm on ourselves!”
20 Now there was another man prophesying in the name of the LORD,
Uriah son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim. He prophesied against this
city and against this land the same things that Jeremiah did.§
21 King Jehoiakim and all his mighty men and officials heard his words,
and the king sought to put him to death. But when Uriah found out about
it, he fled in fear and went to Egypt.
22 Then King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt: Elnathan son of Achbor along
with some other men.

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† **26:18 26:18** Qere; Ketiv *Micaiah* ‡ **26:18 26:18** Micah 3:12 § **26:20 26:20** Literally *according to all the words of Jeremiah*

23 They brought Uriah out of Egypt and took him to King Jehoiakim, who
had him put to the sword and his body thrown into the burial place of the
common people.
24 Nevertheless, Ahikam son of Shaphan supported Jeremiah, so he was
not handed over to the people to be put to death.

27

1 At the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim* son of Josiah king of Judah,
this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD.†
2 This is what the LORD said to me:
"Make for yourself a yoke out of leather straps and put it on your neck.
3 Then send them to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon
through the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of
Judah.
4 Give them a message from the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, to
relay to their masters:
5 By my great power and outstretched arm, I made the earth and the
men and beasts on the face of it, and I give it to whom I please.
6 So now I have placed all these lands under the authority of my servant
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. I have even made the beasts of the field
subject to him.
7 All nations will serve him and his son and grandson, until the time of
his own land comes; then many nations and great kings will enslave him.
8 As for the nation or kingdom that does not serve Nebuchadnezzar king
of Babylon and does not place its neck under his yoke, I will punish that
nation by sword and famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I have
destroyed it by his hand.
9 But as for you, do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your
interpreters of dreams, your mediums, or your sorcerers who declare,
'You will not serve the king of Babylon.'
10 For they prophesy to you a lie that will serve to remove you from your
land; I will banish you and you will perish.
11 But the nation that will put its neck under the yoke of the king of
Babylon and serve him, I will leave in its own land, to cultivate it and
reside in it, declares the LORD."
12 And to Zedekiah king of Judah I spoke the same message: "Put your
necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people,
and live!
13 Why should you and your people die by sword and famine and
plague, as the LORD has decreed against any nation that does not serve
the king of Babylon?
14 Do not listen to the words of the prophets who say, 'You must not
serve the king of Babylon,' for they are prophesying to you a lie.
15 For I have not sent them, declares the LORD, and yet they are
prophesying falsely in my name; therefore I will banish you, and you will
perish—you and the prophets who prophesy to you."
16 Then I said to the priests and to all this people, "This is what the LORD
says: Do not listen to the words of your prophets who prophesy to you,

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* **27:1 27:1** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac (see also verses 3 and 12, and Jeremiah 28:1) *Zedekiah* † **27:1 27:1** Most LXX manuscripts do not include this verse.

saying, ‘Look, very soon now the articles from the house of the LORD will
be brought back from Babylon.’ They are prophesying to you a lie.
17 Do not listen to them. Serve the king of Babylon and live! Why should
this city become a ruin?
18 If they are indeed prophets and the word of the LORD is with them, let
them now plead with the LORD of Hosts that the articles remaining in the
house of the LORD, in the palace of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem,
not be taken to Babylon.
19 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says about the pillars, the sea, the
bases, and the rest of the articles that remain in this city,
20 which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take when he carried
Jeconiah‡ son of Jehoiakim king of Judah into exile from Jerusalem to
Babylon, along with all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem.
21 Yes, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says about the
articles that remain in the house of the LORD, in the palace of the king of
Judah, and in Jerusalem:
22 ‘They will be carried to Babylon and will remain there until the day I
attend to them again,’ declares the LORD. ‘Then I will bring them back and
restore them to this place.’ ”

28

1 In the fifth month of that same year, the fourth year, near the
beginning of the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah, the prophet Hananiah
son of Azzur, who was from Gibeon, said to me in the house of the LORD
in the presence of the priests and all the people:
2 “This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: ‘I have broken
the yoke of the king of Babylon.
3 Within two years I will restore to this place all the articles of the house
of the LORD that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from here
and carried to Babylon.
4 And I will restore to this place Jeconiah* son of Jehoiakim king of
Judah, along with all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon,’ declares
the LORD, ‘for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.’ ”
5 Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah in the
presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house
of the LORD.
6 “Amen!” Jeremiah the prophet said. “May the LORD do so! May the
LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied, and may he restore the
articles of his house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon.
7 Nevertheless, listen now to this message I am speaking in your hearing
and in the hearing of all the people.
8 The prophets of old who preceded you and me prophesied war,
disaster, and plague against many lands and great kingdoms.
9 As for the prophet who prophesies peace, only if the word of the
prophet comes true will the prophet be recognized as one the LORD has
truly sent.”
10 Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of Jeremiah the
prophet and broke it.

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‡ **27:20 27:20** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12. * **28:4 28:4** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

11 And in the presence of all the people Hananiah proclaimed, “This is
what the LORD says: ‘In this way, within two years I will break the yoke of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations.’ ”
At this, Jeremiah the prophet went on his way.
12 But shortly after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke off his
neck, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
13 “Go and tell Hananiah that this is what the LORD says: ‘You have
broken a yoke of wood, but in its place you have fashioned a yoke of iron.’
14 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: ‘I have put
a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations to make them serve
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him. I have even
given him control of the beasts of the field.’ ”
15 Then the prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, “Listen,
Hananiah! The LORD did not send you, but you have persuaded this
people to trust in a lie.
16 Therefore this is what the LORD says: ‘I am about to remove you from
the face of the earth. You will die this year because you have preached
rebellion against the LORD.’ ”
17 And in the seventh month of that very year, the prophet Hananiah
died.

29

1 This is the text of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from
Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the
prophets, and all the others Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from
Jerusalem to Babylon.
2 (This was after King Jeconiah,* the queen mother, the court officials,
the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metalsmiths
had been exiled from Jerusalem.)
3 The letter was entrusted to Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son
of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in
Babylon. It stated:
4 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles
who were carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:
5 “Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat their produce.
6 Take wives and have sons and daughters. Take wives for your sons
and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and
daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease.
7 Seek the prosperity of the city to which I have sent you as exiles. Pray
to the LORD on its behalf, for if it prospers, you too will prosper.”
8 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: “Do not be
deceived by the prophets and diviners among you, and do not listen to the
dreams you elicit from them.
9 For they are falsely prophesying to you in my name; I have not sent
them, declares the LORD.”†
10 For this is what the LORD says: “When Babylon’s seventy years are
complete, I will attend to you and confirm my promise to restore you to
this place.

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* **29:2 29:2** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12. † **29:9 29:9** Some translators close the written portion of this letter later in the chapter.

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to
prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.
12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen
to you.
13 You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your
heart.
14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your
fortunes‡ and gather you from all the nations and places to which I have
banished you, declares the LORD. I will restore you to the place from
which I sent you into exile."
15 Because you may say, "The LORD has raised up for us prophets in
Babylon,"
16 this is what the LORD says about the king who sits on David's throne
and all the people who remain in this city, your brothers who did not go
with you into exile—
17 this is what the LORD of Hosts says:
"I will send against them sword and famine and plague, and I will make
them like rotten figs, so bad they cannot be eaten.
18 I will pursue them with sword and famine and plague. I will make
them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth—a curse, a desolation, and
an object of scorn and reproach among all the nations to which I banish
them.
19 I will do this because they have not listened to my words, declares the
LORD, which I sent to them again and again§ through my servants the
prophets. And neither have you exiles listened, declares the LORD."
20 So hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles I have sent away from
Jerusalem to Babylon.
21 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says about Ahab son
of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying to you lies
in my name: "I will deliver them to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and
he will kill them before your very eyes.
22 Because of them, all the exiles of Judah who are in Babylon will use
this curse: 'May the LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the
king of Babylon roasted in the fire!'
23 For they have committed an outrage in Israel by committing adultery
with the wives of their neighbors and speaking lies in my name, which I
did not command them to do. I am he who knows, and I am a witness,
declares the LORD."
24 You are to tell Shemaiah the Nehelamite that
25 this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "In your own
name you have sent out letters to all the people of Jerusalem, to the priest
Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, and to all the priests, saying:
26 'The LORD has appointed you priest in place of Jehoiada, to be the
chief officer in the house of the LORD, responsible for any madman who
acts like a prophet—you must put him in stocks and neck irons.
27 So now, why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth, who poses
as a prophet among you?
28 For he has sent to us in Babylon, claiming: Since the exile will be
lengthy, build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat their
produce.' "

‡ **29:14 29:14** Or *restore you from captivity*
and sending (to them)

§ **29:19 29:19** Literally *I sent to them, rising up early*

29 (Zephaniah the priest, however, had read this letter to Jeremiah the prophet.)
30 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
31 "Send a message telling all the exiles what the LORD says concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite. Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you—though I did not send him—and has made you trust in a lie,
32 this is what the LORD says: 'I will surely punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his descendants. He will have no one left among this people, nor will he see the good that I will bring to my people, declares the LORD, for he has preached rebellion against the LORD.' "

30

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
2 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.
3 For behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of* my people Israel and Judah, declares the LORD. I will restore them to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it.' "
4 These are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah.
5 Yes, this is what the LORD says:

"A cry of panic is heard—
a cry of terror, not of peace.
6 Ask now, and see:
Can a male give birth?
Why then do I see every man
with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor
and every face turned pale?
7 How awful that day will be!
None will be like it!
It is the time of Jacob's distress,
but he will be saved out of it.

8 On that day,
declares the LORD of Hosts,
I will break his yoke off your neck
and tear off your bonds,
and no longer will strangers enslave him.†
9 Instead, they will serve the LORD their God
and David their king,
whom I will raise up for them.

10 As for you, O Jacob my servant, do not be afraid,
declares the LORD,
and do not be dismayed,
O Israel.
For I will surely save you out of a distant place,
your descendants from the land of their captivity!
Jacob will return to quiet and ease,

* **30:3 30:3** Or *restore from captivity* † **30:8 30:8** LXX *the yoke off their necks … their bonds … enslave them*

with no one to make him afraid.
11 For I am with you to save you,
declares the LORD.
Though I will completely destroy all the nations to which I have scattered you,
I will not completely destroy you.
Yet I will discipline you justly,
and will by no means leave you unpunished."
12 For this is what the LORD says:

"Your injury is incurable;
your wound is grievous.
13 There is no one to plead your cause,
no remedy for your sores,
no recovery for you.
14 All your lovers have forgotten you;
they no longer seek you,
for I have struck you as an enemy would,
with the discipline of someone cruel,
because of your great iniquity
and your numerous sins.

15 Why do you cry out over your wound?
Your pain has no cure!
Because of your great iniquity
and your numerous sins
I have done these things to you.

16 Nevertheless, all who devour you will be devoured,
and all your adversaries—every one of them—
will go off into exile.
Those who plundered you will be plundered,
and all who raided you will be raided.
17 But I will restore your health and heal your wounds,
declares the LORD,
because they call you an outcast,
Zion, for whom no one cares."

18 This is what the LORD says:

"I will restore the fortunes of‡ Jacob's tents
and have compassion on his dwellings.
And the city will be rebuilt on her own ruins,
and the palace will stand in its rightful place.
19 Thanksgiving will proceed from them,
a sound of celebration.
I will multiply them, and they will not be decreased;
I will honor them, and they will not be belittled.
20 Their children will be as in days of old,
and their congregation will be established before me;
and I will punish all their oppressors.

‡ **30:18 30:18** Or *restore from captivity*

21 Their leader will be one of their own,
and their ruler will arise from their midst.
And I will bring him near, and he will approach me,
for who would dare on his own to approach me?”
declares the LORD.
22 “And you will be my people,
and I will be your God.”

23 Behold, the storm of the LORD
has gone out with fury,
a whirlwind swirling down
upon the heads of the wicked.
24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has fully accomplished the purposes of his heart.
In the days to come
you will understand this.

31

1 “At that time,” declares the LORD, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.”
2 This is what the LORD says:

“The people who survived the sword
found favor in the wilderness
when Israel went to find rest.”
3 The LORD appeared to me in the past, saying:*

“I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have drawn you with loving devotion.
4 Again I will build you, and you will be rebuilt,
O Virgin Israel.
Again you will take up your tambourines
and go out in joyful dancing.
5 Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria;
the farmers will plant and enjoy the fruit.
6 For there will be a day when watchmen will call out
on the hills of Ephraim,
‘Arise, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God!’ ”
7 For this is what the LORD says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations!
Make your praises heard, and say,
‘O LORD, save your people,
the remnant of Israel!’

8 Behold, I will bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
including the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labor.
They will return as a great assembly!

* **31:3 31:3** Or *The LORD appeared to me from afar, saying*; LXX *to him*

9 They will come with weeping,
and by their supplication I will lead them;
I will make them walk beside streams of waters,
on a level path where they will not stumble.
For I am Israel's Father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn."

10 Hear, O nations, the word of the LORD,
and proclaim it in distant coastlands:

"The One who scattered Israel will gather them and keep them
as a shepherd keeps his flock.
11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and redeemed him from the hand that had overpowered him.
12 They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;
they will be radiant over the bounty of the LORD—
the grain, new wine, and oil,
and the young of the flocks and herds.
Their life will be like a well-watered garden,
and never again will they languish.

13 Then the maidens will rejoice with dancing,
young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
and give them comfort and joy for their sorrow.
14 I will fill the souls of the priests abundantly,
and will fill my people with my goodness,"
declares the LORD.
15 This is what the LORD says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."
16 This is what the LORD says:

"Keep your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for the reward for your work will come,
declares the LORD.
Then your children will return
from the land of the enemy.
17 So there is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children will return
to their own land.

18 I have surely heard Ephraim's† moaning:

'You disciplined me severely,

† **31:18 31:18** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 20

like an untrained calf.
Restore me, that I may return,
for you are the LORD my God.
19 After I returned, I repented;
and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh in grief.
I was ashamed and humiliated
because I bore the disgrace of my youth.'

20 Is not Ephraim a precious son to me,
a delightful child?
Though I often speak against him,
I still remember him.
Therefore my heart yearns for him;‡
I have great compassion for him,"
declares the LORD.
21 "Set up the road markers,
put up the signposts.
Keep the highway in mind,
the road you have traveled.
Return, O Virgin Israel,
return to these cities of yours.
22 How long will you wander,
O faithless daughter?
For the LORD has created a new thing in the land—
a woman will shelter§ a man."

23 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "When I restore their fortunes,* they will once again speak this word in the land of Judah and in its cities: 'May the LORD bless you, O righteous dwelling place, O holy mountain.'
24 And Judah and all its cities will dwell together in the land, the farmers and those who move with the flocks,
25 for I will refresh the weary soul and replenish all who are weak."
26 At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been most pleasant to me.
27 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and of beast.
28 Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, to demolish, destroy, and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the LORD.
29 "In those days, it will no longer be said:

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes,
and the teeth of the children are set on edge.'
30 Instead, each will die for his own iniquity. If anyone eats the sour grapes, his own teeth will be set on edge.

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.

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‡ **31:20 31:20** Hebrew *my bowels yearn for him*

§ **31:22 31:22** Or *will surround* or *will return to*

* **31:23 31:23** Or *restore them from captivity*

32 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their fathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of the land of Egypt—
a covenant they broke,
though I was a husband to them,†"
declares the LORD.
33 "But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, declares the LORD.
I will put my law in their minds
and inscribe it on their hearts.
And I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
34 No longer will each man teach his neighbor or his brother,
saying, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.
For I will forgive their iniquities
and will remember their sins no more."
35 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day, who sets in order the moon and stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of Hosts is his name:

36 "Only if this fixed order departed from my presence,
declares the LORD,
would Israel's descendants ever cease
to be a nation before me."
37 This is what the LORD says:

"Only if the heavens above could be measured
and the foundations of the earth below searched out
would I reject all of Israel's descendants
because of all they have done,"
declares the LORD.
38 "The days are coming,"‡ declares the LORD, "when this city will be rebuilt for me, from the tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.
39 The measuring line will once again stretch out straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn toward Goah.
40 The whole valley of the dead bodies and ashes, and all the fields as far as the Kidron Valley, to the corner of the Horse Gate to the east, will be holy to the LORD. It will never again be uprooted or demolished."

32

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar.
2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was imprisoned in the courtyard of the guard, which was in the palace of the king of Judah.
3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying: "Why are you prophesying like this? You claim that the LORD says, 'Behold, I am about to deliver this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.

† **31:32 31:32** LXX *for they did not abide in my covenant, and I disregarded them*; see also Syriac.
‡ **31:38 31:38** Qere; Ketiv *Behold, the days*

4 Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape from the hands of the
Chaldeans,* but he will surely be delivered into the hand of the king of
Babylon, and will speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye.
5 He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he will stay until I attend to
him, declares the LORD. If you fight against the Chaldeans, you will not
succeed.' "
6 Jeremiah replied, "The word of the LORD came to me, saying:
7 Behold! Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, is coming to you to
say, 'Buy for yourself my field in Anathoth, for you have the right of
redemption to buy it.'
8 Then, as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the
courtyard of the guard and urged me, 'Please buy my field in Anathoth in
the land of Benjamin, for you own the right of inheritance and
redemption. Buy it for yourself.' "
Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.
9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and I
weighed out seventeen shekels of silver.†
10 I signed and sealed the deed, called in witnesses, and weighed out the
silver on the scales.
11 Then I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy with its terms and
conditions, as well as the open copy—
12 and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in
the sight of my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses who were signing the
purchase agreement and all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.
13 In their sight I instructed Baruch,
14 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Take these
deeds—both the sealed copy and the open copy of the deed of
purchase—and put them in a clay jar to preserve them for a long time.
15 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Houses,
fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land."
16 After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I
prayed to the LORD:
17 "Oh, Lord GOD! You have made the heavens and the earth by your
great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for you!
18 You show loving devotion to thousands but lay the iniquity of the
fathers into the laps‡ of their children after them, O great and mighty God
whose name is the LORD of Hosts,
19 the One great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are on all the
ways of the sons of men, to reward each one according to his ways and
according to the fruit of his deeds.
20 You performed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and you do so
to this very day, both in Israel and among all mankind. And you have
made a name for yourself, as is the case to this day.
21 You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and
wonders, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great
terror.
22 You gave them this land that you had sworn to give their fathers, a
land flowing with milk and honey.

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* **32:4 32:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 5, 24, 25, 28, 29, and 43 † **32:9 32:9** *17 shekels* is approximately 6.8 ounces or 193.8 grams of silver. ‡ **32:18 32:18** Hebrew *into the bosom*

23 They came in and possessed it, but they did not obey your voice or
walk in your law. They failed to perform all that you commanded them to
do, and so you have brought upon them all this disaster.
24 See how the siege ramps are mounted against the city to capture it.
And by sword and famine and plague, the city has been given into the
hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you have spoken
has happened, as you now see!
25 Yet you, O Lord GOD, have said to me, 'Buy for yourself the field with
silver and call in witnesses, even though the city has been delivered into
the hands of the Chaldeans!' "
26 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult
for me?
28 Therefore this is what the LORD says: Behold, I am about to deliver
this city into the hands of the Chaldeans and of Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon, who will capture it.
29 And the Chaldeans who are fighting against this city will come in, set
it on fire, and burn it, along with the houses of those who provoked me to
anger by burning incense to Baal on their rooftops and by pouring out
drink offerings to other gods.
30 For the children of Israel and of Judah have done nothing but evil in
my sight from their youth; indeed, they have done nothing but provoke
me to anger by the work of their hands, declares the LORD.
31 For this city has aroused my wrath and fury from the day it was built
until now. Therefore I will remove it from my presence
32 because of all the evil the children of Israel and of Judah have done to
provoke me to anger—they, their kings, their officials, their priests and
prophets, the men of Judah, and the residents of Jerusalem.
33 They have turned their backs to me and not their faces. Though I
taught them again and again,§ they would not listen or respond to
discipline.
34 They have placed their abominations in the house that bears my
Name, and so have defiled it.
35 They have built the high places of Baal in the Valley of Ben-hinnom to
make their sons and daughters pass through the fire to
Molech—something I never commanded them, nor had it ever entered my
mind, that they should commit such an abomination and cause Judah to
sin.
36 Now therefore, about this city of which you say, 'It will be delivered
into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword and famine and plague,' this
is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:
37 I will surely gather my people from all the lands to which I have
banished them in my furious anger and great wrath, and I will return
them to this place and make them dwell in safety.
38 They will be my people, and I will be their God.
39 I will give them one heart and one way, so that they will always fear
me for their own good and for the good of their children after them.
40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never turn away
from doing good to them, and I will put my fear in their hearts, so that
they will never turn away from me.

§ **32:33 32:33** Literally *I taught them, rising up early and teaching,*

41 Yes, I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will faithfully plant them
in this land with all my heart and with all my soul.
42 For this is what the LORD says: Just as I have brought all this great
disaster on this people, so I will bring on them all the good I have
promised them.
43 And fields will be bought in this land about which you are saying, 'It is
a desolation, without man or beast; it has been delivered into the hands of
the Chaldeans.'
44 Fields will be purchased with silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed,
and witnessed in the land of Benjamin, in the areas surrounding
Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah—the cities of the hill country, the
foothills,* and the Negev—because I will restore their fortunes,† declares
the LORD."

33

1 While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the
word of the LORD came to him a second time:
2 "Thus says the LORD who made it,* the LORD who formed it and
established it, the LORD is his name:
3 Call to me, and I will answer and show you great and unsearchable
things you do not know.
4 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the houses of
this city and the palaces of the kings of Judah that have been torn down
for defense against the siege ramps and the sword:
5 They are coming to fight the Chaldeans† and to fill those places with
the corpses of the men I will strike down in my anger and in my wrath. I
have hidden my face from this city because of all its wickedness.
6 Nevertheless, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal its
people and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.
7 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Israel‡ and will rebuild them as
in former times.
8 And I will cleanse them from all the iniquity they have committed
against me, and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me.
9 So this city will bring me renown, joy, praise, and glory before all the
nations of the earth, who will hear of all the good I do for it. They will
tremble in awe because of all the goodness and prosperity that I will
provide for it.
10 This is what the LORD says: In this place you say is a wasteland
without man or beast, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem
that are deserted—inhabited by neither man nor beast—there will be
heard again
11 the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of the bride and
bridegroom, and the voices of those bringing thank offerings into the
house of the LORD, saying:

'Give thanks to the LORD of Hosts,
for the LORD is good;
his loving devotion endures forever.'

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* **32:44 32:44** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **32:44 32:44** Or *restore them from captivity* * **33:2 33:2** LXX *who made the earth* † **33:5 33:5** That is, the Babylonians; or *The Chaldeans are coming to fight* ‡ **33:7 33:7** Or *restore Judah and Israel from captivity*

For I will restore the fortunes of the land§ as in former times, says the LORD.
12 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: In this desolate place, without man or beast, and in all its cities, there will once more be pastures for shepherds to rest their flocks.
13 In the cities of the hill country, the foothills,* and the Negev, in the land of Benjamin and the cities surrounding Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, the flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the LORD.
14 Behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will fulfill the gracious promise
that I have spoken
to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
15 In those days and at that time
I will cause to sprout for David a righteous branch,
and he will administer justice
and righteousness in the land.
16 In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely,
and this is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD our Righteousness.†
17 For this is what the LORD says: David will never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,
18 nor will the priests who are Levites ever fail to have a man before me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to present sacrifices."
19 And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
20 "This is what the LORD says: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night cease to occupy their appointed time,
21 then my covenant may also be broken with David my servant and with my ministers the Levites who are priests, so that David will not have a son to reign on his throne.
22 As the hosts of heaven cannot be counted and as the sand on the seashore cannot be measured, so too will I multiply the descendants of my servant David and the Levites who minister before me."
23 Moreover, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
24 "Have you not noticed what these people are saying: 'The LORD has rejected the two families he had chosen'? So they despise my people and no longer regard them as a nation.
25 This is what the LORD says: If I have not established my covenant with the day and the night and the fixed order of heaven and earth,
26 then I would also reject the descendants of Jacob and of my servant David, so as not to take from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes‡ and will have compassion on them."

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§ **33:11 33:11** Or *restore the land from captivity* * **33:13 33:13** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **33:16 33:16** Hebrew *YHWH Tsidqenu* ‡ **33:26 33:26** Or *restore them from captivity*

34

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD when
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, all his army, all the earthly kingdoms
under his control, and all the other nations were fighting against
Jerusalem and all its surrounding cities.
2 The LORD, the God of Israel, told Jeremiah to go and speak to Zedekiah
king of Judah and tell him that this is what the LORD says: “Behold, I am
about to deliver this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will
burn it down.
3 And you yourself will not escape his grasp, but will surely be captured
and delivered into his hand. You will see the king of Babylon eye to eye
and speak with him face to face; and you will go to Babylon.
4 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah. This is what
the LORD says concerning you: You will not die by the sword;
5 you will die in peace. As spices were burned for your fathers, the
former kings who preceded you, so people will burn spices for you and
lament, ‘Alas, O master!’ For I myself have spoken this word, declares the
LORD.”
6 In Jerusalem, then, Jeremiah the prophet relayed all these words to
Zedekiah king of Judah
7 as the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and
the remaining cities of Judah—against Lachish and Azekah. For these
were the only fortified cities remaining in Judah.
8 After King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in
Jerusalem to proclaim liberty, the word came to Jeremiah from the LORD
9 that each man should free his Hebrew slaves, both male and female,
and no one should hold his fellow Jew in bondage.
10 So all the officials and all the people who entered into this covenant
agreed that they would free their male and female slaves and no longer
hold them in bondage. They obeyed and released them,
11 but later they changed their minds and took back the male and female
slaves they had freed, and they forced them to become slaves again.
12 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
13 “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant
with your forefathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of
the house of slavery, saying:
14 Every seventh year, each of you must free his Hebrew brother who
has sold himself to you. He may serve you six years, but then you must let
him go free. But your fathers did not listen or incline their ear.
15 Recently you repented and did what pleased me; each of you
proclaimed freedom for his neighbor. You made a covenant before me in
the house that bears my Name.
16 But now you have changed your minds and profaned my name. Each
of you has taken back the male and female slaves whom you had set at
liberty to go wherever they wanted, and you have again forced them to be
your slaves.
17 Therefore this is what the LORD says: You have not obeyed me; you
have not proclaimed freedom, each man for his brother and for his
neighbor. So now I proclaim freedom for you, declares the
LORD—freedom to fall by sword, by plague, and by famine! I will make
you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

18 And those who have transgressed my covenant and have not fulfilled
the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf
they cut in two in order to pass between its pieces.
19 The officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests,
and all the people of the land who passed between the pieces of the calf,
20 I will deliver into the hands of their enemies who seek their lives.
Their corpses will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of
the earth.
21 And I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials into the
hands of their enemies who seek their lives, to the army of the king of
Babylon that had withdrawn from you.
22 Behold, I am going to give the command, declares the LORD, and I will
bring them back to this city. They will fight against it, capture it, and burn
it down. And I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, without
inhabitant."

35

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of
Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah:
2 "Go to the house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them to
one of the chambers of the house of the LORD to offer them a drink of
wine."
3 So I took Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, the son of Habazziniah, and his
brothers and all his sons—the entire house of the Rechabites—
4 and I brought them into the house of the LORD, to a chamber occupied
by the sons of Hanan son of Igdaliah, a man of God. This room was near
the chamber of the officials, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah
son of Shallum the doorkeeper.
5 Then I set pitchers full of wine and some cups before the men of the
house of the Rechabites, and I said to them, "Drink some wine."
6 "We do not drink wine," they replied, "for our forefather Jonadab* son
of Rechab commanded us, 'Neither you nor your descendants are ever to
drink wine.
7 Nor are you ever to build a house or sow seed or plant a vineyard.
Those things are not for you. Instead, you must live in tents all your lives,
so that you may live a long time in the land where you wander.'
8 And we have obeyed the voice of our forefather Jonadab son of Rechab
in all he commanded us. So we have not drunk wine all our lives—neither
we nor our wives nor our sons and daughters.
9 Nor have we built houses in which to live, and we have not owned any
vineyards or fields or crops.
10 But we have lived in tents and have obeyed and done exactly as our
forefather Jonadab commanded us.
11 So when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon marched into the land, we
said: 'Come, let us go into Jerusalem to escape the armies of the
Chaldeans† and the Arameans.' So we have remained in Jerusalem."
12 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
13 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Go and tell the
men of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem: 'Will you not accept
discipline and obey my words?' declares the LORD.

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* **35:6 35:6** *Jonadab* is a variant of *Jehonadab*; here and throughout this chapter; see 2 Kings 10:15.
† **35:11 35:11** That is, the Babylonians

14 The words of Jonadab son of Rechab have been carried out. He
commanded his sons not to drink wine, and they have not drunk it to this
very day because they have obeyed the command of their forefather. But I
have spoken to you again and again,‡ and you have not obeyed me!
15 Again and again I have sent you§ all my servants the prophets,
proclaiming: 'Turn now, each of you, from your wicked ways, and correct
your actions. Do not go after other gods to serve them. Live in the land
that I have given to you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your
ear or listened to me.
16 Yes, the sons of Jonadab son of Rechab carried out the command their
forefather gave them, but these people have not listened to me.
17 Therefore this is what the LORD God of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:
'Behold, I will bring to Judah and to all the residents of Jerusalem all the
disaster I have pronounced against them, because I have spoken to them
but they have not obeyed, and I have called to them but they have not
answered.' "
18 Then Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites: "This is what the
LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'Because you have obeyed the
command of your forefather Jonadab and have kept all his
commandments and have done all that he charged you to do,
19 this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Jonadab son of
Rechab will never fail to have a man to stand before me.' "

36

1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word
came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
2 "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you
concerning Israel, Judah, and all the nations, from the day I first spoke to
you during the reign of Josiah until today.
3 Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about all the calamity I plan to
bring upon them, each of them will turn from his wicked way. Then I will
forgive their iniquity and their sin."
4 So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and at the dictation of
Jeremiah, Baruch wrote on a scroll all the words that the LORD had
spoken to Jeremiah.
5 Then Jeremiah commanded Baruch, "I am restricted; I cannot enter the
house of the LORD;
6 so you are to go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting, and in the
hearing of the people you are to read the words of the LORD from the
scroll you have written at my dictation. Read them in the hearing of all
the people of Judah who are coming from their cities.
7 Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD, and each one
will turn from his wicked way; for great are the anger and fury that the
LORD has pronounced against this people."
8 So Baruch son of Neriah did everything that Jeremiah the prophet had
commanded him. In the house of the LORD he read the words of the LORD
from the scroll.
9 Now in the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah
king of Judah, a fast before the LORD was proclaimed to all the people of
Jerusalem and all who had come there from the cities of Judah.

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‡ **35:14 35:14** Literally *But I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,* § **35:15 35:15** Literally *Rising up early and sending (you), I have sent you*

10 From the chamber of Gemariah son of Shaphan the scribe, which was
in the upper courtyard at the opening of the New Gate of the house of the
LORD, Baruch read from the scroll the words of Jeremiah in the hearing of
all the people.
11 When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the
words of the LORD from the scroll,
12 he went down to the scribe's chamber in the king's palace, where all
the officials were sitting: Elishama the scribe, Delaiah son of Shemaiah,
Elnathan son of Achbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of
Hananiah, and all the other officials.
13 And Micaiah reported to them all the words he had heard Baruch
read from the scroll in the hearing of the people.
14 Then all the officials sent word to Baruch through Jehudi son of
Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, saying, "Bring the scroll
that you read in the hearing of the people, and come here."
So Baruch son of Neriah took the scroll and went to them.
15 "Please sit down," they said, "and read it in our hearing."
So Baruch read it in their hearing.
16 When they had heard all these words, they turned to one another in
fear and said to Baruch, "Surely we must report all these words to the
king."
17 "Tell us now," they asked Baruch, "how did you write all these words?
Was it at Jeremiah's dictation?"
18 "It was at his dictation," Baruch replied. "He recited all these words to
me and I wrote them in ink on the scroll."
19 Then the officials said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah must hide
yourselves and tell no one where you are."
20 So the officials went to the king in the courtyard. And having stored
the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, they reported everything
to the king.
21 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the
chamber of Elishama the scribe. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the
king and all the officials who were standing beside him.
22 Since it was the ninth month, the king was sitting in his winter
quarters with a fire burning before him.
23 And as soon as Jehudi had read three or four columns, Jehoiakim
would cut them off with a scribe's knife and throw them into the firepot,
until the entire scroll had been consumed by the fire.
24 Yet in hearing all these words, the king and his servants did not
become frightened or tear their garments.
25 Even though Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah urged the king not to
burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.
26 Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, as well as
Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the
scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them.
27 After the king had burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch
had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah:
28 "Take another scroll and rewrite on it the very words that were on the
original scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah has burned.
29 You are to proclaim concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah that this is
what the LORD says: You have burned the scroll and said, 'Why have you

written on it that the king of Babylon would surely come and destroy this land and deprive it of man and beast?'
30 Therefore this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim king of Judah:
He will have no one to sit on David's throne, and his body will be thrown out and exposed to heat by day and frost by night.
31 I will punish him and his descendants and servants for their iniquity.
I will bring on them, on the residents of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah, all the calamity about which I warned them but they did not listen."
32 Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and at Jeremiah's dictation he wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

37

1 Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon made Zedekiah son of Josiah the king of Judah, and he reigned in place of Coniah* son of Jehoiakim.
2 But he and his officers and the people of the land refused to obey the words that the LORD had spoken through Jeremiah the prophet.
3 Yet King Zedekiah sent Jehucal† son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, to Jeremiah the prophet with the message, "Please pray to the LORD our God for us!"
4 Now Jeremiah was free to come and go among the people, for they had not yet put him in prison.
5 Pharaoh's army had left Egypt, and when the Chaldeans‡ who were besieging Jerusalem heard the report, they withdrew from Jerusalem.
6 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet:
7 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says that you are to tell the king of Judah, who sent you to me: Behold, Pharaoh's army, which has marched out to help you, will go back to its own land of Egypt.
8 Then the Chaldeans will return and fight against this city. They will capture it and burn it down.
9 This is what the LORD says: Do not deceive yourselves by saying, 'The Chaldeans will go away for good,' for they will not!
10 Indeed, if you were to strike down the entire army of the Chaldeans that is fighting against you, and only wounded men remained in their tents, they would still get up and burn this city down."
11 When the Chaldean army withdrew from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army,
12 Jeremiah started to leave Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to claim his portion there§ among the people.
13 But when he reached the Gate of Benjamin, the captain of the guard, whose name was Irijah son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah, seized him and said, "You are deserting to the Chaldeans!"
14 "That is a lie," Jeremiah replied. "I am not deserting to the Chaldeans!"
But Irijah would not listen to him; instead, he arrested Jeremiah and took him to the officials.
15 The officials were angry with Jeremiah, and they beat him and placed him in jail in the house of Jonathan the scribe, for it had been made into a prison.

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* **37:1 37:1** *Coniah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*. † **37:3 37:3** *Jehucal* is a variant of *Jucal*; see Jeremiah 38:1. ‡ **37:5 37:5** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 8, 9, 13, and 14 § **37:12 37:12** Literally *to divide from there*

16 So Jeremiah went into a cell in the dungeon and remained there a
long time.
17 Later, King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah and received him in his palace,
where he asked him privately, “Is there a word from the LORD?”
“There is,” Jeremiah replied. “You will be delivered into the hand of the
king of Babylon.”
18 Then Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah, “How have I sinned against you
or your servants or these people, that you have put me in prison?
19 Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, claiming, ‘The king
of Babylon will not come against you or this land’?
20 But now please listen, O my lord the king. May my petition come
before you. Do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the scribe, or I
will die there.”
21 So King Zedekiah gave orders for Jeremiah to be placed in the
courtyard of the guard and given a loaf of bread daily from the street of
the bakers, until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained
in the courtyard of the guard.

38

1 Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jucal* son of
Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malchijah heard that Jeremiah had been
telling all the people:
2 “This is what the LORD says: Whoever stays in this city will die by
sword and famine and plague, but whoever surrenders to the Chaldeans†
will live; he will retain his life like a spoil of war, and he will live.
3 This is what the LORD says: This city will surely be delivered into the
hands of the army of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.”
4 Then the officials said to the king, “This man ought to die, for he is
discouraging‡ the warriors who remain in this city, as well as all the
people, by speaking such words to them; this man is not seeking the
well-being of these people, but their ruin.”
5 “Here he is,” replied King Zedekiah. “He is in your hands, since the king
can do nothing to stop you.”
6 So they took Jeremiah and dropped him into the cistern of Malchiah,
the king’s son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered
Jeremiah with ropes into the cistern, which had no water but only mud,
and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.
7 Now Ebed-melech the Cushite,§ a eunuch* in the royal palace, heard
that Jeremiah had been put into the cistern. While the king was sitting at
the Gate of Benjamin,
8 Ebed-melech went out from the king’s palace and said to the king,
9 “My lord the king, these men have acted wickedly in all that they have
done to Jeremiah the prophet. They have dropped him into the cistern,
where he will starve to death, for there is no more bread in the city.”
10 So the king commanded Ebed-melech the Cushite, “Take thirty men
from here with you and pull Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern
before he dies.”

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* **38:1 38:1** *Jucal* is a variant of *Jehucal*; see Jeremiah 37:3. † **38:2 38:2** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 18, 19, and 23 ‡ **38:4 38:4** Literally *weakening the hands of* § **38:7 38:7** Probably from the upper Nile region * **38:7 38:7** Or *court official*

11 Then Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to the king's
palace, to a place below the storehouse. From there he took old rags and
worn-out clothes and lowered them with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern.
12 Ebed-melech the Cushite cried out to Jeremiah, "Put these worn-out
rags and clothes under your arms to pad the ropes." Jeremiah did so,
13 and they pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the
cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard.
14 Then King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and received him
at the third entrance to the house of the LORD. "I am going to ask you
something," said the king to Jeremiah. "Do not hide anything from me."
15 "If I tell you," Jeremiah replied, "you will surely put me to death. And
even if I give you advice, you will not listen to me."
16 But King Zedekiah swore secretly to Jeremiah, "As surely as the LORD
lives, who has given us this life, I will not kill you, nor will I deliver you
into the hands of these men who are seeking your life."
17 Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the LORD God of Hosts,
the God of Israel, says: 'If you indeed surrender to the officers of the king
of Babylon, then you will live, this city will not be burned down, and you
and your household will survive.
18 But if you do not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, then
this city will be delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans. They will burn
it down, and you yourself will not escape their grasp.' "
19 But King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Jews who have
deserted to the Chaldeans, for the Chaldeans may deliver me into their
hands to abuse me."
20 "They will not hand you over," Jeremiah replied. "Obey the voice of the
LORD in what I am telling you, that it may go well with you and you may
live.
21 But if you refuse to surrender, this is the word that the LORD has
shown me:
22 All the women who remain in the palace of the king of Judah will be
brought out to the officials of the king of Babylon, and those women will
say:

'They misled you and overcame you—
those trusted friends of yours.
Your feet sank into the mire,
and they deserted you.'
23 All your wives and children will be brought out to the Chaldeans. And
you yourself will not escape their grasp, for you will be seized by the king
of Babylon, and this city will be burned down."
24 Then Zedekiah warned Jeremiah, "Do not let anyone know about this
conversation, or you will die.
25 If the officials hear that I have spoken with you, and they come and
demand of you, 'Tell us what you said to the king and what he said to you;
do not hide it from us, or we will kill you,'
26 then tell them, 'I was presenting to the king my petition that he not
return me to the house of Jonathan to die there.' "
27 When all the officials came to Jeremiah and questioned him, he
relayed to them the exact words the king had commanded him to say. So
they said no more to him, for no one had overheard the conversation.

28 And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard until the day
Jerusalem was captured. And this is what happened when Jerusalem was
captured:†

39

1 In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month,
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his
entire army and laid siege to the city.
2 And on the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah's eleventh year,
the city was breached.
3 Then all the officials of the king of Babylon entered and sat in the
Middle Gate: Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsekim* the Rabsaris,†
Nergal-sharezer the Rabmag,‡ and all the rest of the officials of the king of
Babylon.
4 When Zedekiah king of Judah and all the soldiers saw them, they fled.
They left the city at night by way of the king's garden, through the gate
between the two walls, and they went out along the route to the Arabah.§
5 But the army of the Chaldeans* pursued them and overtook Zedekiah
in the plains of Jericho. They seized him and brought him up to
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, where
he pronounced judgment on him.
6 There at Riblah the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah
before his eyes, and he also killed all the nobles of Judah.
7 Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him with bronze chains to
take him to Babylon.
8 The Chaldeans set fire to the palace of the king and to the houses of the
people, and they broke down the walls of Jerusalem.
9 Then Nebuzaradan captain of the guard carried away to Babylon the
remnant of the people who had remained in the city, along with the
deserters who had defected to him, and the rest of the people who
remained.
10 But Nebuzaradan captain of the guard left behind in the land of Judah
some of the poor people who had no property, and at that time he gave
them vineyards and fields.
11 Now Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had given orders about
Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan captain of the guard, saying,
12 "Take him, look after him, and do not let any harm come to him; do
for him whatever he says."
13 So Nebuzaradan captain of the guard, Nebushazban† the Rabsaris,
Nergal-sharezer the Rabmag, and all the captains of the king of Babylon
14 had Jeremiah brought from the courtyard of the guard, and they
turned him over to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to take
him home. So Jeremiah remained among his own people.
15 And while Jeremiah had been confined in the courtyard of the guard,
the word of the LORD had come to him:

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† **38:28 38:28** LXX does not include this sentence. * **39:3 39:3** Or *Nergal-sharezer of Samgar, Nebo-sarsekim* † **39:3 39:3** Hebrew *Rabsaris* is the title of the chief eunuch in the Assyrian military; also in verse 13. ‡ **39:3 39:3** Hebrew *Rabmag* is the title of the chief soothsayer or chief of princes in the Assyrian military; also in verse 13. § **39:4 39:4** Or *the Jordan Valley* * **39:5 39:5** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 8 † **39:13 39:13** *Nebushazban* is possibly a variant of *Nebo-sarsekim*; see verse 3.

16 “Go and tell Ebed-melech the Cushite that this is what the LORD of
Hosts, the God of Israel, says: ‘I am about to fulfill my words against this
city for harm and not for good, and on that day they will be fulfilled
before your eyes.
17 But I will deliver you on that day, declares the LORD, and you will not
be delivered into the hands of the men whom you fear.
18 For I will surely rescue you so that you do not fall by the sword.
Because you have trusted in me, you will escape with your life like a spoil
of war, declares the LORD.’ ”

40

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after
Nebuzaradan captain of the guard had released him at Ramah, having
found him bound in chains among all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah
who were being exiled to Babylon.
2 The captain of the guard found Jeremiah and said to him, “The LORD
your God decreed this disaster on this place,
3 and now the LORD has fulfilled it; he has done just as he said. Because
you people have sinned against the LORD and have not obeyed his voice,
this thing has happened to you.
4 But now, behold, I am freeing you today from the chains that were on
your wrists. If it pleases you to come with me to Babylon, then come, and I
will take care of you. But if it seems wrong to you to come with me to
Babylon, go no farther. Look, the whole land is before you. Wherever it
seems good and right to you, go there.”
5 But before Jeremiah turned to go, Nebuzaradan added, “Return to
Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon
has appointed over the cities of Judah, and stay with him among the
people, or go anywhere else that seems right.” Then the captain of the
guard gave him a ration and a gift and released him.
6 So Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah and stayed
with him among the people who were left in the land.
7 When all the commanders and men of the armies in the field heard
that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam over the
land and that he had put him in charge of the men, women, and children
who were the poorest of the land and had not been exiled to Babylon,
8 they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan
and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth, the sons of
Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah* son of the Maacathite—they and
their men.
9 Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, swore an oath to them
and their men, assuring them, “Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans.†
Live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you.
10 As for me, I will stay in Mizpah to represent you before the Chaldeans
who come to us. As for you, gather wine grapes, summer fruit, and oil,
place them in your storage jars, and live in the cities you have taken.”
11 When all the Jews in Moab, Ammon, Edom, and all the other lands
heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had
appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, over them,

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* **40:8 40:8** *Jezaniah* is a variant of *Jaazaniah*; see 2 Kings 25:23. † **40:9 40:9** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 10

12 they all returned from all the places to which they had been banished
and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah. And they gathered
an abundance of wine grapes and summer fruit.
13 Meanwhile, Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the
armies in the field came to Gedaliah at Mizpah
14 and said to him, "Are you aware that Baalis king of the Ammonites has
sent Ishmael son of Nethaniah to take your life?"
But Gedaliah son of Ahikam did not believe them.
15 Then Johanan son of Kareah spoke privately to Gedaliah at Mizpah.
"Let me go and kill Ishmael son of Nethaniah," he said. "No one will know
it. Why should he take your life and scatter all the people of Judah who
have gathered to you, so that the remnant of Judah would perish?"
16 But Gedaliah son of Ahikam said to Johanan son of Kareah, "Do not do
such a thing! What you are saying about Ishmael is a lie."

41

1 In the seventh month, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama,
who was a member of the royal family and one of the king's chief officers,
came with ten men to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and they ate a
meal together there.
2 Then Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with him
got up and struck down Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with
the sword, killing the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed to
govern the land.
3 Ishmael also killed all the Jews who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, as
well as the Chaldean* soldiers who were there.
4 On the second day after the murder of Gedaliah, when no one yet
knew about it,
5 eighty men who had shaved off their beards, torn their garments, and
cut themselves came from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria, carrying grain
offerings and frankincense for the house of the LORD.
6 And Ishmael son of Nethaniah went out from Mizpah to meet them,
weeping as he went.
When Ishmael encountered the men, he said, "Come to Gedaliah son of
Ahikam."
7 And when they came into the city, Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the
men with him slaughtered them and threw them into a cistern.
8 But ten of the men among them said to Ishmael, "Do not kill us, for we
have hidden treasure in the field—wheat, barley, oil, and honey!" So he
refrained from killing them with the others.
9 Now the cistern into which Ishmael had thrown all the bodies of the
men he had struck down along with Gedaliah was the one that King Asa
had made† for fear of Baasha king of Israel. Ishmael son of Nethaniah
filled it with the slain.
10 Then Ishmael took captive all the remnant of the people of
Mizpah—the daughters of the king along with all the others who remained
in Mizpah—over whom Nebuzaradan captain of the guard had appointed
Gedaliah son of Ahikam. Ishmael son of Nethaniah took them captive and
set off to cross over to the Ammonites.

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* **41:3 41:3** Or *Babylonian* † **41:9 41:9** LXX *was a large cistern that King Asa had made*

11 When Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies
with him heard of all the crimes that Ishmael son of Nethaniah had
committed,
12 they took all their men and went to fight Ishmael son of Nethaniah.
And they found him near the great pool in Gibeon.
13 When all the people with Ishmael saw Johanan son of Kareah and all
the commanders of the army with him, they rejoiced,
14 and all the people whom Ishmael had taken captive at Mizpah turned
and went over to Johanan son of Kareah.
15 But Ishmael son of Nethaniah and eight of his men escaped from
Johanan and went to the Ammonites.
16 Then Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies
with him took the whole remnant of the people from Mizpah whom he
had recovered from Ishmael son of Nethaniah after Ishmael had killed
Gedaliah son of Ahikam: the soldiers, women, children, and eunuchs‡ he
had brought back from Gibeon.
17 And they went and stayed in Geruth Chimham, near Bethlehem, in
order to proceed into Egypt
18 to escape the Chaldeans.§ For they were afraid of the Chaldeans
because Ishmael son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah son of
Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land.

42

1 Then all the commanders of the forces, along with Johanan son of
Kareah, Jezaniah* son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the
greatest, approached
2 Jeremiah the prophet and said, “May our petition come before you;
pray to the LORD your God on behalf of this entire remnant. For few of us
remain of the many, as you can see with your own eyes.
3 Pray that the LORD your God will tell us the way we should walk and
the thing we should do.”
4 “I have heard you,” replied Jeremiah the prophet. “I will surely pray to
the LORD your God as you request, and I will tell you everything that the
LORD answers. I will not withhold a word from you.”
5 Then they said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD be a true and faithful
witness against us if we do not act upon every word that the LORD your
God sends you to tell us.
6 Whether it is pleasant or unpleasant, we will obey the voice of the
LORD our God to whom we are sending you, so that it may go well with us
when we obey the voice of the LORD our God!”
7 After ten days the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah,
8 and he summoned Johanan son of Kareah, all the commanders of the
forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest.
9 Jeremiah told them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom
you sent me to present your petition:
10 ‘If you will indeed stay in this land, then I will build you up and not
tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you, for I will relent of the
disaster I have brought upon you.

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‡ **41:16 41:16** Or *court officials* § **41:18 41:18** That is, the Babylonians * **42:1 42:1** LXX *Azariah*; see Jeremiah 43:2.

11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear; do not be
afraid of him, declares the LORD, for I am with you to save you and
deliver you from him.
12 And I will show you compassion, and he will have compassion on you
and restore you to your own land.'
13 But if you say, 'We will not stay in this land,' and you thus disobey the
voice of the LORD your God,
14 and if you say, 'No, but we will go to the land of Egypt and live there,
where we will not see war or hear the sound of the ram's horn or hunger
for bread,'
15 then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah! This is what the
LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'If you are determined to go to
Egypt and reside there,
16 then the sword you fear will overtake you there in the land of Egypt,
and the famine you dread will follow on your heels into Egypt, and you
will die there.
17 So all who resolve to go to Egypt to reside there will die by sword and
famine and plague. Not one of them will survive or escape the disaster I
will bring upon them.'
18 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'Just as my
anger and wrath were poured out on the residents of Jerusalem, so will
my wrath be poured out on you if you go to Egypt. You will become an
object of cursing and horror, of vilification and disgrace, and you will
never see this place again.'
19 The LORD has told you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt.'
Know for sure that I have warned you today!
20 For you have deceived yourselves by sending me to the LORD your
God, saying, 'Pray to the LORD our God on our behalf, and as for all that
the LORD our God says, tell it to us and we will do it.'
21 For I have told you today, but you have not obeyed the voice of the
LORD your God in all he has sent me to tell you.
22 Now therefore, know for sure that by sword and famine and plague
you will die in the place where you desire to go to reside."

43

1 When Jeremiah had finished telling all the people all the words of the
LORD their God—everything that the LORD had sent him to say—
2 Azariah son of Hoshaiah, Johanan son of Kareah, and all the arrogant
men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you
to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to reside there.'
3 Rather, Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to deliver us
into the hands of the Chaldeans,* so that they may put us to death or exile
us to Babylon!"
4 So Johanan son of Kareah, all the commanders of the forces, and all the
people disobeyed the command of the LORD to stay in the land of Judah.
5 Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces
took the whole remnant of Judah, those who had returned to the land of
Judah from all the nations to which they had been scattered,
6 the men, the women, the children, the king's daughters, and everyone
whom Nebuzaradan captain of the guard had allowed to remain with

* **43:3 43:3** That is, the Babylonians

Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, as well as Jeremiah the
prophet and Baruch son of Neriah.
7 So they entered the land of Egypt because they did not obey the voice
of the LORD, and they went as far as Tahpanhes.
8 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah at Tahpanhes:
9 "In the sight of the Jews, pick up some large stones and bury them in
the clay of the brick pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace at
Tahpanhes.
10 Then tell them that this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel,
says: 'I will send for my servant Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and I
will set his throne over these stones that I have embedded, and he will
spread his royal pavilion over them.
11 He will come and strike down the land of Egypt, bringing death to
those destined for death, captivity to those destined for captivity, and the
sword to those destined for the sword.
12 I will kindle a fire in the temples of the gods of Egypt, and
Nebuchadnezzar will burn those temples and take their gods as captives.†
So he will wrap himself with the land of Egypt as a shepherd wraps
himself in his garment, and he will depart from there unscathed.
13 He will demolish the sacred pillars of Beth-shemesh‡ in the land of
Egypt, and he will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.' "

44

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews living in
the land of Egypt*—in Migdol, Tahpanhes, and Memphis†—and in the land
of Pathros:‡
2 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: You have seen
all the disaster that I brought against Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah;
and behold, they lie today in ruins and desolation
3 because of the evil they have done.
They provoked me to anger by continuing to burn incense and to serve
other gods that neither they nor you nor your fathers ever knew.
4 Yet I sent you all my servants the prophets again and again,§ saying:
'Do not do this detestable thing that I hate.'
5 But they did not listen or incline their ears; they did not turn from
their wickedness or stop burning incense to other gods.
6 Therefore my wrath and anger poured out and burned in the cities of
Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, so that they have become the
desolate ruin they are today.
7 So now, this is what the LORD God of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Why
are you doing such great harm to yourselves by cutting off from Judah
man and woman, child and infant, leaving yourselves without a remnant?
8 Why are you provoking me to anger by the work of your hands by
burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt, where you have gone
to reside?
As a result, you will be cut off and will become an object of cursing and
reproach among all the nations of the earth.

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† **43:12 43:12** Literally *and he will burn them and take them captive* ‡ **43:13 43:13** That is, *house of the sun*, probably Heliopolis; LXX *the pillars of Heliopolis in On* or *the pillars of Heliopolis in Egypt*
* **44:1 44:1** Or *Lower Egypt* or *northern Egypt*; also in verse 15 † **44:1 44:1** Hebrew *Noph* ‡ **44:1 44:1** Or *Upper Egypt* or *southern Egypt*; also in verse 15 § **44:4 44:4** Literally *the prophets, rising up early and sending (them),*

9 Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers and of the kings of
Judah and their wives, as well as the wickedness that you and your wives
committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?
10 To this day they have not humbled themselves or shown reverence,
nor have they followed my instruction or the statutes that I set before you
and your fathers.
11 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I will
set my face to bring disaster and to cut off all Judah.
12 And I will take away the remnant of Judah who have resolved to go to
the land of Egypt to reside there; they will meet their end. They will all fall
by the sword or be consumed by famine. From the least to the greatest,
they will die by sword or famine; and they will become an object of
cursing and horror, of vilification and reproach.
13 I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt, just as I punished
Jerusalem, by sword and famine and plague,
14 so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone to reside in
Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah, where they
long to return and live; for none will return except a few fugitives."
15 Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to
other gods, and all the women standing by—a great assembly—along with
all the people living in the land of Egypt and in Pathros,* said to Jeremiah,
16 "As for the word you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we
will not listen to you!
17 Instead, we will do everything we vowed to do: We will burn incense
to the Queen of Heaven and offer drink offerings to her, just as we, our
fathers, our kings, and our officials did in the cities of Judah and in the
streets of Jerusalem.
At that time we had plenty of food and good things, and we saw no
disaster.
18 But from the time we stopped burning incense to the Queen of
Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything
and have been perishing by sword and famine."
19 "Moreover," said the women, "when we burned incense to the Queen
of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, was it without our
husbands' knowledge that we made sacrificial cakes in her image and
poured out drink offerings to her?"
20 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, both men and women, who were
answering him,
21 "As for the incense you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets
of Jerusalem—you, your fathers, your kings, your officials, and the people
of the land—did the LORD not remember and bring this to mind?
22 So the LORD could no longer endure the evil deeds and detestable acts
you committed, and your land became a desolation, a horror, and an
object of cursing, without inhabitant, as it is this day.
23 Because you burned incense and sinned against the LORD and did not
obey the voice of the LORD or walk in his instruction, his statutes, and his
testimonies, this disaster has befallen you, as you see today."
24 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including all the women, "Hear
the word of the LORD, all those of Judah who are in the land of Egypt.

* **44:15 44:15** That is, in Lower and Upper Egypt; possibly *in the land of Egypt at Pathros*

25 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: As for you and
your wives, you have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your
hands your words: 'We will surely perform our vows that we have made
to burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out drink offerings to
her.' Go ahead, then, do what you have promised! Keep your vows!
26 Nevertheless, hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah
living in Egypt: Behold, I have sworn by my great name, says the LORD,
that never again will any man of Judah living in the land of Egypt invoke
my name or say, 'As surely as the Lord GOD lives.'
27 I am watching over them for harm and not for good, and every man
of Judah who is in the land of Egypt will meet his end by sword or famine,
until they are finished off.
28 Those who escape the sword will return from Egypt to Judah, few in
number, and the whole remnant of Judah who went to dwell in the land of
Egypt will know whose word will stand, mine or theirs!
29 This will be a sign to you that I will punish you in this place, declares
the LORD, so that you may know that my threats of harm against you will
surely stand.
30 This is what the LORD says: Behold, I will deliver Pharaoh Hophra
king of Egypt into the hands of his enemies who seek his life, just as I
delivered Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon, the enemy who was seeking his life."

45

1 This is the word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch son of
Neriah when he wrote these words on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah
in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah:
2 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch:
3 You have said, 'Woe is me because the LORD has added sorrow to my
pain! I am worn out with groaning and have found no rest.' "
4 Thus you shall say to him:* "This is what the LORD says: Throughout
the land I will demolish what I have built and uproot what I have planted.
5 But as for you, do you seek great things for yourself? Stop seeking! For
I will bring disaster on every living creature, declares the LORD, but
wherever you go, I will grant your life as a spoil of war."

46

1 This is the word of the LORD about the nations—the word that came to
Jeremiah the prophet
2 concerning Egypt and the army of Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt, which
was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadrezzar
king of Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of
Judah:

3 "Deploy your shields, small and large;
advance for battle!
4 Harness the horses; mount the steeds;
take your positions with helmets on!
Polish your spears;
put on armor!

* **45:4 45:4** Or *Thus Jeremiah was to say to Baruch:*

5 Why am I seeing this?

They are terrified,
they are retreating;
their warriors are defeated,
they flee in haste without looking back;
terror is on every side!"
declares the LORD.
6 "The swift cannot flee,
and the warrior cannot escape!
In the north by the River Euphrates
they stumble and fall.

7 Who is this, rising like the Nile,
like rivers whose waters churn?
8 Egypt rises like the Nile,
and its waters churn like rivers,
boasting, 'I will rise and cover the earth;
I will destroy the cities and their people.'

9 Advance, O horses! Race furiously, O chariots!
Let the warriors come forth—
Cush* and Put carrying their shields,
men of Lydia drawing the bow.
10 For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of Hosts,
a day of vengeance against his foes.
The sword will devour until it is satisfied,
until it is quenched with their blood.
For the Lord GOD of Hosts will hold a sacrifice
in the land of the north by the River Euphrates.

11 Go up to Gilead for balm,
O Virgin Daughter of Egypt!
In vain you try many remedies,
but for you there is no healing.
12 The nations have heard of your shame,
and your outcry fills the earth,
because warrior stumbles over warrior
and both of them have fallen together."
13 This is the word that the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt:

14 "Announce it in Egypt, and proclaim it in Migdol;
proclaim it in Memphis† and Tahpanhes:
'Take your positions and prepare yourself,
for the sword devours those around you.'
15 Why have your warriors been laid low?
They cannot stand, for the LORD has thrust them down.
16 They continue to stumble;
indeed, they have fallen over one another.
They say, 'Get up! Let us return to our people

* **46:9 46:9** That is, the upper Nile region † **46:14 46:14** Hebrew *Noph*; also in verse 19

and to the land of our birth,
away from the sword of the oppressor.'

17 There they will cry out:
'Pharaoh king of Egypt was all noise;
he has let the appointed time pass him by.'

18 As surely as I live, declares the King,
whose name is the LORD of Hosts,
there will come one who is like Tabor among the mountains
and like Carmel by the sea.
19 Pack your bags for exile,
O daughter dwelling in Egypt!
For Memphis will be laid waste,
destroyed and uninhabited.

20 Egypt is a beautiful heifer,
but a gadfly from the north is coming against her.
21 Even the mercenaries among her
are like fattened calves.
They too will turn back;
together they will flee, they will not stand their ground,
for the day of calamity is coming upon them—
the time of their punishment.

22 Egypt will hiss like a fleeing serpent,‡
for the enemy will advance in force;
with axes they will come against her
like woodsmen cutting down trees.
23 They will chop down her forest, declares the LORD,
dense though it may be,
for they are more numerous than locusts;
they cannot be counted.
24 The Daughter of Egypt will be put to shame;
she will be delivered into the hands of the people of the north."
25 The LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "Behold, I am about to punish Amon god of Thebes,§ along with Pharaoh, Egypt with her gods and kings, and those who trust in Pharaoh.
26 I will deliver them into the hands of those who seek their lives—of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and his officers. But after this, Egypt will be inhabited as in days of old, declares the LORD.

27 But you, O Jacob my servant, do not be afraid,
and do not be dismayed, O Israel.
For I will surely save you out of a distant place,
your descendants from the land of their captivity!
Jacob will return to quiet and ease,
with no one to make him afraid.
28 And you, my servant Jacob, do not be afraid,
declares the LORD, for I am with you.

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‡ **46:22 46:22** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

§ **46:25 46:25** Hebrew *Amon of No*

Though I will completely destroy all the nations to which I have banished
you,
I will not completely destroy you.
Yet I will discipline you justly,
and will by no means leave you unpunished."

47

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet about
the Philistines before Pharaoh struck down Gaza.
2 This is what the LORD says:

"See how the waters are rising from the north
and becoming an overflowing torrent.
They will overflow the land and its fullness,
the cities and their inhabitants.
The people will cry out,
and all who dwell in the land will wail
3 at the sound of the galloping hooves of stallions,
the rumbling of chariots,
and the clatter of their wheels.
The fathers will not turn back for their sons;
their hands will hang limp.

4 For the day has come
to destroy all the Philistines,
to cut off from Tyre and Sidon
every remaining ally.
Indeed, the LORD is about to destroy the Philistines,
the remnant from the coasts of Caphtor.*
5 Baldness has come to Gaza;†
Ashkelon will be silenced.
O remnant of their valley,‡
how long will you gash yourself?

6 'Alas, O sword of the LORD,
how long until you rest?
Return to your sheath;
cease and be still!'

7 How can it rest
when the LORD has commanded it?
He has appointed it against Ashkelon
and the shore of its coastland."

48

1 Concerning Moab, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel,
says:

"Woe to Nebo,
for it will be devastated.
Kiriathaim will be captured and disgraced;
the fortress will be shattered and dismantled.

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* **47:4 47:4** That is, Crete † **47:5 47:5** Or *The people of Gaza will shave their heads in mourning*
‡ **47:5 47:5** That is, the Mediterranean coast or plain

2 There is no longer praise for Moab;
in Heshbon* they devise evil against her:
'Come, let us cut her off from nationhood.'

You too, O people of Madmen,† will be silenced;
the sword will pursue you.
3 A voice cries out from Horonaim:
'Devastation and great destruction!'
4 Moab will be shattered;
her little ones will cry out.‡

5 For on the ascent to Luhith
they weep bitterly as they go,
and on the descent to Horonaim
cries of distress resound
over the destruction:
6 'Flee! Run for your lives!
Become like Aroer in the desert.§'

7 Because you trust in your works and treasures,
you too will be captured,
and Chemosh will go into exile
with his priests and officials.
8 The destroyer will move against every city,
and not one town will escape.
The valley will also be ruined,
and the high plain will be destroyed,
as the LORD has said.

9 Give wings to Moab,
for she would fly away;*
her cities will become desolate,
with no one to dwell in them.
10 Cursed is the one who is remiss
in doing the work of the LORD,
and cursed is he who withholds
his sword from bloodshed.

11 Moab has been at ease from youth,
settled like wine on its dregs;
he has not been poured from vessel to vessel
or gone into exile.
So his flavor has remained the same,
and his aroma is unchanged.
12 Therefore behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will send to him wanderers,
who will pour him out.
They will empty his vessels
and shatter his jars.

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* **48:2 48:2** The Hebrew for *Heshbon* sounds like the Hebrew for *plot*. † **48:2 48:2** The name of the Moabite town *Madmen* sounds like the Hebrew for *silenced*. ‡ **48:4 48:4** LXX *her cries are heard as far away as Zoar* § **48:6 48:6** Or *like a juniper* or *like a wild donkey* * **48:9 48:9** Or *Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste*

13 Then Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh,
just as the house of Israel was ashamed
when they trusted in Bethel.

14 How can you say, 'We are warriors,
mighty men ready for battle'?
15 Moab has been destroyed
and its towns have been invaded;
the best of its young men
have gone down in the slaughter,
declares the King,
whose name is the LORD of Hosts.
16 Moab's calamity is at hand,
and his affliction is rushing swiftly.
17 Mourn for him, all you who surround him,
everyone who knows his name;
tell how the mighty scepter is shattered—
the glorious staff!

18 Come down from your glory; sit on parched ground,
O daughter dwelling in Dibon,
for the destroyer of Moab has come against you;
he has destroyed your fortresses.
19 Stand by the road and watch,
O dweller of Aroer!
Ask the man fleeing or the woman escaping,
'What has happened?'
20 Moab is put to shame, for it has been shattered.
Wail and cry out!
Declare by the Arnon
that Moab is destroyed.

21 Judgment has come upon the high plain—
upon Holon, Jahzah,† and Mephaath,
22 upon Dibon, Nebo, and Beth-diblathaim,
23 upon Kiriathaim, Beth-gamul, and Beth-meon,
24 upon Kerioth, Bozrah, and all the towns of Moab,
those far and near.

25 The horn of Moab has been cut off,
and his arm is broken,"
declares the LORD.
26 "Make him drunk,
because he has magnified himself against the LORD;
so Moab will wallow in his own vomit,
and he will also become a laughingstock.
27 Was not Israel your object of ridicule?
Was he ever found among thieves?
For whenever you speak of him
you shake your head.

† **48:21 48:21** *Jahzah* is a variant of *Jahaz*; see verse 34.

28 Abandon the towns and settle among the rocks,
O dwellers of Moab!
Be like a dove
that nests at the mouth of a cave.
29 We have heard of Moab's pomposity,
his exceeding pride and conceit,
his proud arrogance and haughtiness of heart.
30 I know his insolence,"
declares the LORD,
"but it is futile.
His boasting is as empty as his deeds.

31 Therefore I will wail for Moab;
I will cry out for all of Moab;
I will moan for the men of Kir-heres.‡
32 I will weep for you, O vine of Sibmah,
more than I weep for Jazer.
Your tendrils have extended to the sea;§
they reach to the Sea of Jazer.*
The destroyer has descended
on your summer fruit and grape harvest.
33 Joy and gladness are removed from the orchard
and from the fields of Moab.
I have stopped the flow of wine from the presses;
no one treads them with shouts of joy;
their shouts are not for joy.

34 There is a cry from Heshbon to Elealeh;
they raise their voices to Jahaz,
from Zoar to Horonaim and Eglath-shelishiyah;
for even the waters of Nimrim have dried up.

35 In Moab, declares the LORD,
I will bring an end
to those who make offerings on the high places
and burn incense to their gods.
36 Therefore my heart laments like a flute for Moab;
it laments like a flute for the men of Kir-heres,
because the wealth they acquired has perished.

37 For every head is shaved
and every beard is clipped;
on every hand is a gash,
and around every waist is sackcloth.
38 On all the rooftops of Moab
and in the public squares,
everyone is mourning;
for I have shattered Moab like an unwanted jar,"
declares the LORD.
39 "How shattered it is! How they wail!

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‡ **48:31 48:31** *Kir-heres* is a variant of *Kir-hareseth*; also in verse 36; see Isaiah 16:7. § **48:32 48:32** Probably the Dead Sea * **48:32 48:32** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; two Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *even to Jazer*

How Moab has turned his back in shame!
Moab has become an object of ridicule and horror
to all those around him."
40 For this is what the LORD says:

"Behold, an eagle swoops down
and spreads his wings against Moab.
41 Kirioth has been taken,
and the strongholds seized.
In that day the heart of Moab's warriors
will be like the heart of a woman in labor.
42 Moab will be destroyed as a nation
because he vaunted himself against the LORD.

43 Terror and pit and snare await you, O dweller of Moab,"
declares the LORD.
44 "Whoever flees the panic
will fall into the pit,
and whoever climbs from the pit
will be caught in the snare.
For I will bring upon Moab
the year of their punishment,"
declares the LORD.
45 "Those who flee will stand helpless in Heshbon's shadow,
because fire has gone forth from Heshbon
and a flame from within Sihon.
It devours the foreheads of Moab
and the skulls of the sons of tumult.
46 Woe to you, O Moab!
The people of Chemosh have perished;
for your sons have been taken into exile
and your daughters have gone into captivity.
47 Yet in the latter days I will restore the fortunes of Moab,†"
declares the LORD.
Here ends the judgment on Moab.

49

1 Concerning the Ammonites, this is what the LORD says:

"Has Israel no sons?
Is he without heir?
Why then has their king* taken possession of Gad?
Why have his people settled in their cities?
2 Therefore, behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will sound the battle cry
against Rabbah of the Ammonites.
It will become a heap of ruins,
and its villages will be burned.
Then Israel will drive out their dispossessors,
says the LORD.

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† **48:47 48:47** Or *restore Moab from captivity* * **49:1 49:1** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *Milcom*, a variant of *Molech*; also in verse 3; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7.

3 Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai has been destroyed;
cry out, O daughters of Rabbah!
Put on sackcloth and mourn;
run back and forth within your walls,
for their king† will go into exile
together with his priests and officials.
4 Why do you boast of your valleys—
your valleys so fruitful,‡
O faithless daughter?
You trust in your riches and say,
'Who can come against me?'

5 Behold, I am about to bring terror upon you,
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts,
from all those around you.
You will each be driven headlong,
with no one to regather the fugitives.
6 Yet afterward I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites,§"
declares the LORD.
7 Concerning Edom, this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Is there no longer wisdom in Teman?
Has counsel perished from the prudent?
Has their wisdom decayed?
8 Turn and run!
Lie low, O dwellers of Dedan,
for I will bring disaster on Esau
at the time I punish him.

9 If grape gatherers came to you,
would they not leave some gleanings?
Were thieves to come in the night,
would they not steal only what they wanted?
10 But I will strip Esau bare;
I will uncover his hiding places,
and he will be unable to conceal himself.
His descendants will be destroyed
along with his relatives and neighbors,
and he will be no more.

11 Abandon your orphans; I will preserve their lives.
Let your widows trust in me."
12 For this is what the LORD says: "If those who do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, can you possibly remain unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for you must drink it too.
13 For by myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, that Bozrah will become a desolation, a disgrace, a ruin, and a curse, and all her cities will be in ruins forever."

14 I have heard a message from the LORD;

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† **49:3 49:3** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *Milcom*; see verse 1. ‡ **49:4 49:4** Or *your valleys flowing* § **49:6 49:6** Or *restore the Ammonites from captivity*

an envoy has been sent to the nations:
“Assemble yourselves to march against her!
Rise up for battle!”

15 “For behold, I will make you small among nations,
despised among men.
16 The terror you cause
and the pride of your heart
have deceived you,
O dwellers in the clefts of the rocks,*
O occupiers of the mountain summit.
Though you elevate your nest like the eagle,
even from there I will bring you down,”
declares the LORD.
17 “Edom will become an object of horror.
All who pass by will be appalled
and will scoff at all her wounds.
18 As Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown
along with their neighbors,”
says the LORD,
“no one will dwell there;
no man will abide there.
19 Behold, one will come up like a lion
from the thickets of the Jordan to the watered pasture.
For in an instant I will chase Edom from her land.
Who is the chosen one I will appoint for this?
For who is like me, and who can challenge me?
What shepherd can stand against me?”

20 Therefore hear the plans
that the LORD has drawn up against Edom
and the strategies he has devised
against the people of Teman:
Surely the little ones of the flock will be dragged away;
certainly their pasture will be appalled at their fate.†
21 At the sound of their fall the earth will quake;
their cry will resound to the Sea of Reeds.‡
22 Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down,
spreading its wings over Bozrah.
In that day the hearts of Edom’s mighty men
will be like the heart of a woman in labor.
23 Concerning Damascus:

“Hamath and Arpad are put to shame,
for they have heard a bad report;
they are agitated like the sea;§
their anxiety cannot be calmed.
24 Damascus has become feeble;
she has turned to flee.
Panic has gripped her;

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* **49:16 49:16** Or *of Sela* † **49:20 49:20** Or *their pasture will be made desolate because of them*
‡ **49:21 49:21** Or *the Red Sea* § **49:23 49:23** Hebrew *on the sea* or *by the sea*

anguish and pain have seized her
like a woman in labor.

25 How is the city of praise not forsaken,
the town that brings me joy?
26 For her young men will fall in the streets,
and all her warriors will be silenced in that day,"
declares the LORD of Hosts.
27 "I will set fire to the walls of Damascus;
it will consume the fortresses of Ben-hadad."
28 Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon defeated, this is what the LORD says:

"Rise up, advance against Kedar,
and destroy the people of the east!
29 They will take their tents and flocks,
their tent curtains and all their goods.
They will take their camels for themselves.
They will shout to them: 'Terror is on every side!'

30 Run! Escape quickly!
Lie low, O residents of Hazor,"
declares the LORD,
"for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon
has drawn up a plan against you;
he has devised a strategy against you.*

31 Rise up, advance against a nation at ease,
one that dwells securely,"
declares the LORD.
"They have no gates or bars;
they live alone.

32 Their camels will become plunder,
and their large herds will be spoil.
I will scatter to the wind in every direction
those who shave their temples;
I will bring calamity on them
from all sides,"
declares the LORD.
33 "Hazor will become a haunt for jackals,†
a desolation forever.
No one will dwell there;
no man will abide there."
34 This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah.
35 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Behold, I will shatter Elam's bow,
the mainstay of their might.
36 I will bring the four winds against Elam
from the four corners of the heavens,

* **49:30 49:30** Qere; Ketiv *them* † **49:33 49:33** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

and I will scatter them
to all these winds.
There will not be a nation
to which Elam's exiles will not go.
37 So I will shatter Elam before their foes,
before those who seek their lives.
I will bring disaster upon them,
even my fierce anger,"
declares the LORD.
"I will send out the sword after them
until I finish them off.
38 I will set my throne in Elam,
and destroy its king and officials,"
declares the LORD.
39 "Yet in the days to come,
I will restore the fortunes of Elam,‡"
declares the LORD.

50

1 This is the word that the LORD spoke through Jeremiah the prophet concerning Babylon and the land of the Chaldeans:*

2 "Announce and declare to the nations;
lift up a banner and proclaim it;
hold nothing back when you say,
'Babylon is captured;
Bel is put to shame;
Marduk is shattered,
her images are disgraced,
her idols are broken in pieces.'

3 For a nation from the north will come against her;
it will make her land a desolation.
No one will live in it;
both man and beast will flee."
4 "In those days and at that time,
declares the LORD,
the children of Israel and the children of Judah
will come together, weeping as they come,
and will seek the LORD their God.
5 They will ask the way to Zion
and turn their faces toward it.
They will come and join themselves to the LORD
in an everlasting covenant
that will never be forgotten.

6 My people are lost sheep;
their shepherds have led them astray,
causing them to roam the mountains.†
They have wandered from mountain to hill;
they have forgotten their resting place.
7 All who found them devoured them,

‡ **49:39 49:39** Or *restore Elam from captivity* * **50:1 50:1** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 8, 25, 35, and 45 † **50:6 50:6** Qere; Ketiv *on the wayward mountains*

and their enemies said,
'We are not guilty,
for they have sinned against the LORD, their true pasture,
the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

8 Flee from the midst of Babylon;
depart‡ from the land of the Chaldeans;
be like the he-goats that lead the flock.
9 For behold, I stir up and bring against Babylon
an assembly of great nations from the land of the north.
They will line up against her;
from the north she will be captured.
Their arrows will be like skilled warriors
who do not return empty-handed.
10 Chaldea§ will be plundered;
all who plunder her will have their fill,"
declares the LORD.
11 "Because you rejoice,
because you sing in triumph—
you who plunder my inheritance—
because you frolic like a heifer treading grain
and neigh like stallions,
12 your mother will be greatly ashamed;
she who bore you will be disgraced.
Behold, she will be the least of the nations,
a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

13 Because of the wrath of the LORD,
she will not be inhabited;
she will become completely desolate.
All who pass through Babylon will be horrified
and will hiss at all her wounds.

14 Line up in formation around Babylon,
all you who draw the bow!
Shoot at her! Spare no arrows!
For she has sinned against the LORD.
15 Raise a war cry against her on every side!
She has thrown up her hands in surrender;
her towers have fallen;
her walls are torn down.

Since this is the vengeance of the LORD,
take out your vengeance upon her;
as she has done,
do the same to her.
16 Cut off the sower from Babylon,
and the one who wields the sickle at harvest time.
In the face of the oppressor's sword,
each will turn to his own people,
each will flee to his own land.
17 Israel is a scattered flock,

‡ **50:8 50:8** Qere; Ketiv *they will depart* § **50:10 50:10** Or *Babylonia*

chased away by lions.
The first to devour him
was the king of Assyria;
the last to crush his bones
was Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon."
18 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:

"I will punish the king of Babylon and his land
as I punished the king of Assyria.
19 I will return Israel to his pasture,
and he will graze on Carmel and Bashan;
his soul will be satisfied
on the hills of Ephraim and Gilead.

20 In those days and at that time,
declares the LORD,
a search will be made for Israel's guilt,
but there will be none,
and for Judah's sins,
but they will not be found;
for I will forgive
the remnant I preserve.
21 Go up against the land of Merathaim,
and against the residents of Pekod.
Kill them* and devote them to destruction.†
Do all that I have commanded you,"
declares the LORD.
22 "The noise of battle is in the land—
the noise of great destruction.
23 How the hammer of the whole earth
lies broken and shattered!
What a horror Babylon has become
among the nations!

24 I laid a snare for you, O Babylon,
and you were caught before you knew it.
You were found and captured
because you challenged the LORD.
25 The LORD has opened his armory
and brought out his weapons of wrath,
for this is the work of the Lord GOD of Hosts
in the land of the Chaldeans.

26 Come against her
from the farthest border.
Break open her granaries;
pile her up like mounds of grain.
Devote her to destruction;
leave her no survivors.
27 Kill all her young bulls;
let them go down to the slaughter.

* **50:21 50:21** LXX *Avenge, O sword,* † **50:21 50:21** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verse 26.

Woe to them, for their day has come—
the time of their punishment.

28 Listen to the fugitives and refugees
from the land of Babylon,
declaring in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God,
the vengeance for his temple.
29 Summon the archers against Babylon,
all who string the bow.
Encamp all around her;
let no one escape.
Repay her according to her deeds;
do to her as she has done.
For she has defied the LORD,
the Holy One of Israel.
30 Therefore, her young men will fall in the streets,
and all her warriors will be silenced in that day,"
declares the LORD.
31 "Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one,"
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts,
"for your day has come,
the time when I will punish you.
32 The arrogant one will stumble and fall
with no one to pick him up.
And I will kindle a fire in his cities
to consume all those around him."
33 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"The sons of Israel are oppressed,
and the sons of Judah as well.
All their captors hold them fast,
refusing to release them.
34 Their Redeemer is strong;
the LORD of Hosts is his name.
He will fervently plead their case
so that he may bring rest to the earth,
but turmoil to those who live in Babylon.

35 A sword is against the Chaldeans,
declares the LORD,
against those who live in Babylon,
and against her officials and wise men.
36 A sword is against her false prophets,
and they will become fools.
A sword is against her warriors,
and they will be filled with terror.
37 A sword is against her horses and chariots
and against all the foreigners in her midst,
and they will become like women.
A sword is against her treasuries,
and they will be plundered.
38 A drought is upon her waters,

and they will be dried up.
For it is a land of graven images,
and the people go mad over idols.‡

39 So the desert creatures and hyenas will live there
and ostriches§ will dwell there.
It will never again be inhabited
or lived in from generation to generation.
40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah
along with their neighbors,"
declares the LORD,
"no one will dwell there;
no man will abide there.

41 Behold, an army is coming from the north;
a great nation and many kings are stirred up
from the ends of the earth.
42 They grasp the bow and javelin;*
they are cruel and merciless.
Their voice roars like the sea,
and they ride upon horses,
lined up like men in formation
against you, O Daughter of Babylon.
43 The king of Babylon has heard the report,
and his hands hang limp.
Anguish has gripped him,
pain like that of a woman in labor.

44 Behold, one will come up like a lion
from the thickets of the Jordan to the watered pasture.
For in an instant I will chase Babylon from her land.
Who is the chosen one I will appoint for this?
For who is like me, and who can challenge me?
What shepherd can stand against me?"

45 Therefore hear the plans
that the LORD has drawn up against Babylon
and the strategies he has devised
against the land of the Chaldeans:
Surely the little ones of the flock will be dragged away;
certainly their pasture will be made desolate because of them.
46 At the sound of Babylon's capture the earth will quake;
a cry will be heard among the nations.

51

1 This is what the LORD says:

"Behold, I will stir up against Babylon
and against the people of Leb-kamai*
the spirit of a destroyer.

‡ **50:38 50:38** Or *go mad with fear* § **50:39 50:39** Literally *daughters of an ostrich* or *daughters of an owl* * **50:42 50:42** Or *spear* * **51:1 51:1** *Leb-kamai* is a code name for Chaldea, that is, Babylonia.

2 I will send strangers to Babylon
to winnow her and empty her land;
for they will come against her from every side
in her day of disaster.

3 Let the archer bend† his bow,
and let him rise up in his armor.‡
Do not spare her young men;
devote all her army to destruction!§
4 And they will fall slain in the land of the Chaldeans,*
and pierced through in her streets.
5 For Israel and Judah have not been abandoned
by their God, the LORD of Hosts,
though their land is full of guilt
before the Holy One of Israel."

6 Flee from Babylon! Escape with your lives!
Do not be destroyed in her punishment.
For this is the time of the LORD's vengeance;
he will pay her what she deserves.
7 Babylon was a gold cup in the hand of the LORD,
making the whole earth drunk.
The nations drank her wine;
therefore the nations have gone mad.

8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been shattered.
Wail for her; get her balm for her pain;
perhaps she can be healed.

9 "We tried to heal Babylon,
but she could not be healed.
Abandon her!
Let each of us go to his own land,
for her judgment extends to the sky
and reaches to the clouds."

10 "The LORD has brought forth our vindication;
come, let us tell in Zion
what the LORD our God has accomplished."

11 Sharpen the arrows!
Fill the quivers!†
The LORD has aroused the spirit
of the kings of the Medes,
because his plan is aimed at Babylon
to destroy her,
for it is the vengeance of the LORD—

† **51:3 51:3** Ketiv adds *bend* a second time, not read ‡ **51:3 51:3** Some Hebrew manuscripts and ancient versions *Do not let the archer bend his bow or put on his armor* § **51:3 51:3** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **51:4 51:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 54 † **51:11 51:11** Hebrew *shelatim*, of uncertain meaning; literally *Fill the shields!*, or *Take up the shields!*; LXX *quivers*

vengeance for his temple.

12 Raise a banner against the walls of Babylon;
post the guard;
station the watchmen;
prepare the ambush.
For the LORD has both devised and accomplished
what he spoke against the people of Babylon.
13 You who dwell by many waters,
rich in treasures,
your end has come;
the thread of your life is cut.
14 The LORD of Hosts has sworn by himself:

“Surely I will fill you up with men as with locusts,
and they will shout in triumph over you.”
15 The LORD made the earth by his power;
he established the world by his wisdom
and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.
16 When he thunders,
the waters in the heavens roar;
he causes the clouds to rise
from the ends of the earth.
He generates the lightning with the rain
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

17 Every man is senseless and devoid of knowledge;
every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols.
For his molten images are a fraud,
and there is no breath in them.
18 They are worthless, a work to be mocked.
In the time of their punishment they will perish.
19 The Portion of Jacob is not like these,
for he is the Maker of all things,
and of the tribe of his inheritance—
the LORD of Hosts is his name.
20 “You are my war club,
my weapon for battle.
With you I shatter nations;
with you I bring kingdoms to ruin.
21 With you I shatter the horse and rider;
with you I shatter the chariot and driver.
22 With you I shatter man and woman;
with you I shatter the old man and the youth;
with you I shatter the young man and the maiden.
23 With you I shatter the shepherd and his flock;
with you I shatter the farmer and his oxen;
with you I shatter the governors and officials.

24 Before your very eyes I will repay
Babylon and all the dwellers of Chaldea‡

‡ **51:24 51:24** That is, Babylonia; also in verse 35

for all the evil they have done in Zion,"
declares the LORD.
25 "Behold, I am against you,
O destroying mountain,
you who devastate the whole earth,
declares the LORD.
I will stretch out my hand against you;
I will roll you over the cliffs
and turn you into a charred mountain.
26 No one shall retrieve from you a cornerstone
or a foundation stone,
because you will become desolate forever,"
declares the LORD.
27 "Raise a banner in the land!
Blow the ram's horn among the nations!
Prepare the nations against her.
Summon the kingdoms against her—
Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz.
Appoint a captain against her;
bring up horses like swarming locusts.
28 Prepare the nations for battle against her—
the kings of the Medes,
their governors and all their officials,
and all the lands they rule.

29 The earth quakes and writhes
because the LORD's intentions against Babylon stand:
to make the land of Babylon a desolation,
without inhabitant.
30 The warriors of Babylon have stopped fighting;
they sit in their strongholds.
Their strength is exhausted;
they have become like women.
Babylon's homes have been set ablaze,
the bars of her gates are broken.
31 One courier races to meet another,
and messenger follows messenger,
to announce to the king of Babylon
that his city has been captured from end to end.
32 The fords have been seized,
the marshes set on fire,
and the soldiers are terrified."

33 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:

"The Daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor
at the time it is trampled.
In just a little while
her harvest time will come."

34 "Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon has devoured me;§

§ **51:34 51:34** Qere; Ketiv *devoured us,* and likewise *us* for *me* with crushed, set aside, swallowed, and vomited out

he has crushed me.
He has set me aside like an empty vessel;
he has swallowed me like a monster;
he filled his belly with my delicacies
and vomited me out.*
35 May the violence done to me
and to my flesh
be upon Babylon,"
says the dweller of Zion.

"May my blood be on the dwellers of Chaldea,"
says Jerusalem.
36 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

"Behold, I will plead your case
and take vengeance on your behalf;
I will dry up her sea
and make her springs run dry.
37 Babylon will become a heap of rubble,
a haunt for jackals,†
an object of horror and scorn,
without inhabitant.
38 They will roar together like young lions;
they will growl like lion cubs.
39 While they are flushed with heat,
I will serve them a feast,
and I will make them drunk
so that they may revel;
then they will fall asleep forever and never wake up,
declares the LORD.
40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter,
like rams with male goats.

41 How Sheshach‡ has been captured!
The praise of all the earth has been seized.
What a horror Babylon has become
among the nations!
42 The sea has come up over Babylon;
she is covered in turbulent waves.
43 Her cities have become a desolation,
a dry and arid land,
a land where no one lives,
where no son of man passes through.
44 I will punish Bel in Babylon.
I will make him spew out what he swallowed.
The nations will no longer stream to him;
even the wall of Babylon will fall.

45 Come out of her, my people!
Save your lives, each of you,
from the fierce anger of the LORD.

* **51:34 51:34** Or *expelled me* † **51:37 51:37** Or *serpents* or *dragons* ‡ **51:41 51:41** *Sheshach* is a code name for Babylon.

46 Do not let your heart grow faint,
and do not be afraid
when the rumor is heard in the land;
for a rumor will come one year—
and then another the next year—
of violence in the land
and of ruler against ruler.

47 Therefore, behold, the days are coming
when I will punish the idols of Babylon.
Her entire land will suffer shame,
and all her slain will lie fallen within her.
48 Then heaven and earth and all that is in them
will shout for joy over Babylon
because the destroyers from the north
will come against her,"
declares the LORD.
49 "Babylon must fall
on account of the slain of Israel,
just as the slain of all the earth
have fallen because of Babylon.
50 You who have escaped the sword,
depart and do not linger!
Remember the LORD from far away,
and let Jerusalem come to mind."

51 "We are ashamed because we have heard reproach;
disgrace has covered our faces,
because foreigners have entered
the holy places of the LORD's house."

52 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming,"
declares the LORD,
"when I will punish her idols,
and throughout her land the wounded will groan.
53 Even if Babylon ascends to the heavens
and fortifies her lofty stronghold,
the destroyers I send will come against her,"
declares the LORD.

54 "The sound of a cry
comes from Babylon,
the sound of great destruction
from the land of the Chaldeans!
55 For the LORD will destroy Babylon;
he will silence her mighty voice.
The waves will roar like great waters;
the tumult of their voices will resound.

56 For a destroyer is coming against her—
against Babylon.
Her warriors will be captured,
and their bows will be broken,

for the LORD is a God of retribution;
he will repay in full.
57 I will make her princes and wise men drunk,
along with her governors, officials, and warriors.
Then they will fall asleep forever
and not wake up,"
declares the King,
whose name is the LORD of Hosts.
58 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Babylon's thick walls will be leveled,
and her high gates consumed by fire.
So the labor of the people will be for nothing;
the nations will exhaust themselves to fuel the flames."
59 This is the message that Jeremiah the prophet gave to the quartermaster Seraiah son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went to Babylon with King Zedekiah of Judah in the fourth year of Zedekiah's reign.
60 Jeremiah had written on a single scroll about all the disaster that would come upon Babylon—all these words that had been written concerning Babylon.
61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you get to Babylon, see that you read all these words aloud,
62 and say, 'O LORD, you have promised to cut off this place so that no one will remain—neither man nor beast. Indeed, it will be desolate forever.'
63 When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and cast it into the Euphrates.
64 Then you are to say, 'In the same way Babylon will sink and never rise again, because of the disaster I will bring upon her. And her people will grow weary.' "

Here end the words of Jeremiah.

52

1 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.
2 And Zedekiah did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done.
3 For because of the anger of the LORD, all this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, until he finally banished them from his presence.

And Zedekiah also rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4 So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his entire army. They encamped outside the city and built a siege wall all around it.
5 And the city was kept under siege until King Zedekiah's eleventh year.
6 By the ninth day of the fourth month, the famine in the city was so severe that the people of the land had no food.

7 Then the city was breached; and though the Chaldeans* had
surrounded the city, all the men of war fled the city by night by way of the
gate between the two walls near the king's garden.
They headed toward the Arabah,†
8 but the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook Zedekiah
in the plains of Jericho, and his whole army deserted him.
9 The Chaldeans seized the king and brought him up to the king of
Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he pronounced judgment
on Zedekiah.
10 There at Riblah the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah
before his eyes, and he also killed all the officials of Judah.
11 Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes, bound him with bronze shackles,
and took him to Babylon, where he kept him in custody until his dying day.
12 On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of
Nebuchadrezzar's reign over Babylon, Nebuzaradan captain of the guard,
a servant of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem.
13 He burned down the house of the LORD, the royal palace, and all the
houses of Jerusalem—every significant building.
14 And the whole army of the Chaldeans under the captain of the guard
broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.
15 Then Nebuzaradan captain of the guard carried into exile some of the
poorest people and those who remained in the city, along with the
deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon and the rest of the
craftsmen.
16 But Nebuzaradan captain of the guard left behind some of the poorest
of the land to tend the vineyards and fields.
17 Moreover, the Chaldeans broke up the bronze pillars and stands and
the bronze Sea in the house of the LORD, and they carried all the bronze
to Babylon.
18 They also took away the pots, shovels, wick trimmers, sprinkling
bowls, dishes, and all the articles of bronze used in the temple service.
19 The captain of the guard also took away the basins, censers,
sprinkling bowls, pots, lampstands, pans, and drink offering
bowls—anything made of pure gold or fine silver.
20 As for the two pillars, the Sea, the twelve bronze bulls under the
movable stands‡ that King Solomon had made for the house of the LORD,
the weight of the bronze from all these articles was beyond measure.
21 Each pillar was eighteen cubits tall and twelve cubits in
circumference;§ each was hollow, four fingers thick.*
22 The bronze capital atop one pillar was five cubits high,† with a
network of bronze pomegranates all around. The second pillar, with its
pomegranates, was similar.
23 Each capital had ninety-six pomegranates on the sides, and a total of a
hundred pomegranates were above the surrounding network.
24 The captain of the guard also took away Seraiah the chief priest,
Zephaniah the priest of second rank, and the three doorkeepers.

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* **52:7 52:7** That is, the Babylonians; similarly in verses 8, 9, 14, and 17 † **52:7 52:7** Or *the Jordan Valley* ‡ **52:20 52:20** LXX *the twelve bronze bulls under the Sea*; compare 2 Kings 25:16. § **52:21 52:21** Each pillar was approximately 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference (8.2 meters high and 5.5 meters in circumference). * **52:21 52:21** *4 fingers* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters. † **52:22 52:22** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.

25 Of those still in the city, he took a court official who had been
appointed over the men of war, as well as seven trusted royal advisers. He
also took the scribe of the captain of the army, who had enlisted the
people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were
found in the city.
26 Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took them and brought them to the
king of Babylon at Riblah.
27 There at Riblah in the land of Hamath, the king of Babylon struck
them down and put them to death. So Judah was taken into exile, away
from its own land.
28 These are the people Nebuchadrezzar carried away:

in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;
29 in Nebuchadrezzar's eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem;
30 in Nebuchadrezzar's twenty-third year, Nebuzaradan captain of the
guard carried away 745 Jews.
So in all, 4,600 people were taken away.
31 On the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month of the thirty-seventh year
of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the first year of the reign of
Evil-merodach king of Babylon, he pardoned‡ Jehoiachin king of Judah
and released him from prison.
32 And he spoke kindly to Jehoiachin and set his throne above the
thrones of the other kings who were with him in Babylon.
33 So Jehoiachin changed out of his prison clothes, and he dined
regularly at the king's table for the rest of his life.
34 And the king of Babylon provided Jehoiachin a daily portion for the
rest of his life, until the day of his death.

‡ **52:31 52:31** Literally *he lifted up the head of*

Ezekiel

1 In the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was
among the exiles by the River Kebar, the heavens opened and I saw visions
of God.*
2 On the fifth day of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King
Jehoiachin—
3 the word of the LORD came directly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of
Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans† by the River Kebar. And there the
LORD's hand was upon him.
4 I looked and saw a whirlwind coming from the north, a great cloud
with fire flashing back and forth and brilliant light all around it. In the
center of the fire was a gleam like amber,‡
5 and within it was the form of four living creatures.
And this was their appearance: They had a human form,
6 but each had four faces and four wings.
7 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the hooves
of a calf, gleaming like polished bronze.
8 Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands.§ All four
living creatures had faces and wings,
9 and their wings were touching one another. They did not turn as they
moved; each one went straight ahead.
10 The form of their faces was that of a man, and each of the four had
the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and
also the face of an eagle.
11 Such were their faces.
Their wings were spread upward; each had two wings touching the
wings of the creature on either side, and two wings covering its body.
12 Each creature went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go,
they would go, without turning as they moved.
13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like
glowing coals of fire, like the appearance of torches.* Fire moved back
and forth between the living creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed
out of it.
14 The creatures were darting back and forth as quickly as flashes of
lightning.
15 When I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground
beside each creature with its four faces.
16 The workmanship of the wheels looked like the gleam of beryl, and all
four had the same likeness. Their workmanship looked like a wheel
within a wheel.
17 As they moved, they went in any of the four directions, without
pivoting as they moved.
18 Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of
eyes all around.
19 So as the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them, and
when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose.

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* **1:1 1:1** Or *from God* † **1:3 1:3** That is, the Babylonians ‡ **1:4 1:4** Or *The center of the fire looked like glowing metal*; similarly in verse 27 § **1:8 1:8** Qere; Ketiv *his hand of a man* * **1:13 1:13** LXX *In the midst of the living creatures was the appearance of …*

20 Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would
rise alongside them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the
wheels.
21 When the creatures moved, the wheels moved; when the creatures
stood still, the wheels stood still; and when the creatures rose from the
ground, the wheels rose alongside them, because the spirit of the living
creatures was in the wheels.
22 Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was the likeness of
an awesome expanse, gleaming like crystal.
23 And under the expanse, their wings stretched out toward one another.
Each one also had two wings covering its body.
24 When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the
roar of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty,† like the tumult of an
army.
When they stood still, they lowered their wings.
25 And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads as
they stood still with their wings lowered.
26 Above the expanse over their heads was the likeness of a throne with
the appearance of sapphire, and on the throne high above was a figure
like that of a man.
27 From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with
what looked like fire within it all around. And from what seemed to be his
waist down, I saw what looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded
him.
28 The appearance of the brilliant light all around him was like that of a
rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness
of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell facedown and heard a
voice speaking.

2

1 "Son of man,*" he said to me, "stand up on your feet and I will speak to
you."
2 And as he spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet,
and I heard him speaking to me.
3 "Son of man," he said to me, "I am sending you to the Israelites, to
rebellious nations† that have rebelled against me. To this very day they
and their fathers have rebelled against me.
4 They are obstinate and stubborn children. I am sending you to them,
and you are to say to them, 'This is what the Lord GOD says.'
5 And whether they listen or refuse to listen—for they are a rebellious
house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.
6 But you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be
afraid, though briers and thorns surround you, and you dwell among
scorpions. Do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their presence,
though they are a rebellious house.
7 But speak my words to them, whether they listen or refuse to listen, for
they are rebellious.
8 And you, son of man, listen to what I tell you. Do not be rebellious like
that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I give you."
9 Then I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me, and in it was a scroll,

† **1:24 1:24** Hebrew *Shaddai* * **2:1 2:1** Or *Son of Adam*; here and throughout Ezekiel † **2:3 2:3** Syriac *to a rebellious nation*

10 which he unrolled before me. And written on the front and back of it
were words of lamentation, mourning, and woe.

3

1 "Son of man," he said to me, "eat what you find here. Eat this scroll,
then go and speak to the house of Israel."
2 So I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll.
3 "Son of man," he said to me, "eat and fill your stomach with this scroll I
am giving you."
So I ate, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth.
4 Then he said to me, "Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and
speak my words to them.
5 For you are not being sent to a people of unfamiliar speech or difficult
language, but to the house of Israel—
6 not to the many peoples of unfamiliar speech and difficult language
whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them,
they would have listened to you.
7 But the house of Israel will be unwilling to listen to you, since they are
unwilling to listen to me. For the whole house of Israel is hard-headed and
hard-hearted.
8 Behold, I will make your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead
as hard as their foreheads.
9 I will make your forehead like a diamond, harder than flint. Do not be
afraid of them or dismayed at their presence, even though they are a
rebellious house."
10 "Son of man," he added, "listen carefully to all the words I speak to
you, and take them to heart.
11 Go to your people, the exiles; speak to them and tell them, 'This is
what the Lord GOD says,' whether they listen or refuse to listen."
12 Then the spirit* lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound
behind me: "Blessed be the glory of the LORD in his dwelling place!"†
13 It was the sound of the wings of the living creatures brushing against
one another and the sound of the wheels beside them, a great rumbling
sound.
14 So the spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness
and in the anger of my spirit, with the strong hand of the LORD upon me.
15 I came to the exiles at Tel-abib who dwelt by the River Kebar. And for
seven days I sat where they sat‡ and remained there among them,
overwhelmed.
16 At the end of seven days the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel.
Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, give them a warning from
me.
18 If I say to the wicked man, 'You will surely die,' but you do not warn
him or speak out to warn him from his wicked way to save his life, that
wicked man will die for his iniquity,§ and I will hold you responsible for
his blood.
19 But if you warn a wicked man and he does not turn from his
wickedness and his wicked way, he will die for his iniquity, but you will
have saved yourself.

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* **3:12 3:12** Or *the wind*; also in verse 14 † **3:12 3:12** By emendation *sound behind me as the glory of the LORD rose from its place!* ‡ **3:15 3:15** Qere; Ketiv *and those who were sitting there* § **3:18 3:18** Or *in his iniquity*; also in verse 19

20 Now if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits
iniquity, and I put a stumbling block before him, he will die. If you did not
warn him, he will die for his sin,* and the righteous acts he did will not be
remembered. And I will hold you responsible for his blood.
21 But if you warn the righteous man not to sin, and he does not sin, he
will indeed live because he heeded your warning, and you will have saved
yourself."
22 And there the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he said to me, "Get
up, go out to the plain, and there I will speak with you."
23 So I got up and went out to the plain, and behold, the glory of the
LORD was present there, like the glory I had seen by the River Kebar, and I
fell facedown.
24 Then the spirit entered me and set me on my feet. He spoke with me
and said, "Go, shut yourself inside your house.
25 And you, son of man, they will tie with ropes, and you will be bound
so that you cannot go out among the people.
26 I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth, and you will
be silent and unable to rebuke them, though they are a rebellious house.
27 But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you are to tell
them, 'This is what the Lord GOD says.' Whoever listens, let him listen;
and whoever refuses, let him refuse, for they are a rebellious house.

4

1 "Now you, son of man, take a brick, place it before you, and draw on it
the city of Jerusalem.
2 Then lay siege against it: Construct a siege wall, build a ramp to it, set
up camps against it, and place battering rams around it on all sides.
3 Then take an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between yourself
and the city. Turn your face toward it so that it is under siege, and besiege
it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.
4 Then lie down on your left side and place the iniquity of the house of
Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their iniquity for the number of days
you lie on your side.
5 For I have assigned to you 390 days, according to the number of years
of their iniquity. So you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.
6 When you have completed these days, lie down again, but on your
right side, and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah. I have assigned to
you 40 days, a day for each year.
7 You must turn your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm
bared, and prophesy against it.
8 Now behold, I will tie you up with ropes so you cannot turn from side
to side until you have finished the days of your siege.
9 But take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt; put them in a
single container and make them into bread for yourself. This is what you
are to eat during the 390 days you lie on your side.
10 You are to weigh out twenty shekels of food* to eat each day, and you
are to eat it at set times.
11 You are also to measure out a sixth of a hin of water† to drink, and
you are to drink it at set times.

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* **3:20 3:20** Or *in his sin* * **4:10 4:10** *20 shekels* is approximately 8 ounces or 228 grams of food.
† **4:11 4:11** *A sixth of a hin* is approximately 0.65 quarts or 0.61 liters of water.

12 And you shall eat the food as you would a barley cake, after you bake
it over dried human excrement in the sight of the people."
13 Then the LORD said, "This is how the Israelites will eat their defiled
bread among the nations to which I will banish them."
14 "Ah, Lord GOD," I said, "I have never defiled myself.‡ From my youth
until now I have not eaten anything found dead or mauled by wild beasts.
No unclean meat has ever entered my mouth."
15 "Look," he replied, "I will let you use cow dung instead of human
excrement, and you may bake your bread over that."
16 Then he told me, "Son of man, I am going to cut off the supply§ of food
in Jerusalem. They will anxiously eat bread rationed by weight, and in
despair they will drink water by measure.
17 So they will lack food and water; they will be appalled at the sight of
one another wasting away in their iniquity.

5

1 "As for you, son of man, take a sharp sword, use it as a barber's razor,
and shave your head and beard. Then take a set of scales and divide the
hair.
2 When the days of the siege have ended, you are to burn up a third of
the hair inside the city; you are also to take a third and slash it with the
sword all around the city; and you are to scatter a third to the wind. For I
will unleash a sword behind them.
3 But you are to take a few strands of hair and secure them in the folds
of your garment.
4 Again, take a few of these, throw them into the fire, and burn them.
From there a fire will spread to the whole house of Israel.
5 This is what the Lord GOD says: 'This is Jerusalem, which I have set in
the center of the nations, with countries all around her.
6 But she has rebelled against my ordinances more wickedly than the
nations, and against my statutes worse than the countries around her. For
her people have rejected my ordinances and have not walked in my
statutes.'
7 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'You have been more
insubordinate than the nations around you; you have not walked in my
statutes or kept my ordinances, nor have you even conformed* to the
ordinances of the nations around you.'
8 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Behold, I myself am against
you, Jerusalem, and I will execute judgments among you in the sight of the
nations.
9 Because of all your abominations, I will do to you what I have never
done before and will never do again.
10 As a result, fathers among you will eat their sons, and sons will eat
their fathers. I will execute judgments against you and scatter all your
remnant to every wind.'
11 Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, because you have
defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable idols and abominations, I
myself will withdraw my favor; I will not look upon you with pity, nor will
I spare you.

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‡ **4:14 4:14** Hebrew *"Ah, Lord GOD," I said, "Behold, my soul has never been made unclean.* § **4:16 4:16** Hebrew *staff* * **5:7 5:7** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *my ordinances; you have even conformed*

12 A third of your people will die by plague or be consumed by famine
within you, a third will fall by the sword outside your walls, and a third I
will scatter to every wind and unleash a sword behind them.
13 And when my anger is spent and I have vented my wrath against
them, I will be appeased. And when I have spent my wrath on them, they
will know that I, the LORD, in my zeal have spoken.
14 I will make you a ruin and a disgrace among the nations around you,
in the sight of all who pass by.
15 So it will be† a reproach and a taunt, a warning and a horror to the
nations around you, when I execute judgments against you in anger,
wrath, and raging fury. I, the LORD, have spoken.
16 When I shower them‡ with the deadly arrows of famine and
destruction that I will send to destroy you, I will intensify the famine
against you and cut off your supply§ of food.
17 I will send famine and wild beasts against you, and they will leave
you childless. Plague and bloodshed will sweep through you, and I will
bring a sword against you. I, the LORD, have spoken."

6

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, set your face against the mountains of Israel and
prophesy against them.
3 You are to say: 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD!
This is what the Lord GOD says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines
and valleys: I am about to bring a sword against you, and I will destroy
your high places.
4 Your altars will be demolished and your incense altars will be
smashed; and I will cast down your slain before your idols.
5 I will lay the corpses of the Israelites before their idols and scatter your
bones around your altars.
6 Wherever you live, the cities will be laid waste and the high places will
be demolished, so that your altars will be laid waste and desecrated, your
idols smashed and obliterated, your incense altars cut down, and your
works blotted out.
7 The slain will fall among you, and you will know that I am the LORD.
8 Yet I will leave a remnant, for some of you will escape the sword when
you are scattered among the nations and throughout the lands.
9 Then in the nations to which they have been carried captive, your
survivors will remember me—how I have been grieved by their
adulterous hearts that turned away from me, and by their eyes that lusted
after idols. So they will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and
for all their abominations.
10 And they will know that I am the LORD; I did not declare in vain that I
would bring this calamity upon them.
11 This is what the Lord GOD says: Clap your hands, stomp your feet,
and cry out "Alas!" because of all the wicked abominations of the house of
Israel, who will fall by sword and famine and plague.

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† **5:15 5:15** DSS, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *So you will be* ‡ **5:16 5:16** Some translators *you*, as in the rest of the verse § **5:16 5:16** Hebrew *staff*

12 He who is far off will die by the plague, he who is near will fall by the
sword, and he who remains will die by famine. So I will vent my fury
upon them.
13 Then you will know that I am the LORD, when their slain lie among
their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops,
and under every green tree and leafy oak—the places where they offered
fragrant incense to all their idols.
14 I will stretch out my hand against them, and wherever they live I will
make the land a desolate waste, from the wilderness to Diblah.* Then they
will know that I am the LORD.' "

7

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "O son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says to the land of Israel:

'The end! The end has come
upon the four corners of the land.
3 The end is now upon you,
and I will unleash my anger against you.
I will judge you according to your ways
and repay you for all your abominations.
4 I will not look on you with pity,
nor will I spare you,
but I will punish you for your ways
and for the abominations among you.

Then you will know that I am the LORD.'

5 This is what the Lord GOD says:

'Disaster! An unprecedented disaster*—
behold, it is coming!
6 The end has come!
The end has come!
It has roused itself against you.
Behold, it has come!
7 Doom has come to you,
O inhabitants of the land.
The time has come;
the day is near;
there is panic on the mountains
instead of shouts of joy.

8 Very soon I will pour out my wrath upon you
and vent my anger against you;
I will judge you according to your ways
and repay you for all your abominations.
9 I will not look on you with pity,
nor will I spare you,
but I will punish you for your ways

* **6:14 6:14** Most Hebrew manuscripts; Vulgate and a few Hebrew manuscripts *Riblah* * **7:5 7:5** Or *A unique disaster*, as in most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *Disaster after disaster*

and for the abominations among you.
Then you will know that it is I, the LORD,
who strikes the blow.

10 Behold, the day is here!
It has come!
Doom has gone out,
the rod has budded,
arrogance has bloomed.
11 The violence has grown
into a rod of wickedness.†
None of them will remain:
none of their multitude,
none of their wealth,
and nothing of value.

12 The time has come;
the day has arrived.
Let the buyer not rejoice
and the seller not mourn,
for wrath is upon the whole multitude.
13 The seller will surely not recover what he sold
while both remain alive.
For the vision concerning the whole multitude
will not be revoked,
and because of their iniquity,
not one of them will preserve his life.
14 They have blown the trumpet
and made everything ready,
but no one goes to war,
for my wrath is upon the whole multitude.
15 The sword is outside;
plague and famine are within.
Those in the country will die by the sword,
and those in the city will be devoured
by famine and plague.

16 The survivors will escape
and live in the mountains,
moaning like doves of the valley,
each for his own iniquity.
17 Every hand will go limp,
and every knee will turn to water.
18 They will put on sackcloth,
and terror will overwhelm them.
Shame will cover all their faces,
and all their heads will be shaved.

19 They will throw their silver into the streets,
and their gold will seem unclean.
Their silver and gold cannot save them
in the day of the wrath of the LORD.

† **7:11 7:11** Or *Their violence has grown into a rod to punish their wickedness.*

They cannot satisfy their appetites
or fill their stomachs with wealth,
for it became the stumbling block
that brought their iniquity.

20 His beautiful ornaments
they transformed into pride
and used them to fashion
their vile images and detestable idols.
Therefore I will make these
into something unclean for them.
21 And I will hand these things over
as plunder to foreigners
and loot to the wicked of the earth,
who will defile them.
22 I will turn my face away from them,
and they will defile my treasured place.
Violent men will enter it,
and they will defile it.

23 Forge the chain,
for the land is full of crimes of bloodshed,
and the city is full of violence.
24 So I will bring the most wicked of nations
to take possession of their houses.
I will end the pride of the mighty,
and their holy places will be profaned.

25 Anguish is coming!
They will seek peace, but find none.
26 Disaster upon disaster will come,
and rumor after rumor.
Then they will seek a vision from a prophet,
but instruction from the priests will perish,
as will counsel from the elders.
27 The king will mourn,
the prince will be clothed with despair,
and the hands of the people of the land will tremble.
I will deal with them according to their conduct,
and I will judge them by their own standards.

Then they will know that I am the LORD.' "

8

1 In the sixth year, on the fifth day of the sixth month, I was sitting in my house, and the elders of Judah were sitting before me; and there the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me.

2 Then I looked and saw a figure like the appearance of fire.* From his waist down his appearance was like fire, and from his waist up he was as bright as the gleam of amber.†

* **8:2 8:2** LXX *a figure like that of a man* † **8:2 8:2** Or *as glowing metal*

3 He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of
my head. Then the spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and
carried me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate
of the inner court, where the idol that provokes jealousy was seated.
4 And there I saw the glory of the God of Israel, like the vision I had seen
in the plain.
5 "Son of man," he said to me, "now lift up your eyes to the north."
So I lifted up my eyes to the north, and in the entrance north of the gate
of the altar‡ I saw this idol of jealousy.
6 "Son of man," he said to me, "do you see what they are doing—the great
abominations that the house of Israel is committing—to drive me far from
my sanctuary? Yet you will see even greater abominations."
7 Then he brought me to the entrance to the court, and I looked and saw
a hole in the wall.
8 "Son of man," he told me, "dig through the wall."
So I dug through the wall and discovered a doorway.
9 Then he said to me, "Go in and see the wicked abominations they are
committing here."
10 So I went in and looked, and engraved all around the wall was every
kind of crawling creature and detestable beast, along with all the idols of
the house of Israel.
11 Before them stood seventy elders of the house of Israel, with
Jaazaniah son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had a censer in his
hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising.
12 "Son of man," he said to me, "do you see what the elders of the house
of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? For
they are saying, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the
land.' "
13 Again, he told me, "You will see them committing even greater
abominations."
14 Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of
the LORD, and I saw women sitting there, weeping for Tammuz.§
15 "Son of man," he said to me, "do you see this? Yet you will see even
greater abominations than these."
16 So he brought me to the inner court of the house of the LORD, and
there at the entrance to the temple of the LORD, between the portico and
the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs to the temple of the
LORD and their faces toward the east; and they were bowing to the east in
worship of the sun.
17 "Son of man," he said to me, "do you see this? Is it not enough for the
house of Judah to commit the abominations they are practicing here, that
they must also fill the land with violence and continually provoke me to
anger? Look, they are even putting the branch to their nose!
18 Therefore I will respond with wrath. I will not look on them with pity,
nor will I spare them. Although they shout loudly in my ears, I will not
listen to them."

9

1 Then I heard him call out in a loud voice, saying, "Draw near, O
executioners of the city, each with a weapon of destruction in hand."

‡ **8:5 8:5** Or *the Altar Gate* § **8:14 8:14** *Tammuz*, meaning *Sprout of Life*, was a Sumerian god of fertility.

2 And I saw six men coming from the direction of the Upper Gate, which
faces north, each with a weapon of slaughter in his hand. With them was
another man clothed in linen who had a writing kit at his side. And they
came in and stood beside the bronze altar.
3 Then the glory of the God of Israel rose from above the cherubim,
where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple. And he
called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side.
4 "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem," said the LORD, "and put a mark
on the foreheads of the men sighing and groaning over all the
abominations committed there."
5 And as I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city
and start killing; do not show pity* or spare anyone!
6 Slaughter the old men, the young men and maidens, the women and
children; but do not go near anyone who has the mark. Now begin at my
sanctuary."
So they began with the elders who were before the temple.
7 Then he told them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain.
Go forth!"
So they went out and began killing throughout the city.
8 While they were killing, I was left alone. And I fell facedown and cried
out, "Oh, Lord GOD, when you pour out your wrath on Jerusalem, will you
destroy the entire remnant of Israel?"
9 He replied, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly
great. The land is full of bloodshed, and the city is full of perversity. For
they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land; the LORD does not see.'
10 But as for me, I will not look on them with pity, nor will I spare them.
I will bring their deeds down upon their own heads."
11 Then the man clothed in linen with the writing kit at his side reported
back, "I have done all that you commanded."†

10

1 And I looked and saw above the expanse, above the heads of the
cherubim, the likeness of a throne of sapphire.
2 And the LORD said to the man clothed in linen, "Go inside the
wheelwork beneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals
from among the cherubim and scatter them over the city." And as I
watched, he went in.
3 Now when the man went in, the cherubim were standing on the south
side of the temple, and a cloud filled the inner court.
4 Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and stood
over the threshold of the temple. The temple was filled with the cloud, and
the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.
5 The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far as the
outer court, like the voice of God Almighty* when he speaks.
6 When the LORD commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take
fire from within the wheelwork, from among the cherubim," the man
went in and stood beside a wheel.
7 Then one of the cherubim reached out his hand and took some of the
fire that was among them. And he put it into the hands of the man clothed
in linen, who received it and went out.

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* **9:5 9:5** Qere; Ketiv has *upon* in place of *do not* † **9:11 9:11** Qere; Ketiv *as you commanded* * **10:5 10:5** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

8 (The cherubim appeared to have the form of human hands under their
wings.)
9 Then I looked and saw four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel
beside each cherub. And the wheels gleamed like a beryl stone.
10 As for their appearance, all four had the same form, like a wheel
within a wheel.
11 When they moved, they would go in any of the four directions,
without turning as they moved. For wherever the head faced, the
cherubim would go in that direction, without turning as they moved.
12 Their entire bodies, including their backs, hands, and wings, were full
of eyes all around, as were their four wheels.
13 I heard the wheels being called “the whirling wheels.”
14 Each of the cherubim had four faces: the first face was that of a
cherub, the second that of a man, the third that of a lion, and the fourth
that of an eagle.
15 Then the cherubim rose upward. These were the living creatures I
had seen by the River Kebar.
16 When the cherubim moved, the wheels moved beside them, and even
when they spread their wings to rise from the ground, the wheels did not
veer away from their side.
17 When the cherubim stood still, the wheels also stood still, and when
they ascended, the wheels ascended with them, for the spirit of the living
creatures was in the wheels.
18 Then the glory of the LORD moved away from the threshold of the
temple and stood above the cherubim.
19 As I watched, the cherubim lifted their wings and rose up from the
ground, with the wheels beside them as they went. And they stopped at
the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, with the glory of
the God of Israel above them.
20 These were the living creatures I had seen beneath the God of Israel
by the River Kebar, and I knew that they were cherubim.
21 Each had four faces and four wings, with what looked like human
hands under their wings.
22 Their faces looked like the faces I had seen by the River Kebar. Each
creature went straight ahead.

11

1 Then the spirit lifted me up and brought me to the gate of the house of
the LORD that faces east. And there at the entrance of the gate were
twenty-five men. Among them I saw Jaazaniah son of Azzur and Pelatiah
son of Benaiah, who were leaders of the people.
2 And the LORD said to me, “Son of man, these are the men who plot evil
and give wicked counsel in this city.
3 They are saying, ‘Is not the time near to build houses? The city is the
cooking pot,* and we are the meat.’
4 Therefore prophesy against them; prophesy, O son of man!”
5 And the spirit of the LORD fell upon me and told me to declare that this
is what the LORD says: “That is what you are thinking, O house of Israel;
and I know the thoughts that arise in your minds.
6 You have multiplied those you killed in this city and filled its streets
with the dead.

* **11:3 11:3** Or *cauldron*

7 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: The slain you have laid
within this city are the meat, and the city is the pot; but I will remove you
from it.
8 You fear the sword, so I will bring the sword against you, declares the
Lord GOD.
9 I will bring you out of the city and deliver you into the hands of
foreigners, and I will execute judgments against you.
10 You will fall by the sword, and I will judge you even to the borders of
Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
11 The city will not be a pot for you, nor will you be the meat within it. I
will judge you even to the borders of Israel.
12 Then you will know that I am the LORD. For you have neither
followed my statutes nor practiced my ordinances, but you have
conformed to the ordinances of the nations around you."
13 Now as I was prophesying, Pelatiah son of Benaiah died. Then I fell
facedown and cried out in a loud voice, "Oh, Lord GOD, will you bring the
remnant of Israel to a complete end?"
14 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
15 "Son of man, your brothers—your brothers, your
kinsmen-redeemers,† and the whole house of Israel—are those of whom
the people of Jerusalem have said, 'They are far away from the LORD; this
land has been given to us as a possession.'
16 Therefore declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Although I
sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the
countries, yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the
countries to which they have gone.'
17 Therefore declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I will gather
you from the peoples and assemble you from the countries to which you
have been scattered, and I will give back to you the land of Israel.'
18 When they return to it, they will remove all its detestable things and
all its abominations.
19 And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within
you;‡ I will remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh,
20 so that they may follow my statutes, keep my ordinances, and practice
them. Then they will be my people, and I will be their God.
21 But as for those whose hearts pursue detestable things and
abominations, I will bring their conduct down upon their own heads,
declares the Lord GOD."
22 Then the cherubim, with the wheels beside them, spread their wings,
and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.
23 And the glory of the LORD rose up from within the city and stood over
the mountain east of the city.
24 And the spirit lifted me up and carried me back to Chaldea,§ to the
exiles in the vision given by the spirit of God. After the vision had gone up
from me,
25 I told the exiles everything the LORD had shown me.

12

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

† **11:15 11:15** Hebrew *the men of your redemption*; LXX and Syriac *your fellow exiles* ‡ **11:19 11:19** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX and Syriac *within them* § **11:24 11:24** Or *Babylonia*

2 “Son of man, you are living in a rebellious house. They have eyes to see
but do not see, and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious
house.
3 Therefore, son of man, pack your bags for exile. In broad daylight, set
out from your place and go to another as they watch. Perhaps they will
understand, though they are a rebellious house.
4 Bring out your baggage for exile by day, as they watch. Then in the
evening, as they watch, go out like those who go into exile.
5 As they watch, dig through the wall and carry your belongings out
through it.
6 And as they watch, lift your bags to your shoulder and take them out at
dusk; cover your face so that you cannot see the land. For I have made
you a sign to the house of Israel.”
7 So I did as I was commanded. I brought out my bags for exile by day,
and in the evening I dug through the wall by hand. I took my belongings
out at dusk, carrying them on my shoulder as they watched.
8 And in the morning the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
9 “Son of man, hasn’t the rebellious house of Israel asked you, ‘What are
you doing?’
10 Tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘This burden concerns
the prince in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are there.’
11 You are to say, ‘I am a sign to you: just as I have done, so will it be
done to them; they will go into exile as captives.’*
12 And at dusk the prince among them will lift his bags to his shoulder
and go out. They will dig through the wall to bring him out. He will cover
his face so he cannot see the land.
13 But I will spread my net over him, and he will be caught in my snare.
I will bring him to Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans; yet he will not see
it, and there he will die.
14 And I will scatter to every wind all the attendants around him and all
his troops, and I will draw a sword to chase after them.
15 And they will know that I am the LORD, when I disperse them among
the nations and scatter them throughout the countries.
16 But I will spare a few of them from sword and famine and plague, so
that in the nations to which they go, they can recount all their
abominations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”
17 Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
18 “Son of man, eat your bread with trembling, and drink your water
with quivering and anxiety.
19 Then tell the people of the land that this is what the Lord GOD says
about those living in Jerusalem and in the land of Israel: ‘They will eat
their bread with anxiety and drink their water in dread, for their land will
be stripped of everything in it because of the violence of all who dwell in it.
20 The inhabited cities will be laid waste, and the land will become
desolate. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’ ”
21 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
22 “Son of man, what is this proverb that you have in the land of Israel:

‘The days go by,
and every vision fails’?

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* **12:11 12:11** Or *‘I am a sign to you.’ Just as it happened here, so will it be done to them*

23 Therefore tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘I will put an
end to this proverb, and in Israel they will no longer recite it.’
But say to them: ‘The days are at hand when every vision will be
fulfilled.
24 For there will be no more false visions or flattering divinations within
the house of Israel,
25 because I, the LORD, will speak whatever word I speak, and it will be
fulfilled without delay. For in your days, O rebellious house, I will speak a
message and bring it to pass, declares the Lord GOD.’ ”
26 Furthermore, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
27 “Son of man, take note that the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision
that he sees is for many years from now; he prophesies about the distant
future.’
28 Therefore tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘None of my
words will be delayed any longer. The message I speak will be fulfilled,
declares the Lord GOD.’ ”

13

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now
prophesying. Tell those who prophesy out of their own imagination: Hear
the word of the LORD!
3 This is what the Lord GOD says: Woe to the foolish prophets who
follow their own spirit yet have seen nothing.
4 Your prophets, O Israel, are like foxes among the ruins.
5 You did not go up to the gaps or restore the wall around the house of
Israel so that it would stand in the battle on the Day of the LORD.
6 They see false visions and speak lying divinations. They claim, ‘Thus
declares the LORD,’ when the LORD did not send them; yet they wait for
the fulfillment of their message.
7 Haven’t you seen a false vision and spoken a lying divination when
you proclaim, ‘Thus declares the LORD,’ even though I have not spoken?
8 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Because you have uttered
vain words and seen false visions, I am against you, declares the Lord
GOD.
9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and speak
lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be
recorded in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land
of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.
10 Because they have led my people astray, saying, ‘Peace,’ when there is
no peace, and whitewashing any flimsy wall that is built,
11 tell those whitewashing the wall that it will fall. Rain will come in
torrents, and you, O hailstones, will fall,* and a windstorm will burst forth.
12 When the wall has fallen, will you not be asked, ‘Where is the
whitewash with which you covered it?’
13 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: In my wrath I will release a
windstorm, and in my anger torrents of rain and hail will fall with
destructive fury.
14 I will tear down the wall you whitewashed and level it to the ground,
so that its foundation is exposed. The city will fall, and you will be
destroyed within it. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

* **13:11 13:11** LXX *I will send hailstones*

15 And after I have vented my wrath against the wall and against those
who whitewashed it, I will say to you: ‘The wall is gone, and so are those
who whitewashed it—
16 those prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem and saw a
vision of peace for her when there was no peace, declares the Lord GOD.’
17 Now, O son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people
who prophesy out of their own imagination. Prophesy against them
18 and tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: Woe to the women
who sew magic charms on their wrists and make veils for the heads of
people of every height, in order to ensnare their lives. Will you ensnare
the lives of my people but preserve your own?
19 You have profaned me among my people for handfuls of barley and
scraps of bread. By lying to my people who would listen, you have killed
those who should not have died and spared those who should not have
lived.
20 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: See, I am against the magic
charms with which you ensnare lives like birds, and I will tear them from
your arms. So I will free the lives you have ensnared like birds.
21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver my people from your hands,
so that they will no longer be prey in your hands. Then you will know that
I am the LORD.
22 Because you have disheartened the righteous with your lies, even
though I have caused them no grief, and because you have encouraged the
wicked not to turn from their evil ways to save their lives,
23 therefore you will no longer see false visions or practice divination. I
will deliver my people from your hands. Then you will know that I am the
LORD.”

14

1 Then some of the elders of Israel came and sat down before me.
2 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
3 “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put
wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I consult with them in
any way?
4 Therefore speak to them and tell them that this is what the Lord GOD
says: ‘When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked
stumbling block before his face, and then comes to the prophet, I the
LORD will answer him as he comes* with his great idolatry,
5 so that I may take hold of the hearts of the people of Israel. For
because of their idols, they are all estranged from me.’
6 Therefore tell the house of Israel that this is what the Lord GOD says:
‘Repent and turn away from your idols; turn your faces away from all
your abominations.
7 For when any Israelite or any foreigner dwelling in Israel separates
himself from me, sets up idols in his heart, and puts a wicked stumbling
block before his face, and then comes to the prophet to inquire of me, I the
LORD will answer him myself.
8 I will set my face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb;
I will cut him off from among my people. Then you will know that I am
the LORD.

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* **14:4 14:4** Qere; Ketiv *by it*

9 But if the prophet is enticed to speak a message, then it was I the LORD
who enticed him, and I will stretch out my hand against him and destroy
him from among my people Israel.
10 They will bear their punishment—the punishment of the inquirer will
be the same as that of the prophet—
11 in order that the house of Israel may no longer stray from me and no
longer defile themselves with all their transgressions. Then they will be
my people and I will be their God, declares the Lord GOD.' "
12 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
13 "Son of man, if a land sins against me by acting unfaithfully, and I
stretch out my hand against it to cut off its supply† of food, to send famine
upon it, and to cut off from it both man and beast,
14 then even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were in it, their
righteousness could deliver only themselves, declares the Lord GOD.
15 Or if I send wild beasts through the land to leave it childless and
desolate, with no man passing through it for fear of the beasts,
16 then as surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, even if these three men
were in it, they could not deliver their own sons or daughters. They alone
would be delivered, but the land would be desolate.
17 Or if I bring a sword against that land and say, 'Let a sword pass
through it,' so that I cut off from it both man and beast,
18 then as surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, even if these three men
were in it, they could not deliver their own sons or daughters. They alone
would be delivered.
19 Or if I send a plague into that land and pour out my wrath upon it
through bloodshed, cutting off from it both man and beast,
20 then as surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, even if Noah, Daniel,
and Job were in it, they could not deliver their own sons or daughters.
Their righteousness could deliver only themselves.
21 For this is what the Lord GOD says: 'How much worse will it be when
I send against Jerusalem my four dire judgments—sword, famine, wild
beasts, and plague—in order to cut off from it both man and beast?
22 Yet, behold, some survivors will be left in it—sons and daughters who
will be brought out. They will come out to you, and when you see their
conduct and actions, you will be comforted regarding the disaster I have
brought upon Jerusalem—all that I have brought upon it.
23 They will bring you consolation when you see their conduct and
actions, and you will know that it was not without cause that I have done
all these things within it,' declares the Lord GOD."

15

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, how does the wood of the vine surpass any other branch
among the trees in the forest?
3 Can wood be taken from it to make something useful? Or can one
make from it a peg on which to hang utensils?
4 No, it is cast into the fire for fuel. The fire devours both ends, and the
middle is charred. Can it be useful for anything?
5 Even when it was whole, it could not be made useful. How much less
can it ever be useful when the fire has consumed it and charred it!

† **14:13 14:13** Hebrew *staff*

6 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Like the wood of the vine
among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I
will give up the people of Jerusalem.
7 And I will set my face against them. Though they may have escaped
the fire, yet another fire will consume them. And when I set my face
against them, you will know that I am the LORD.
8 Thus I will make the land desolate, because they have acted
unfaithfully,’ declares the Lord GOD.”

16

1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 “Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her abominations
3 and tell her that this is what the Lord GOD says to Jerusalem: Your
origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites. Your father was
an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.
4 On the day of your birth your cord was not cut, nor were you washed
with water for cleansing. You were not rubbed with salt or wrapped in
cloths.
5 No one cared enough for you to do even one of these things out of
compassion for you. Instead, you were thrown out into the open field,
because you were despised on the day of your birth.
6 Then I passed by and saw you wallowing in your blood, and as you lay
there in your blood I said to you, ‘Live!’ There I said to you, ‘Live!’
7 I made you thrive like a plant of the field. You grew up and matured
and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew,
but you were naked and bare.
8 Then I passed by and saw you, and you were indeed old enough for
love. So I spread my cloak over you and covered your nakedness. I
pledged myself to you, entered into a covenant with you, and you became
mine, declares the Lord GOD.
9 Then I bathed you with water, rinsed off your blood, and anointed you
with oil.
10 I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of fine
leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk.
11 I adorned you with jewelry, and I put bracelets on your wrists and a
chain around your neck.
12 I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful crown
upon your head.
13 So you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was
made of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey,
and oil. You became very beautiful and rose to be queen.
14 Your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, for it
was perfect in the splendor I bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD.
15 But because of your fame, you trusted in your beauty and played the
harlot. You lavished your favors on everyone who passed by, and your
beauty was theirs for the asking.
16 You took some of your garments and made colorful high places for
yourself, and on them you prostituted yourself. Such things should not
have happened; never should they have occurred!
17 You also took the fine jewelry of gold and silver I had given you, and
you made male idols with which to prostitute yourself.

18 You took your embroidered garments to cover them, and you set my
oil and incense before them.
19 And you set before them as a pleasing aroma the food I had given
you—the fine flour, oil, and honey that I had fed you. That is what
happened, declares the Lord GOD.
20 You even took the sons and daughters you bore to me and sacrificed
them as food to idols. Was your prostitution not enough?
21 You slaughtered my children and delivered them up through the fire
to idols.
22 And in all your abominations and acts of prostitution, you did not
remember the days of your youth when you were naked and bare,
wallowing in your own blood.
23 Woe! Woe to you, declares the Lord GOD. And in addition to all your
other wickedness,
24 you built yourself a mound and made yourself a lofty shrine in every
public square.
25 At the head of every street you built your lofty shrines and degraded
your beauty. With increasing promiscuity, you spread your legs to all who
passed by.
26 You prostituted yourself with your lustful neighbors, the Egyptians,
and increased your promiscuity to provoke me to anger.
27 Therefore I stretched out my hand against you and reduced your
portion. I gave you over to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters
of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd conduct.
28 Then you prostituted yourself with the Assyrians, because you were
not yet satisfied. Even after that, you were still not satisfied.
29 So you extended your promiscuity to Chaldea,* the land of
merchants—but even with this you were not satisfied!
30 How weak-willed is your heart,† declares the Lord GOD, while you do
all these things, the acts of a shameless prostitute!
31 But when you built your mounds at the head of every street and made
your lofty shrines in every public square, you were not even like a
prostitute, because you scorned payment.
32 You adulterous wife! You receive strangers instead of your own
husband!
33 Men give gifts to all their prostitutes, but you gave gifts to all your
lovers. You bribed them to come to you from everywhere for your illicit
favors.
34 So your prostitution is the opposite of that of other women: No one
solicited your favors, and you paid a fee instead of receiving one; so you
are the very opposite!
35 Therefore, O prostitute, hear the word of the LORD!
36 This is what the Lord GOD says: Because you poured out your wealth
and exposed your nakedness in your promiscuity with your lovers and
with all your detestable idols, and because of the blood of your children
which you gave to them,
37 therefore I will surely gather all the lovers with whom you found
pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them
against you from all around and expose you before them, and they will
see you completely naked.

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* **16:29 16:29** Or *Babylonia* † **16:30 16:30** Or *How feverish is your heart,*

38 And I will sentence you to the punishment of women who commit
adultery and those who shed blood; so I will bring upon you the wrath of
your bloodshed and jealousy.
39 Then I will deliver you into the hands of your lovers, and they will
level your mounds and tear down your lofty shrines. They will strip off
your clothes, take your fine jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.
40 They will bring a mob against you, who will stone you and cut you to
pieces with their swords.
41 Then they will burn down your houses and execute judgment against
you in the sight of many women.
I will put an end to your prostitution, and you will never again pay your
lovers.
42 So I will lay to rest my wrath against you, and my jealousy will turn
away from you. Then I will be calm and no longer angry.
43 Because you did not remember the days of your youth, but enraged
me with all these things, I will surely bring your deeds down upon your
own head, declares the Lord GOD. Have you not committed this lewdness
on top of all your other abominations?
44 Behold, all who speak in proverbs will quote this proverb about you:

'Like mother, like daughter.'
45 You are the daughter of your mother, who despised her husband and
children. You are the sister of your sisters, who despised their husbands
and children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.
46 Your older sister was Samaria, who lived with her daughters to your
north; and your younger sister was Sodom, who lived with her daughters
to your south.
47 And you not only walked in their ways and practiced their
abominations, but soon you were more depraved than they were.
48 As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, your sister Sodom and her
daughters never did as you and your daughters have done.
49 Now this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her
daughters were arrogant, overfed, and complacent; they did not help the
poor and needy.
50 Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before me.
Therefore I removed them, as I have seen.‡
51 Furthermore, Samaria did not commit half the sins you did. You have
multiplied your abominations beyond theirs, and all the abominations
you have committed have made your sisters appear righteous.
52 So now you must bear your disgrace, since you have brought
justification for your sisters. For they appear more righteous than you,
because your sins were more vile than theirs. So you too must bear your
shame and disgrace, since you have made your sisters appear righteous.
53 But I will restore the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters,§ as well as
Samaria and her daughters. And I will restore you along with them.
54 So you will bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all you did to
comfort them.

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‡ **16:50 16:50** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *as you have seen* § **16:53 16:53** Or *restore Sodom and her daughters from captivity*

55 And your sisters, Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her
daughters, will return to their former state. You and your daughters will
also return to your former state.
56 Did you not treat your sister Sodom as an object of scorn in the day of
your pride,
57 before your wickedness was uncovered? Even so, you are now
scorned by the daughters of Aram* and all those around her, and by the
daughters of the Philistines—all those around you who despise you.
58 You will bear the consequences of your lewdness and your
abominations, declares the LORD.
59 For this is what the Lord GOD says: I will deal with you according to
your deeds, since you have despised the oath by breaking the covenant.
60 But I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your
youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.
61 Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you
receive your older and younger sisters. I will give them to you as
daughters, but not because of my covenant with you.
62 So I will establish my covenant with you, and you will know that I am
the LORD,
63 so that when I make atonement for all you have done, you will
remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of
your disgrace, declares the Lord GOD."

17

1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, pose a riddle; speak a parable to the house of Israel
3 and tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says:

'A great eagle with great wings and long pinions,*
full of feathers of many colors,
came to Lebanon
and took away the top of the cedar.
4 He plucked off its topmost shoot,
carried it to the land of merchants,
and planted it in a city of traders.
5 He took some of the seed of the land
and planted it in fertile soil;†
he placed it by abundant waters
and set it out like a willow.
6 It sprouted and became a spreading vine,
low in height, with branches turned toward him;
yet its roots remained where it stood.
So it became a vine and yielded branches
and sent out shoots.

7 But there was another great eagle
with great wings and many feathers.
And behold, this vine bent its roots toward him.
It stretched out its branches to him from its planting bed,

* **16:57 16:57** Leningrad Codex, most Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate; many Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *Edom* * **17:3 17:3** *Pinions* are the outer parts of a bird's wings, including the flight feathers. † **17:5 17:5** Hebrew *in a field of seed*

so that he might water it.
8 It had been planted in good soil
by abundant waters
in order to yield branches and bear fruit
and become a splendid vine.'
9 So you are to tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says:

'Will it flourish?
Will it not be uprooted and stripped of its fruit
so that it shrivels?
All its foliage will wither!
It will not take a strong arm or many people
to pull it up by its roots.
10 Even if it is transplanted,
will it flourish?
Will it not completely wither when the east wind strikes?
It will wither on the bed where it sprouted.' "
11 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
12 "Now say to this rebellious house: 'Do you not know what these things mean?'
Tell them, 'Behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, carried off its king and officials, and brought them back with him to Babylon.
13 He took a member of the royal family‡ and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath. Then he carried away the leading men of the land,
14 so that the kingdom would be brought low, unable to lift itself up, surviving only by keeping his covenant.
15 But this king rebelled against Babylon by sending his envoys to Egypt to ask for horses and a large army. Will he flourish? Will the one who does such things escape? Can he break a covenant and yet escape?'
16 'As surely as I live,' declares the Lord GOD, 'he will die in Babylon, in the land of the king who enthroned him, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke.
17 Pharaoh with his mighty army and vast horde will not help him in battle, when ramps are built and siege walls constructed to destroy many lives.
18 He despised the oath by breaking the covenant. Seeing that he gave his hand in pledge yet did all these things, he will not escape!'
19 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'As surely as I live, I will bring down upon his head my oath that he despised and my covenant that he broke.
20 I will spread my net over him and catch him in my snare. I will bring him to Babylon and execute judgment upon him there for the treason he committed against me.
21 All his fleeing troops§ will fall by the sword, and those who survive will be scattered to every wind. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken.'
22 This is what the Lord GOD says:

'I will take a shoot from the lofty top of the cedar,

‡ **17:13** **17:13** Hebrew *the royal seed* § **17:21** **17:21** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts *All his choice troops*

and I will set it out.
I will pluck a tender sprig from its topmost shoots,
and I will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.
23 I will plant it on the mountain heights of Israel
so that it will bear branches;
it will yield fruit
and become a majestic cedar.
Birds of every kind will nest under it,
taking shelter in the shade of its branches.

24 Then all the trees of the field will know
that I am the LORD.
I bring the tall tree down
and make the low tree tall.
I dry up the green tree
and make the withered tree flourish.
I, the LORD, have spoken,
and I have done it.' "

18

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes,
and the teeth of the children are set on edge'?
3 As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel.
4 Behold, every life belongs to me; both father and son are mine. The person who sins is the one who will die.
5 Now suppose a man is righteous and does what is just and right:

6 He does not eat at the mountain
or look to the idols of the house of Israel.
He does not defile his neighbor's wife
or approach a woman during her period.
7 He does not oppress another,
but restores the pledge to the debtor.
He does not commit robbery,
but gives his bread to the hungry
and covers the naked with clothing.
8 He does not engage in usury
or take excess interest,
but he withholds his hand from iniquity
and executes true justice between men.
9 He follows my statutes
and faithfully keeps my ordinances.
That man is righteous;
surely he will live,
declares the Lord GOD.
10 Now suppose that man has a violent son, who sheds blood or does any of these things,
11 though the father has done none of them:

Indeed, the son eats at the mountain
and defiles his neighbor's wife.
12 He oppresses the poor and needy;
he commits robbery
and does not restore a pledge.
He lifts his eyes to idols;
he commits abominations.
13 He engages in usury
and takes excess interest.
Will this son live? He will not! Since he has committed all these abominations, he will surely die; his blood will be on his own head.
14 Now suppose this son has a son who sees all the sins his father has committed, considers them, and does not do likewise:

15 He does not eat at the mountain
or look to the idols of the house of Israel.
He does not defile his neighbor's wife.
16 He does not oppress another,
or retain a pledge, or commit robbery.
He gives his bread to the hungry
and covers the naked with clothing.
17 He withholds his hand from harming the poor*
and takes no interest or usury.
He keeps my ordinances
and follows my statutes.
Such a man will not die for his father's iniquity. He will surely live.
18 As for his father, he will die for his own iniquity, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother, and did what was wrong among his people.
19 Yet you may ask, 'Why shouldn't the son bear the iniquity of his father?'
Since the son has done what is just and right, carefully observing all my statutes, he will surely live.
20 The person who sins is the one who will die. A son will not bear the iniquity of his father, and a father will not bear the iniquity of his son. The righteousness of the righteous man will fall upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked man will fall upon him.
21 But if the wicked man turns from all the sins he has committed, keeps all my statutes, and does what is just and right, he will surely live; he will not die.
22 None of the transgressions he has committed will be held against him. Because of the righteousness he has practiced, he will live.
23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Lord GOD. Wouldn't I prefer that he turn from his ways and live?
24 But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and practices iniquity, committing the same abominations as the wicked, will he live? None of the righteous acts he did will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness and sin he has committed, he will die.
25 Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.'
Hear now, O house of Israel: Is it my way that is unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

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* **18:17 18:17** LXX *he withholds his hand from iniquity*

26 If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and practices iniquity,
he will die for this. He will die because of the iniquity he has committed.
27 But if a wicked man turns from the wickedness he has committed and
does what is just and right, he will save his life.
28 Because he considered and turned from all the transgressions he had
committed, he will surely live; he will not die.
29 Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.'
Are my ways unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are
unjust?
30 Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each according to his
ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions, so that your iniquity will not become your downfall.
31 Cast away from yourselves all the transgressions you have committed,
and fashion for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you
die, O house of Israel?
32 For I take no pleasure in anyone's death, declares the Lord GOD. So
repent and live!

19

1 "As for you, take up a lament for the princes of Israel
2 and say:

'What was your mother?
A lioness among the lions!
She lay down among the young lions;
she reared her cubs.
3 She brought up one of her cubs,
and he became a young lion.
After learning to tear his prey,
he devoured men.
4 When the nations heard of him,
he was trapped in their pit.
With hooks they led him away
to the land of Egypt.

5 When she saw that she had waited in vain,
that her hope was lost,
she took another of her cubs
and made him a young lion.
6 He prowled among the lions,
and became a young lion.
After learning to tear his prey,
he devoured men.
7 He knew their widows*
and devastated their cities.
The land and everything in it
shuddered at the sound of his roaring.

8 Then the nations set out against him
from the provinces on every side.
They spread their net over him;

* **19:7 19:7** Or *he seized their widows*; by emendation *he broke down their strongholds*

he was trapped in their pit.
9 With hooks they caged him
and brought him to the king of Babylon.
They brought him into captivity
so that his roar was heard no longer
on the mountains of Israel.

10 Your mother was like a vine in your bloodline,†
planted by the water;
it was fruitful and full of branches
because of the abundant waters.
11 It had strong branches, fit for a ruler's scepter.
It towered high above the thick branches,
conspicuous for its height
and for its dense foliage.

12 But it was uprooted in fury,
cast down to the ground,
and the east wind dried up its fruit.
Its strong branches were stripped off
and they withered;
the fire consumed them.

13 Now it is planted in the wilderness,
in a dry and thirsty land.
14 Fire has gone out from its main branch
and devoured its fruit;
on it no strong branch remains
fit for a ruler's scepter.'
This is a lament and shall be used as a lament."

20

1 In the seventh year, on the tenth day of the fifth month, some of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and they sat down before me.
2 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
3 "Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel and tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: Have you come to inquire of me? As surely as I live, I will not be consulted by you, declares the Lord GOD.
4 Will you judge them, will you judge them, son of man? Confront them with the abominations of their fathers
5 and tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: On the day I chose Israel, I swore an oath to the descendants of the house of Jacob and made myself known to them in the land of Egypt. With an uplifted hand I said to them, 'I am the LORD your God.'
6 On that day I swore to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the glory of all lands.
7 And I said to them: 'Each of you must throw away the abominations before his eyes, and you must not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.'

† **19:10 19:10** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts *in your vineyard*

8 But they rebelled against me and refused to listen. None of them cast
away the abominations before their eyes, and they did not forsake the
idols of Egypt. So I resolved to pour out my wrath upon them and vent my
anger against them in the land of Egypt.
9 But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in
the eyes of the nations among whom they were living, in whose sight I had
revealed myself to Israel by bringing them out of the land of Egypt.
10 So I brought them out of the land of Egypt and led them into the
wilderness.
11 And I gave them my statutes and made known to them my
ordinances—for the man who does these things will live by them.*
12 I also gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so that they would
know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.
13 Yet the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did
not follow my statutes and they rejected my ordinances—though the man
who does these things will live by them—and they utterly profaned my
Sabbaths. Then I resolved to pour out my wrath upon them and put an
end to them in the wilderness.
14 But I acted for the sake of my name, so that it would not be profaned
in the eyes of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.
15 Moreover, with an uplifted hand I swore to them in the wilderness
that I would not bring them into the land that I had given them—a land
flowing with milk and honey, the glory of all lands—
16 because they kept rejecting my ordinances, refusing to walk in my
statutes, and profaning my Sabbaths; for their hearts continually went
after their idols.
17 Yet I looked on them with pity and did not destroy them or bring them
to an end in the wilderness.
18 In the wilderness I said to their children: 'Do not walk in the statutes
of your fathers or keep their ordinances or defile yourselves with their
idols.
19 I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, keep my ordinances,
and practice them.
20 Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us, so that
you may know that I am the LORD your God.'
21 But the children rebelled against me. They did not walk in my statutes
or carefully observe my ordinances—though the man who does these
things will live by them—and they profaned my Sabbaths. So I resolved to
pour out my wrath upon them and vent my anger against them in the
wilderness.
22 But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, so that it
would not be profaned in the eyes of the nations in whose sight I had
brought them out.
23 However, with an uplifted hand I swore to them in the wilderness that
I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the
lands.
24 For they did not practice my ordinances, but they rejected my statutes
and profaned my Sabbaths, fixing their eyes on the idols of their fathers.
25 I also gave them over to statutes that were not good and ordinances
by which they could not live.

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* **20:11 20:11** See Leviticus 18:5; also in Ezekiel 20:13 and 21.

26 And I pronounced them unclean through their gifts—the sacrifice of
every firstborn in the fire—so that I might devastate them, in order that
they would know that I am the LORD.
27 Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and tell them that
this is what the Lord GOD says: In this way also your fathers blasphemed
me by their unfaithfulness against me.
28 When I brought them into the land that I swore to give them and they
saw any high hill or leafy tree, there they offered their sacrifices,
presented offerings that provoked me, sent up their fragrant incense, and
poured out their drink offerings.
29 So I asked them: 'What is this high place to which you go?'
(And to this day it is called Bamah.†)
30 Therefore tell the house of Israel that this is what the Lord GOD says:
Will you defile yourselves the way your fathers did, prostituting
yourselves with their abominations?
31 When you offer your gifts, making your sons pass through the fire,‡
you continue to defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. So should
I be consulted by you, O house of Israel? As surely as I live, declares the
Lord GOD, I will not be consulted by you!
32 When you say, 'Let us be like the nations, like the peoples of the lands,
serving wood and stone,' what you have in mind will never come to pass.
33 As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, with a strong hand, an
outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath I will rule over you.
34 With a strong hand, an outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath I will
bring you out from the peoples and gather you§ from the lands to which
you have been scattered.
35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the nations, where I will
enter into judgment with you face to face.
36 Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of
the land of Egypt,* so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the
Lord GOD.
37 I will make you pass under the rod and will bring you into the bond of
the covenant.
38 And I will purge you of those who rebel and transgress against me. I
will bring them out of the land in which they dwell, but they will not enter
the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
39 And as for you, O house of Israel, this is what the Lord GOD says: Go
and serve your idols, every one of you. But afterward, you will surely
listen to me, and you will no longer defile my holy name with your gifts
and idols.
40 For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the
Lord GOD, there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve me in the
land. There I will accept them and will require your offerings and choice
gifts, along with all your holy sacrifices.
41 When I bring you from the peoples and gather you from the lands to
which you have been scattered, I will accept you as a pleasing aroma. And
I will show my holiness through you in the sight of the nations.
42 Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the
land of Israel, the land that I swore to give your fathers.

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† **20:29 20:29** *Bamah* means *high place.* ‡ **20:31 20:31** Or *sacrificing your sons in the fire* § **20:34 20:34** LXX *receive you* * **20:36 20:36** Or *in the wilderness after bringing them out of Egypt*

43 There you will remember your ways and all the deeds with which you
have defiled yourselves, and you will loathe yourselves for all the evils
you have done.
44 Then you will know, O house of Israel, that I am the LORD, when I
have dealt with you for the sake of my name and not according to your
wicked ways and corrupt acts, declares the Lord GOD."

21

1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, set your face toward the south,* preach against it, and
prophesy against the forest of the Negev.
3 Say to the forest of the Negev: Hear the word of the LORD! This is what
the Lord GOD says: I am about to ignite in you a fire, and it will devour all
your trees, both green and dry. The blazing flame will not be quenched,
and by it every face from south to north will be scorched.
4 Then all people will see that I, the LORD, have kindled it; it will not be
quenched."
5 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, they are saying of me, 'Is he not just telling
parables?' "
6 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
7 "Son of man, set your face against Jerusalem and preach against the
sanctuaries. Prophesy against the land of Israel
8 and tell her that this is what the LORD says: 'I am against you, and I
will draw my sword from its sheath and cut off from you both the
righteous and the wicked.
9 Because I will cut off both the righteous and the wicked, my sword will
be unsheathed against everyone from south to north.
10 Then all flesh will know that I, the LORD, have taken my sword from
its sheath, not to return it again.'
11 But you, son of man, groan! Groan before their eyes with a broken
heart and bitter grief.
12 And when they ask, 'Why are you groaning?' you are to say, 'Because
of the news that is coming. Every heart will melt, and every hand will go
limp. Every spirit will faint, and every knee will turn to water.' Yes, it is
coming and it will surely happen, declares the Lord GOD."
13 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
14 "Son of man, prophesy and tell them that this is what the Lord says:

'A sword, a sword,
sharpened and polished—
15 it is sharpened for the slaughter,
polished to flash like lightning!
Should we rejoice in the scepter of my son?
The sword despises every such stick.
16 The sword is appointed to be polished,
to be grasped in the hand.
It is sharpened and polished,
to be placed in the hand of the slayer.

17 Cry out and wail,

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* **21:2 21:2** Hebrew *toward Teman*

O son of man,
for the sword is wielded against my people;
it is against all the princes of Israel!
They are tossed to the sword with my people;
therefore strike your thigh.†
18 Surely testing will come!
And what if even the scepter,
which the sword despises,
does not continue?'
declares the Lord GOD.
19 'So then, son of man,
prophesy and strike your hands together.
Let the sword strike two times,
even three.
It is a sword that slays,
a sword of great slaughter
closing in on every side!

20 So that their hearts may melt
and many may stumble,
I have appointed at all their gates
a sword for slaughter.
Yes, it is ready to flash like lightning;
it is drawn for slaughter.
21 Slash to the right;
set your blade to the left—
wherever your blade is directed.

22 I too will strike my hands together,
and I will satisfy my wrath.'
I, the LORD, have spoken."
23 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
24 "Now you, son of man, mark out two roads for the sword of the king of Babylon to take, both starting from the same land. And make a signpost where the road branches off to each city.
25 Mark out one road for the sword to come against Rabbah of the Ammonites, and another against Judah into fortified Jerusalem.
26 For the king of Babylon stands at the fork in the road, at the junction of the two roads, to seek an omen: He shakes the arrows, he consults the idols, he examines the liver.
27 In his right hand appears the portent for Jerusalem, where he is to set up battering rams, to call for the slaughter, to lift a battle cry, to direct the battering rams against the gates, to build a ramp, and to erect a siege wall.
28 It will seem like a false omen to the eyes of those who have sworn allegiance to him, but it will draw attention to their guilt and take them captive.
29 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Because you have drawn attention to your guilt, exposing your transgressions, so that your sins are revealed in all your deeds—because you have come to remembrance—you shall be taken in hand.

† **21:17 21:17** Or *beat your breast*

30 And you, O profane and wicked prince of Israel,
the day has come for your final punishment.'
31 This is what the Lord GOD says:

'Remove the turban,
and take off the crown.
Things will not remain as they are:
Exalt the lowly
and bring low the exalted.
32 A ruin, a ruin,
I will make it a ruin!
And it will not be restored
until the arrival of him to whom it rightfully belongs,
and I will give it to him.‡'
33 Now prophesy, son of man, and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says concerning the Ammonites and their contempt:

'A sword! A sword
is drawn for slaughter,
polished to consume,
to flash like lightning—
34 while they offer false visions for you
and lying divinations about you—
to be placed on the necks
of the wicked who are slain,
whose day has come,
the time of their final punishment.

35 Return the sword to its sheath!

In the place where you were created,
in the land of your origin,
I will judge you.
36 I will pour out my anger upon you;
I will breathe the fire of my fury against you;
I will hand you over to brutal men,
skilled in destruction.
37 You will be fuel for the fire.
Your blood will stain your own land.
You will not be remembered,
for I, the LORD, have spoken.' "

22

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "As for you, son of man, will you judge her? Will you pass judgment on the city of bloodshed? Then confront her with all her abominations
3 and tell her that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'O city who brings her own doom by shedding blood within her walls and making idols to defile herself,
4 you are guilty of the blood you have shed, and you are defiled by the idols you have made. You have brought your days to a close and have

‡ **21:32 21:32** Or *of him to whom it belongs, to whom I have assigned the right of judgment.*

come to the end of your years. Therefore I have made you a reproach to
the nations and a mockery to all the lands.
5 Those near and far will mock you, O infamous city, full of turmoil.
6 See how every prince of Israel within you has used his power to shed
blood.
7 Father and mother are treated with contempt. Within your walls the
foreign resident is exploited, the fatherless and the widow are oppressed.
8 You have despised my holy things and profaned my Sabbaths.
9 Among you are slanderous men bent on bloodshed; within you are
those who eat on the mountain shrines and commit acts of indecency.
10 In you they have uncovered the nakedness of their fathers; in you
they violate women during their menstrual impurity.
11 One man commits an abomination with his neighbor's wife; another
wickedly defiles his daughter-in-law; and yet another violates his sister,
his own father's daughter.
12 In you they take bribes to shed blood. You engage in usury, take
excess interest, and extort your neighbors. But me you have forgotten,
declares the Lord GOD.
13 Now look, I strike my hands together against your unjust gain and
against the blood you have shed in your midst.
14 Will your courage endure or your hands be strong in the day I deal
with you? I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will act.
15 I will disperse you among the nations and scatter you throughout the
lands; I will purge your uncleanness.
16 And when you have defiled yourself* in the eyes of the nations, then
you will know that I am the LORD.' "
17 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
18 "Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me. All of them
are copper, tin, iron, and lead inside the furnace; they are but the dross of
silver.
19 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Because all of you have
become dross, behold, I will gather you into Jerusalem.
20 Just as one gathers silver, copper, iron, lead, and tin into the furnace to
melt with a fiery blast, so I will gather you in my anger and wrath, leave
you there, and melt you.
21 Yes, I will gather you together and blow on you with the fire of my
wrath, and you will be melted within the city.
22 As silver is melted in a furnace, so you will be melted within the city.
Then you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out my wrath upon
you.' "
23 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
24 "Son of man, say to her, 'In the day of indignation, you are a land that
has not been cleansed, upon which no rain has fallen.'
25 The conspiracy of the prophets† in her midst is like a roaring lion
tearing its prey. They devour the people, seize the treasures and precious
things, and multiply the widows within her.
26 Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things. They
make no distinction between the holy and the common, and they fail to
distinguish between the clean and the unclean. They disregard my
Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

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* **22:16 22:16** Or *And when I have allotted you your inheritance* † **22:25 22:25** LXX *princes*

27 Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey, shedding
blood, and destroying lives for dishonest gain.
28 Her prophets whitewash these deeds by false visions and lying
divinations, saying, 'This is what the Lord GOD says,' when the LORD has
not spoken.
29 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed
robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy and have exploited the
foreign resident without justice.
30 I searched for a man among them to repair the wall and stand in the
gap before me on behalf of the land, so that I should not destroy it. But I
found no one.
31 So I have poured out my indignation upon them and consumed them
with the fire of my fury. I have brought their ways down upon their own
heads, declares the Lord GOD."

23

1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, there were two women, daughters of the same mother,
3 and they played in Egypt, prostituting themselves from their youth.
Their breasts were fondled there, and their virgin bosoms caressed.
4 The older was named Oholah,* and her sister was named Oholibah.†
They became mine and gave birth to sons and daughters. As for their
identities, Oholah is Samaria, and Oholibah is Jerusalem.
5 Oholah prostituted herself while she was still mine. She lusted after
her lovers, the Assyrians—warriors
6 clothed in blue, governors and commanders, all desirable young men,
horsemen mounted on steeds.
7 She offered sexual favors to all the elite of Assyria. She defiled herself
with all the idols of those for whom she lusted.
8 She did not give up the prostitution she began in Egypt, when men
slept with her in her youth, caressed her virgin bosom, and poured out
their lust upon her.
9 Therefore I delivered her into the hands of her lovers, the Assyrians
for whom she lusted.
10 They exposed her nakedness, seized her sons and daughters, and put
her to the sword. Thus she became a byword among women, and they
executed judgment against her.
11 Her sister Oholibah saw this, yet in her lust and prostitution she was
more depraved than her sister.
12 She too lusted after the Assyrians—governors and commanders,
warriors dressed in splendor, horsemen riding on steeds, all desirable
young men.
13 And I saw that she too had defiled herself; both of them had taken the
same path.
14 But Oholibah carried her prostitution even further. She saw the men
portrayed on the wall, images of the Chaldeans,‡ engraved in vermilion,

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* **23:4 23:4** *Oholah* means *her own tent* or *she worships at a tent shrine*, a metaphor for Samaria as an adulteress with Assyria. † **23:4 23:4** *Oholibah* means *the tent is in her* or *she is a tent shrine*, a metaphor for Jerusalem as an adulterous wife. ‡ **23:14 23:14** That is, the Babylonians

15 wearing belts on their waists and flowing turbans on their heads; all
of them looked like officers of the Babylonians in Chaldea,§ the land of
their birth.
16 At the sight of them, she lusted for them and sent messengers to them
in Chaldea.
17 Then the Babylonians came to her, to the bed of love, and in their lust
they defiled her. But after she had been defiled by them, she turned away
in disgust.
18 When Oholibah openly prostituted herself and exposed her
nakedness, I turned away from her in disgust, just as I had turned away
from her sister.
19 Yet she multiplied her promiscuity, remembering the days of her
youth, when she had prostituted herself in the land of Egypt
20 and lusted after their lovers, whose genitals were like those of
donkeys and whose emission was like that of stallions.
21 So you revisited the indecency of your youth, when the Egyptians
caressed your bosom and pressed your young breasts.
22 Therefore, Oholibah, this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I will incite your
lovers against you, those from whom you turned away in disgust. And I
will bring them against you from every side—
23 the Babylonians and all the Chaldeans, the men of Pekod, Shoa, and
Koa, and all the Assyrians with them—all desirable young men, governors
and commanders, officers and men of renown, mounted on horses.
24 They will come against you with a host of peoples,* with weapons,
chariots, and wagons. They will array themselves against you on every
side with buckler and shield and helmet. I will delegate judgment to them,
and they will punish you according to their own standards.
25 And I will set my jealous rage against you, and they will deal with you
in fury. They will cut off your noses and ears, and your survivors will fall
by the sword. They will seize your sons and daughters, and your remnant
will be consumed by fire.
26 They will strip off your clothes and take your fine jewelry.
27 So I will put an end to your indecency and prostitution, which began
in the land of Egypt, and you will not lift your eyes to them or remember
Egypt anymore.'
28 For this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Surely I will deliver you into the
hands of those you hate, from whom you turned away in disgust.
29 They will treat you with hatred, take all for which you have worked,
and leave you naked and bare, so that the shame of your prostitution will
be exposed. Your indecency and promiscuity
30 have brought these things upon you, because you have prostituted
yourself with the nations and defiled yourself with their idols.
31 Because you have followed the path of your sister, I will put her cup
into your hand.'
32 This is what the Lord GOD says:

'You will drink your sister's cup,
a cup deep and wide.
It will bring scorn and derision,
for it holds so much.

§ **23:15 23:15** Or *Babylonia*; also in verse 16 * **23:24 23:24** LXX *They will all come against you from the north*

33 You will be filled with drunkenness and grief,
with a cup of devastation and desolation,
the cup of your sister Samaria.
34 You will drink it and drain it;
you will dash it to pieces,
and tear your breasts.
For I have spoken,'
declares the Lord GOD.
35 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Because you have forgotten me and have cast me behind your back, you must bear the consequences of your indecency and prostitution.' "
36 Then the LORD said to me: "Son of man, will you pass judgment against Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their abominations.
37 For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols. They have even sacrificed their children, whom they bore to me, in the fire† as food for their idols.
38 They have also done this to me: On that very same day, they defiled my sanctuary and profaned my Sabbaths.
39 On the very day they slaughtered their children for their idols, they entered my sanctuary to profane it. Yes, they did this inside my house.
40 Furthermore, you sisters sent‡ messengers for men who came from afar; and behold, when they arrived, you bathed for them, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with jewelry.
41 You sat on a couch of luxury with a table spread before it, on which you had set my incense and my oil,
42 accompanied by the sound of a carefree crowd. Drunkards§ were brought in from the desert along with men from the rabble, who put bracelets on your wrists and beautiful crowns on your head.
43 Then I said of her who had grown old in adulteries: 'Now let them use her as a prostitute,* for that is all she is!'
44 And they slept with her as with a prostitute; they slept with Oholah and Oholibah, those lewd women.
45 But righteous men will sentence them to the punishment of those who commit adultery and bloodshed, because they are adulteresses with blood on their hands.
46 This is what the Lord GOD says: 'Bring a mob against them and consign them to terror and plunder.
47 The mob will stone them and cut them down with their swords. They will kill their sons and daughters and burn down their houses.
48 So I will put an end to indecency in the land, and all the women will be admonished not to imitate your behavior.
49 They will repay you for your indecency, and you will bear the consequences of your sins of idolatry. Then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.' "

24

1 In the ninth year, on the tenth day of the tenth month, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

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† **23:37 23:37** Literally *passed their children, whom they bore to me, through the fire* ‡ **23:40 23:40** Hebrew *they sent* § **23:42 23:42** Or *Sabeans* * **23:43 23:43** Qere; Ketiv *she will prostitute herself*

2 “Son of man, write down today's date, for on this very day the king of
Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem.
3 Now speak a parable to this rebellious house and tell them that this is
what the Lord GOD says:

‘Put the pot on the fire;
put it on and pour in the water.
4 Put in the pieces of meat,
every good piece—
thigh and shoulder—
fill it with choice bones.
5 Take the choicest of the flock
and pile the bones beneath it.*
Bring it to a boil
and cook the bones in it.’
6 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says:

‘Woe to the city of bloodshed,
to the pot now rusted,
whose rust will not come off!
Empty it piece by piece;
let no lot fall upon it.†
7 For the blood she shed is still within her;
she poured it out on the bare rock;
she did not pour it on the ground
to cover it with dust.
8 In order to stir up wrath
and take vengeance,
I have placed her blood on the bare rock,
so that it would not be covered.’
9 Yes, this is what the Lord GOD says:

‘Woe to the city of bloodshed!
I, too, will pile the kindling high.
10 Pile on the logs and kindle the fire;
cook the meat well
and mix in the spices;
let the bones be burned.
11 Set the empty pot on its coals
until it becomes hot and its copper glows.
Then its impurity will melt within;
its rust will be consumed.
12 It has frustrated every effort;
its thick rust has not been removed,
even by the fire.
13 Because of the indecency of your uncleanness
I tried to cleanse you,
but you would not be purified
from your filthiness.
You will not be pure again
until my wrath against you has subsided.

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* **24:5 24:5** Many translators emend to *logs*; compare verse 10. † **24:6 24:6** Or *cast no lots for its contents*

14 I, the LORD, have spoken;
the time is coming, and I will act.
I will not refrain or show pity,
nor will I relent.
They will judge you‡
according to your ways and deeds,'
declares the Lord GOD."
15 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
16 "Son of man, behold, I am about to take away the desire of your eyes with a fatal blow. But you must not mourn or weep or let your tears flow.
17 Groan quietly; do not mourn for the dead. Put on your turban and strap your sandals on your feet; do not cover your lips or eat the bread of mourners."
18 So I spoke to the people in the morning, and in the evening my wife died. And the next morning I did as I had been commanded.
19 Then the people asked me, "Won't you tell us what these things you are doing mean to us?"
20 So I answered them, "The word of the LORD came to me, saying:
21 Tell the house of Israel that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I am about to desecrate my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the desire of your eyes, and the delight of your soul. And the sons and daughters you left behind will fall by the sword.'
22 Then you will do as I have done: You will not cover your lips or eat the bread of mourners.
23 Your turbans will remain on your heads and your sandals on your feet. You will not mourn or weep, but you will waste away because of your sins, and you will groan among yourselves.
24 'Thus Ezekiel will be a sign for you; you will do everything that he has done. When this happens, you will know that I am the Lord GOD.'
25 And you, son of man, know that on the day I take away their stronghold, their pride and joy—the desire of their eyes which uplifted their souls—and their sons and daughters as well,
26 on that day a fugitive will come and tell you the news.
27 On that day your mouth will be opened to him who has escaped; you will speak and no longer be mute. So you will be a sign to them, and they will know that I am the LORD."

25

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, set your face against the Ammonites and prophesy against them.
3 Tell the Ammonites to hear the word of the Lord GOD, for this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Because you exclaimed, "Aha!" when my sanctuary was profaned, when the land of Israel was laid waste, and when the house of Judah went into exile,
4 therefore I will indeed give you as a possession to the people of the East. They will set up their camps and pitch their tents among you. They will eat your fruit and drink your milk.
5 I will make Rabbah a pasture for camels, and Ammon* a resting place for sheep. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'

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‡ **24:14 24:14** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *I will judge you* * **25:5 25:5** Hebrew *and the Ammonites*

6 For this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Because you clapped your hands
and stomped your feet and rejoiced over the land of Israel with a heart
full of contempt,
7 therefore I will indeed stretch out my hand against you and give you as
plunder to the nations. I will cut you off from the peoples and exterminate
you from the countries. I will destroy you, and you will know that I am the
LORD.’
8 This is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Because Moab and Seir† said, “Look,
the house of Judah is like all the other nations,”
9 therefore I will indeed expose the flank of Moab beginning with its
frontier cities—Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim—the glory of
the land.
10 I will give it along with the Ammonites as a possession to the people of
the East, so that the Ammonites will no longer be remembered among the
nations.
11 So I will execute judgments on Moab, and they will know that I am the
LORD.’
12 This is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Because Edom acted vengefully
against the house of Judah, and in so doing incurred grievous guilt,
13 therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I will stretch out my hand
against Edom and cut off from it both man and beast. I will make it a
wasteland, and from Teman to Dedan they will fall by the sword.
14 I will take my vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel,
and they will deal with Edom according to my anger and wrath. Then they
will know my vengeance, declares the Lord GOD.’
15 This is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Because the Philistines acted in
vengeance, taking vengeance with malice of soul to destroy Judah with
ancient hostility,
16 therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I will stretch out my
hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy
the remnant along the coast.
17 I will execute great vengeance against them with furious reproof.
Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I lay my vengeance upon
them.’ ”

26

1 In the eleventh year,* on the first day of the month, the word of the
LORD came to me, saying,
2 “Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, ‘Aha! The gate to the
nations is broken; it has swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I
will be filled,’
3 therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Behold, O Tyre, I am against
you, and I will raise up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its
waves.
4 They will destroy the walls of Tyre and demolish her towers. I will
scrape the soil from her and make her a bare rock.
5 She will become a place to spread nets in the sea, for I have spoken,
declares the Lord GOD. She will become plunder for the nations,
6 and the villages on her mainland will be slain by the sword. Then they
will know that I am the LORD.’

† **25:8 25:8** LXX does not include *and Seir*.
* **26:1 26:1** A probable reconstruction reads *In the eleventh month of the twelfth year*

7 For this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Behold, I will bring against Tyre
from the north Nebuchadrezzar† king of Babylon, king of kings, with
horses and chariots, with cavalry and a great company of troops.
8 He will slaughter the villages of your mainland with the sword; he will
set up siege works against you, build a ramp to your walls, and raise his
shields against you.
9 He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and
tear down your towers with his axes.
10 His multitude of horses will cover you in their dust.
When he enters your gates as an army entering a breached city, your
walls will shake from the noise of cavalry, wagons, and chariots.
11 The hooves of his horses will trample all your streets. He will
slaughter your people with the sword, and your mighty pillars will fall to
the ground.
12 They will plunder your wealth and pillage your merchandise. They
will demolish your walls, tear down your beautiful homes, and throw
your stones and timber and soil into the water.
13 So I will silence the sound of your songs, and the music of your lyres
will no longer be heard.
14 I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread the
fishing nets. You will never be rebuilt, for I, the LORD, have spoken,
declares the Lord GOD.’
15 This is what the Lord GOD says to Tyre: ‘Will not the coastlands quake
at the sound of your downfall, when the wounded groan at the slaughter
in your midst?
16 All the princes of the sea will descend from their thrones, remove
their robes, and strip off their embroidered garments. Clothed with terror,
they will sit on the ground, trembling every moment, appalled over you.
17 Then they will lament for you, saying,

“How you have perished, O city of renown
inhabited by seafaring men—
she who was powerful on the sea, along with her people,
who imposed terror on all her inhabitants!‡
18 Now the coastlands tremble
on the day of your downfall;
the islands in the sea
are dismayed by your demise.” ’
19 For this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘When I make you a desolate city
like other deserted cities, and when I raise up the deep against you so that
the mighty waters cover you,
20 then I will bring you down with those who descend to the Pit, to the
people of antiquity. I will make you dwell in the earth below like the
ancient ruins, with those who descend to the Pit, so that you will no longer
be inhabited; and I will set splendor in the land of the living.§
21 I will make you an object of horror, and you will be no more. You will
be sought, but will never be found,’ declares the Lord GOD.”

† **26:7 26:7** A variant of *Nebuchadnezzar*; the spelling used throughout Ezekiel. ‡ **26:17 26:17** Or *on all peoples* § **26:20 26:20** LXX *so that you will no longer be inhabited or take your place in the land of the living*

27

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 “Now you, son of man, take up a lament for Tyre.
3 Tell Tyre, who dwells at the gateway to the sea, merchant of the
peoples on many coasts, that this is what the Lord GOD says:

You have said, O Tyre,
‘I am perfect in beauty.’
4 Your borders are in the heart of the seas;
your builders perfected your beauty.
5 They constructed all your planking
with cypress* from Senir.†
They took a cedar from Lebanon
to make a mast for you.
6 Of oaks from Bashan
they made your oars;
of wood from the coasts of Cyprus‡
they made your deck, inlaid with ivory.
7 Of embroidered fine linen from Egypt
they made your sail,
which served as your banner.
Of blue and purple from the coasts of Elishah
they made your awning.

8 The men of Sidon and Arvad
were your oarsmen.
Your men of skill, O Tyre,
were there as your captains.
9 The elders of Gebal and her skilled men were aboard as shipwrights,
repairing your leaks.
All the ships of the sea and their sailors
came alongside to barter for your merchandise.

10 Men of Persia, Lydia, and Put
served as warriors in your army.
They hung their shields and helmets on your walls;
they gave you splendor.
11 Men of Arvad and your army§
manned your walls all around,
and the men of Gammad
were in your towers.
They hung their shields around your walls;
they perfected your beauty.

12 Tarshish was your merchant because of your great wealth of goods;
they exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your wares.
13 Javan,* Tubal, and Meshech were your merchants. They exchanged
slaves and bronze utensils for your merchandise.

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* **27:5 27:5** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir* † **27:5 27:5** That is, *Mount Hermon* ‡ **27:6 27:6** Hebrew *Kittim*
§ **27:11 27:11** Or *and Helech* * **27:13 27:13** That is, Greece

14 The men of Beth-togarmah exchanged horses, war horses, and mules
for your wares.
15 The men of Dedan† were your clients; many coastlands were your
market; they paid you with ivory tusks and ebony.
16 Aram‡ was your customer because of your many products; they
exchanged turquoise, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and
rubies for your wares.
17 Judah and the land of Israel traded with you; they exchanged wheat
from Minnith, cakes and honey, oil and balm for your merchandise.
18 Because of your many products and your great wealth of goods,
Damascus traded with you wine from Helbon, wool from Zahar,
19 and Dan and Javan from Uzal traded for your wares.§ Wrought iron,
cassia, and sweet cane* were exchanged for your merchandise.†
20 Dedan was your merchant in saddlecloths for riding.
21 Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your customers, trading in
lambs, rams, and goats.
22 The merchants of Sheba and Raamah traded with you; for your wares
they exchanged gold, the finest of all spices, and precious stones.
23 Haran, Canneh, and Eden traded with you, and so did the merchants
of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad.
24 In your marketplace they traded with you fine garments of blue,
embroidered work, and multicolored rugs with cords tightly twisted and
knotted.

25 The ships of Tarshish‡
carried your merchandise.
And you were filled with heavy cargo
in the heart of the sea.
26 Your oarsmen have brought you
onto the high seas,
but the east wind will shatter you
in the heart of the sea.
27 Your wealth, wares, and merchandise,
your sailors, captains, and shipwrights,
your merchants and all the warriors within you,
with all the other people on board,
will sink into the heart of the sea
on the day of your downfall.

28 The countryside will shake
when your sailors cry out.
29 All who handle the oars
will abandon their ships.
The sailors and all the captains of the sea
will stand on the shore.
30 They will raise their voices for you
and cry out bitterly.
They will throw dust on their heads

† **27:15 27:15** LXX *Rhodes* ‡ **27:16 27:16** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *Edom* § **27:19 27:19** A probable emendation reads *and casks of wine from Izal for your wares* * **27:19 27:19** Or *calamus* † **27:19 27:19** Or *were among your merchandise* ‡ **27:25 27:25** Or *A fleet of trading ships*

and roll in ashes.
31 They will shave their heads for you
and wrap themselves in sackcloth.
They will weep over you
with anguish of soul and bitter mourning.

32 As they wail and mourn over you,
they will take up a lament for you:

'Who was ever like Tyre,
silenced in the middle of the sea?
33 When your wares went out to sea,
you satisfied many nations.
You enriched the kings of the earth
with your abundant wealth and merchandise.
34 Now you are shattered by the seas
in the depths of the waters;
your merchandise and the people among you
have gone down with you.
35 All the people of the coastlands
are appalled over you.
Their kings shudder with fear;
their faces are contorted.
36 Those who trade among the nations
hiss at you;
you have come to a horrible end
and will be no more.' "

28

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, tell the ruler of Tyre that this is what the Lord GOD says:

Your heart is proud,
and you have said,
'I am a god;
I sit in the seat of gods
in the heart of the sea.'
Yet you are a man and not a god,
though you have regarded your heart
as that of a god.

3 Behold, you are wiser than Daniel;
no secret is hidden from you!
4 By your wisdom and understanding
you have gained your wealth
and amassed gold and silver
for your treasuries.
5 By your great skill in trading
you have increased your wealth,
but your heart has grown proud
because of it.

6 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says:

Because you regard your heart
as the heart of a god,
7 behold, I will bring foreigners against you,
the most ruthless of nations.
They will draw their swords
against the beauty of your wisdom
and will defile your splendor.
8 They will bring you down to the Pit,
and you will die a violent death
in the heart of the seas.

9 Will you still say, 'I am a god,'
in the presence of those who slay you?
You will be only a man, not a god,
in the hands of those who wound you.
10 You will die the death of the uncircumcised
at the hands of foreigners.

For I have spoken,
declares the Lord GOD."
11 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
12 "Son of man, take up a lament for the king of Tyre and tell him that this is what the Lord GOD says:

'You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 You were in Eden,
the garden of God.
Every kind of precious stone adorned you:*
ruby, topaz, and diamond,
beryl, onyx, and jasper,
sapphire,† turquoise, and emerald.
Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold,
prepared on the day of your creation.

14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for I had ordained you.
You were on the holy mountain of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.
15 From the day you were created
you were blameless in your ways—
until wickedness was found in you.

16 By the vastness of your trade,
you were filled with violence, and you sinned.
So I drove you in disgrace
from the mountain of God,
and I banished you, O guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.
17 Your heart grew proud of your beauty;

* **28:13 28:13** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain. † **28:13 28:13** Or *lapis lazuli*

you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor;
so I cast you to the earth;
I made you a spectacle before kings.

18 By the multitude of your iniquities
and the dishonesty of your trading
you have profaned your sanctuaries.
So I made fire come from within you,
and it consumed you.
I reduced you to ashes on the ground
in the eyes of all who saw you.
19 All the nations who know you
are appalled over you.
You have come to a horrible end
and will be no more.' "
20 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
21 "Son of man, set your face against Sidon and prophesy against her.
22 And you are to declare that this is what the Lord GOD says:

'Behold, I am against you, O Sidon,
and I will be glorified within you.
They will know that I am the LORD
when I execute judgments against her
and demonstrate my holiness through her.
23 I will send a plague against her
and shed blood in her streets;
the slain will fall within her,
while the sword is against her on every side.

Then they will know that I am the LORD.
24 For the people of Israel will no longer face a pricking brier or a painful thorn from all around them who treat them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the Lord GOD.'
25 This is what the Lord GOD says: 'When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they have been scattered, I will show myself holy among them in the sight of the nations.
Then they will dwell in their own land, which I have given to my servant Jacob.
26 And there they will dwell securely, build houses, and plant vineyards. They will dwell securely when I execute judgments against all those around them who treat them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.' "

29

1 In the tenth year, on the twelfth day of the tenth month, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt.
3 Speak to him and tell him that this is what the Lord GOD says:

Behold, I am against you,
O Pharaoh king of Egypt,

O great monster who lies
among his rivers,
who says, 'The Nile is mine;
I made it myself.'

4 But I will put hooks in your jaws
and cause the fish of your streams
to cling to your scales.
I will haul you up out of your rivers,
and all the fish of your streams
will cling to your scales.
5 I will leave you in the desert,
you and all the fish of your streams.
You will fall on the open field
and will not be taken away
or gathered for burial.
I have given you as food
to the beasts of the earth
and the birds of the air.
6 Then all the people of Egypt
will know that I am the LORD.

For they were only* a staff of reeds
to the house of Israel.
7 When Israel took hold of you with their hands,†
you splintered, tearing all their shoulders;
when they leaned on you,
you broke, and you caused their loins to shake.‡
8 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I will bring a sword against you and cut off from you man and beast.
9 The land of Egypt will become a desolate wasteland. Then they will know that I am the LORD.
Because he said,§ 'The Nile is mine; I made it,'
10 therefore I am against you and against your rivers. I will turn the land of Egypt into a ruin, a desolate wasteland from Migdol to Syene, and as far as the border of Cush.*
11 No foot of man or beast will pass through, and it will be uninhabited for forty years.
12 I will make the land of Egypt a desolation among desolate lands, and her cities will lie desolate for forty years among the ruined cities. And I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them throughout the countries.
13 For this is what the Lord GOD says: At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the nations to which they were scattered.
14 I will restore the fortunes of Egypt† and bring them back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin. There they will be a lowly kingdom.

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* **29:6 29:6** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *you were* † **29:7 29:7** Qere; Ketiv *by your hand* ‡ **29:7 29:7** Syriac (see also LXX and Vulgate) *and their backs were wrenched* § **29:9 29:9** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *Because you said* * **29:10 29:10** That is, the upper Nile region † **29:14 29:14** Or *restore Egypt from captivity*

15 Egypt will be the lowliest of kingdoms and will never again exalt itself
above the nations. For I will diminish Egypt so that it will never again rule
over the nations.
16 Egypt will never again be an object of trust for the house of Israel, but
will remind them of their iniquity in turning to the Egyptians. Then they
will know that I am the Lord GOD."
17 In the twenty-seventh year, on the first day of the first month, the
word of the LORD came to me, saying,
18 "Son of man, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon caused his army to
labor strenuously against Tyre. Every head was made bald and every
shoulder made raw. But he and his army received no wages from Tyre for
the labor they expended on it.
19 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I will give the land of Egypt
to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, who will carry off its wealth, seize its
spoil, and remove its plunder. This will be the wages for his army.
20 I have given him the land of Egypt as the reward for his labor, because
it was done for me, declares the Lord GOD.
21 In that day I will cause a horn to sprout for the house of Israel, and I
will open your mouth to speak among them. Then they will know that I
am the LORD."

30

1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, prophesy and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says:

Wail, 'Alas
for that day!'
3 For the day is near,
the Day of the LORD is near.
It will be a day of clouds,
a time for the nations.*

4 A sword will come against Egypt,
and there will be anguish in Cush†
when the slain fall in Egypt,
its wealth is taken away,
and its foundations are torn down.
5 Cush, Put, and Lud,‡
and all the various peoples,
as well as Cub§ and the men of the covenant land,
will fall with Egypt by the sword.

6 For this is what the LORD says:

The allies of Egypt will fall,
and her proud strength will collapse.
From Migdol to Syene*
they will fall by the sword within her,
declares the Lord GOD.
7 They will be desolate among desolate lands,

* **30:3 30:3** Or *the time of the nations* † **30:4 30:4** That is, the upper Nile region; also in verses 5 and 9 ‡ **30:5 30:5** Or *Lydia* § **30:5 30:5** LXX *Libya* * **30:6 30:6** That is, Aswan; see Isaiah 49:12

and their cities will lie among ruined cities.

8 Then they will know that I am the LORD
when I set fire to Egypt
and all her helpers are shattered.

9 On that day messengers will go out from me in ships to frighten Cush
out of complacency. Anguish will come upon them on the day of
Egypt's doom.† For it is indeed coming.

10 This is what the Lord GOD says:

I will put an end to the hordes of Egypt
by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon.
11 He and his people with him,
the most ruthless of the nations,
will be brought in to destroy the land.
They will draw their swords against Egypt
and fill the land with the slain.
12 I will make the streams dry up
and sell the land to the wicked.
By the hands of foreigners I will bring desolation
upon the land and everything in it.
I, the LORD, have spoken.

13 This is what the Lord GOD says:

I will destroy the idols
and put an end to the images in Memphis.‡
There will no longer be a prince in Egypt,
and I will instill fear in that land.

14 I will lay waste Pathros,
set fire to Zoan,
and execute judgment on Thebes.§
15 I will pour out my wrath on Pelusium,*
the stronghold of Egypt,
and cut off the crowds of Thebes.
16 I will set fire to Egypt,
Pelusium will writhe in anguish,
Thebes will be split open,
and Memphis will face daily distress.

17 The young men of Aven and Pi-beseth†
will fall by the sword,
and those cities will go into captivity.
18 The day will be withheld‡ in Tahpanhes
when I break the yoke of Egypt

† **30:9 30:9** Hebrew *the day of Egypt* ‡ **30:13 30:13** Hebrew *Noph*; also in verse 16 § **30:14 30:14** Hebrew *No*; also in verses 15 and 16 * **30:15 30:15** Hebrew *Sin*; also in verse 16 † **30:17 30:17** *Aven* (*wickedness*) is a play on *On*, that is, Heliopolis (so LXX); *Pi-beseth* is Bubastis. ‡ **30:18 30:18** Many Hebrew manuscripts and ancient versions *darkened*

and her proud strength comes to an end.
A cloud will cover her,
and her daughters will go into captivity.

19 So I will execute judgment on Egypt,
and they will know that I am the LORD."
20 In the eleventh year, on the seventh day of the first month, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
21 "Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt. See, it has not been bound up for healing, or splinted for strength to hold the sword.
22 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt. I will break his arms, both the strong one and the one already broken, and will make the sword fall from his hand.
23 I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them throughout the lands.
24 I will strengthen the arms of Babylon's king and place my sword in his hand, but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, who will groan before him like a mortally wounded man.
25 I will strengthen the arms of Babylon's king, but Pharaoh's arms will fall limp.
Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I place my sword in the hand of Babylon's king, and he wields it against the land of Egypt.
26 I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them throughout the lands. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

31

1 In the eleventh year, on the first day of the third month, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude:

'Who can be compared
to your greatness?
3 Look at Assyria, a cedar in Lebanon,
with beautiful branches that shaded the forest.
It towered on high;
its top was among the thick boughs.*
4 The waters made it grow;
the deep springs made it tall,
directing their streams all around its base
and sending their channels to all the trees of the field.

5 Therefore it towered higher
than all the trees of the field.
Its branches multiplied,
and its boughs grew long
as it spread them out
because of the abundant waters.
6 All the birds of the air
nested in its branches,
and all the beasts of the field

* **31:3 31:3** LXX *among the clouds*; also in verses 10 and 14

gave birth beneath its boughs;
all the great nations
lived in its shade.

7 It was beautiful in its greatness,
in the length of its limbs,
for its roots extended
to abundant waters.
8 The cedars in the garden of God
could not rival it;
the cypresses† could not compare with its branches,
nor the plane trees‡ match its boughs.
No tree in the garden of God
could compare with its beauty.
9 I made it beautiful with its many branches,
the envy of all the trees of Eden,
which were in the garden of God.'

10 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Since you became great§ in height, and it set its top among the thick boughs,* and it grew proud on account of its height,
11 I delivered it into the hand of the ruler of the nations, for him to deal with it according to its wickedness. I have banished it.
12 Foreigners, the most ruthless of the nations, cut it down and left it. Its branches have fallen on the mountains and in every valley; its boughs lay broken in all the earth's ravines. And all the peoples of the earth left its shade and abandoned it.
13 All the birds of the air nested on its fallen trunk, and all the beasts of the field lived among its boughs.
14 This happened so that no other trees by the waters would become great in height and set their tops among the thick boughs,† and no other well-watered trees would reach them in height. For they have all been consigned to death, to the depths of the earth, among the mortals who descend to the Pit.'
15 This is what the Lord GOD says: 'On the day it was brought down to Sheol, I caused mourning. I covered the deep because of it; I held back its rivers; its abundant waters were restrained. I made Lebanon mourn for it, and all the trees of the field fainted because of it.
16 I made the nations quake at the sound of its downfall, when I cast it down to Sheol with those who descend to the Pit.
Then all the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, all the well-watered trees, were consoled in the earth below.
17 They too descended with it to Sheol, to those slain by the sword. As its allies they had lived in its shade among the nations.
18 Who then is like you in glory and greatness among the trees of Eden? You also will be brought down to the depths of the earth to be with the trees of Eden. You will lie among the uncircumcised, with those slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, declares the Lord GOD.' "

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† **31:8 31:8** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs* ‡ **31:8 31:8** Possibly *chestnut* or *juniper* § **31:10 31:10** LXX and Syriac *it became great* * **31:10 31:10** LXX *among the clouds* † **31:14 31:14** LXX *among the clouds*

32

1 In the twelfth year, on the first day of the twelfth month, the word of
the LORD came to me, saying,
2 “Son of man, take up a lament for Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to
him:

‘You are like a lion among the nations;
you are like a monster in the seas.
You thrash about in your rivers,
churning up the waters with your feet
and muddying the streams.’

3 This is what the Lord GOD says:

‘I will spread my net over you
with a company of many peoples,
and they will draw you up in my net.
4 I will abandon you on the land
and hurl you into the open field.
I will cause all the birds of the air
to settle upon you,
and all the beasts of the earth
to eat their fill of you.
5 I will put your flesh on the mountains
and fill the valleys with your remains.*
6 I will drench the land
with the flow of your blood,
all the way to the mountains—
the ravines will be filled.

7 When I extinguish you,
I will cover the heavens
and darken their stars.
I will cover the sun with a cloud,
and the moon will not give its light.
8 All the shining lights in the heavens
I will darken over you,
and I will bring darkness
upon your land,’
declares the Lord GOD.
9 ‘I will trouble the hearts of many peoples,
when I bring about your destruction among the nations,
in countries† you do not know.
10 I will cause many peoples
to be appalled over you,
and their kings will shudder in horror because of you
when I brandish my sword before them.
On the day of your downfall
each of them will tremble
every moment for his life.’

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* **32:5 32:5** Or *your lofty stature* † **32:9 32:9** LXX *when I lead you into captivity among the nations, into countries*

11 For this is what the Lord GOD says:

‘The sword of the king of Babylon
will come against you!
12 I will make your hordes fall
by the swords of the mighty,
the most ruthless of all nations.
They will ravage the pride of Egypt
and all her multitudes will be destroyed.
13 I will slaughter all her cattle
beside the abundant waters.
No human foot will muddy them again,
and no cattle hooves will disturb them.
14 Then I will let her waters settle
and will make her rivers flow like oil,’
declares the Lord GOD.
15 ‘When I make the land of Egypt a desolation
and empty it of all that filled it,
when I strike down all who live there,
then they will know that I am the LORD.’
16 This is the lament they will chant for her; the daughters of the nations
will chant it. Over Egypt and all her multitudes they will chant it, declares
the Lord GOD.”
17 In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month,‡ the word of the
LORD came to me, saying,
18 “Son of man, wail for the multitudes of Egypt, and consign her and the
daughters of the mighty nations to the depths of the earth with those who
descend to the Pit:

19 Whom do you surpass in beauty?
Go down and be placed with the uncircumcised!
20 They will fall among those slain by the sword.
The sword is appointed!
Let them drag her away
along with all her multitudes.

21 Mighty chiefs will speak from the midst of Sheol
about Egypt and her allies:
‘They have come down and lie with the uncircumcised,
with those slain by the sword.’

22 Assyria is there with her whole company;
her graves are all around her.
All of them are slain,
fallen by the sword.
23 Her graves are set in the depths of the Pit,
and her company is all around her grave.
All of them are slain,
fallen by the sword—
those who once spread terror
in the land of the living.

‡ **32:17 32:17** Presumably the fifteenth day of the twelfth month (see verse 1); LXX *on the fifteenth day of the first month.*

24 Elam is there
with all her multitudes around her grave.
All of them are slain,
fallen by the sword—
those who went down uncircumcised
to the earth below,
who once spread their terror
in the land of the living.
They bear their disgrace
with those who descend to the Pit.
25 Among the slain they prepare
a resting place for Elam
with all her hordes,
with her graves all around her.
All of them are uncircumcised,
slain by the sword,
although their terror was once spread
in the land of the living.
They bear their disgrace
with those who descend to the Pit.
They are placed among the slain.

26 Meshech and Tubal are there
with all their multitudes,
with their graves all around them.
All of them are uncircumcised,
slain by the sword,
because they spread their terror
in the land of the living.
27 They do not lie down
with the fallen warriors of the uncircumcised,§
who went down to Sheol
with their weapons of war,
whose swords were placed under their heads,
whose iniquities* rested on their bones,
although the terror of the mighty
was once in the land of the living.
28 But you too will be shattered
and lie down among the uncircumcised,
with those slain by the sword.

29 Edom is there,
and all her kings and princes,
who despite their might
are laid among those slain by the sword.
They lie down with the uncircumcised,
with those who descend to the Pit.

30 All the leaders of the north
and all the Sidonians are there;
they went down in disgrace with the slain,
despite the terror of their might.

§ **32:27 32:27** LXX *warriors of old* * **32:27 32:27** A probable emendation reads *shields*

They lie uncircumcised
with those slain by the sword
and bear their shame
with those who descend to the Pit.

31 Pharaoh will see them
and be comforted over all his multitude—
Pharaoh and all his army,
slain by the sword,
declares the Lord GOD.
32 For I will spread my terror†
in the land of the living,
so that Pharaoh and all his multitude
will be laid to rest among the uncircumcised,
with those slain by the sword,
declares the Lord GOD."

33

1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, speak to your people and tell them: 'Suppose I bring the sword against a land, and the people of that land choose a man from among them, appointing him as their watchman,
3 and he sees the sword coming against that land and blows the ram's horn to warn the people.
4 Then if anyone hears the sound of the horn but fails to heed the warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head.
5 Since he heard the sound of the horn but failed to heed the warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had heeded the warning, he would have saved his life.
6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and fails to blow the horn to warn the people, and the sword comes and takes away a life, then that one will be taken away in his iniquity, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.'
7 As for you, O son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word from my mouth and give them the warning from me.
8 If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' but you do not speak out to dissuade him from his way, then that wicked man will die in his iniquity, yet I will hold you accountable for his blood.
9 But if you warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from it, he will die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.
10 Now as for you, son of man, tell the house of Israel that this is what they have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins are heavy upon us, and we are wasting away because of them! How can we live?'
11 Say to them: 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked should turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'
12 Therefore, son of man, say to your people: 'The righteousness of the righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression; neither will the wickedness of the wicked man cause him to stumble on the day he

† **32:32 32:32** Qere; Ketiv *his terror*

turns from his wickedness. Nor will the righteous man be able to survive
by his righteousness on the day he sins.'
13 If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but he then trusts in
his righteousness and commits iniquity, then none of his righteous works
will be remembered; he will die because of the iniquity he has committed.
14 But if I tell the wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and he turns from his
sin and does what is just and right—
15 if he restores a pledge, makes restitution for what he has stolen, and
walks in the statutes of life without practicing iniquity—then he will
surely live; he will not die.
16 None of the sins he has committed will be held against him. He has
done what is just and right; he will surely live.
17 Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But it is their
way that is not just.
18 If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity,
he will die for it.
19 But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness and does what is just
and right, he will live because of this.
20 Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But I will judge each of
you according to his ways, O house of Israel."
21 In the twelfth year of our exile, on the fifth day of the tenth month, a
fugitive from Jerusalem came to me and reported, "The city has been
taken!"
22 Now the evening before the fugitive arrived, the hand of the LORD
was upon me, and he opened my mouth before the man came to me in the
morning. So my mouth was opened and I was no longer mute.
23 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
24 "Son of man, those living in the ruins in the land of Israel are saying,
'Abraham was only one man, yet he possessed the land. But we are many;
surely the land has been given to us as a possession.'
25 Therefore tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'You eat meat
with the blood in it, lift up your eyes to your idols, and shed blood. Should
you then possess the land?
26 You have relied on your swords, you have committed detestable acts,
and each of you has defiled his neighbor's wife. Should you then possess
the land?'
27 Tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'As surely as I live,
those in the ruins will fall by the sword, those in the open field I will give
to be devoured by wild animals, and those in the strongholds and caves
will die by plague.
28 I will make the land a desolate waste, and the pride of her strength
will come to an end. The mountains of Israel will become desolate, so that
no one will pass through.
29 Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have made the land a
desolate waste because of all the abominations they have committed.'
30 As for you, son of man, your people are talking about you near the
city walls and in the doorways of their houses. One speaks to another,
each saying to his brother, 'Come and hear the message that has come
from the LORD!'
31 So my people come to you as usual, sit before you, and hear your
words; but they do not put them into practice. Although they express love
with their mouths, their hearts pursue dishonest gain.

32 Indeed, you are to them like a singer of love songs with a beautiful
voice, who skillfully plays an instrument. They hear your words but do
not put them into practice.
33 So when it comes to pass—and surely it will come—then they will
know that a prophet has been among them."

34

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and
tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Woe to the shepherds of
Israel, who only feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed their
flock?
3 You eat the fat, wear the wool, and butcher the fattened sheep, but you
do not feed the flock.
4 You have not strengthened the weak, healed the sick, bound up the
injured, brought back the strays, or searched for the lost. Instead, you
have ruled them with violence and cruelty.
5 They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and when they were
scattered they became food for all the wild beasts.
6 My flock went astray on all the mountains and every high hill. They
were scattered over the face of all the earth, with no one to search for
them or seek them out.'
7 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:
8 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, because my flock lacks a
shepherd and has become prey and food for every wild beast, and because
my shepherds did not search for my flock but fed themselves instead,
9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD!'
10 This is what the Lord GOD says: 'Behold, I am against the shepherds,
and I will demand from them my flock and remove them from tending the
flock, so that they can no longer feed themselves. For I will deliver my
flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.'
11 For this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Behold, I myself will search for
my flock and seek them out.
12 As a shepherd looks for his scattered sheep when he is among the
flock, so I will look for my flock.
I will rescue them from all the places to which they were scattered on a
day of clouds and darkness.
13 I will bring them out from the peoples, gather them from the
countries, and bring them into their own land. I will feed them on the
mountains of Israel, in the ravines, and in all the settlements of the land.
14 I will feed them in good pasture, and the lofty mountains of Israel will
be their grazing land. There they will lie down in a good grazing land;
they will feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
15 I will tend my flock and make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.
16 I will seek the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the broken, and
strengthen the weak; but the sleek and strong I will destroy. I will
shepherd them with justice.'
17 This is what the Lord GOD says to you, my flock: 'I will judge between
one sheep and another, between the rams and the goats.
18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also
trample the rest of the pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to
drink the clear waters? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?

19 Why must my flock feed on what your feet have trampled, and drink
what your feet have muddied?'
20 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says to them: 'Behold, I myself
will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
21 Since you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak ones
with your horns until you have scattered them abroad,
22 I will save my flock, and they will no longer be prey. I will judge
between one sheep and another.
23 I will appoint over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will
feed them. He will feed them and be their shepherd.
24 I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince
among them. I, the LORD, have spoken.
25 I will make with them a covenant of peace and rid the land of wild
animals, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in
the forest.
26 I will make them and the places around my hill a blessing. I will send
down showers in season—showers of blessing.
27 The trees of the field will give their fruit, and the land will yield its
produce; my flock will be secure in their land. Then they will know that I
am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and delivered
them from the hands that enslaved them.
28 They will no longer be prey for the nations, and the beasts of the earth
will not consume them. They will dwell securely, and no one will frighten
them.
29 And I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they will no
longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations.
30 Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and
that they, the house of Israel, are my people,' declares the Lord GOD.
31 'You are my flock, the sheep of my pasture; you are men, and I am
your God,*' declares the Lord GOD."

35

1 Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it,
3 and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says:

Behold, I am against you,
O Mount Seir.
I will stretch out my hand against you
and make you a desolate waste.
4 I will turn your cities into ruins,
and you will become a desolation.

Then you will know that I am the LORD.
5 Because you harbored an ancient hatred and delivered the Israelites
over to the sword in the time of their disaster at the final stage of their
punishment,
6 therefore as surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will give you over
to bloodshed and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, it
will pursue you.

* **34:31 34:31** LXX does not include *you are men*.

7 I will make Mount Seir a desolate waste and will cut off from it those
who come and go.
8 I will fill its mountains with the slain; those killed by the sword will fall
on your hills, in your valleys, and in all your ravines.
9 I will make you a perpetual desolation, and your cities will not be
inhabited. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
10 Because you have said, 'These two nations and countries will be ours,
and we will possess them,' even though the LORD was there,
11 therefore as surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will treat you
according to the anger and jealousy you showed in your hatred against
them, and I will make myself known among them when I judge you.
12 Then you will know that I, the LORD, have heard every contemptuous
word you uttered against the mountains of Israel when you said, 'They are
desolate;* they are given to us to devour!'
13 You boasted against me with your mouth and multiplied your words
against me. I heard it myself!
14 This is what the Lord GOD says: While the whole earth rejoices, I will
make you desolate.
15 As you rejoiced when the inheritance of the house of Israel became
desolate, so will I do to you. You will become a desolation, O Mount Seir,
and so will all of Edom. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

36

1 "And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say: O
mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD.
2 This is what the Lord GOD says: Because the enemy has said of you,
'Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,'
3 therefore prophesy and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says:
Because they have made you desolate and have trampled you on every
side, so that you became a possession of the rest of the nations and were
taken up in slander by the lips of their talkers,
4 therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD.
This is what the Lord GOD says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines
and valleys, to the desolate ruins and abandoned cities, which have
become a spoil and a mockery to the rest of the nations around you.
5 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Surely in my burning zeal I
have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who
took my land as their own possession with wholehearted joy and utter
contempt, so that its pastureland became plunder.
6 Therefore, prophesy concerning the land of Israel and tell the
mountains and hills, the ravines and valleys, that this is what the Lord
GOD says: Behold, I have spoken in my burning zeal because you have
endured the reproach of the nations.
7 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I have sworn with an
uplifted hand that surely the nations around you will endure reproach of
their own.
8 But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and bear fruit
for my people Israel, for they will soon come home.
9 For behold, I am on your side; I will turn toward you, and you will be
tilled and sown.

* **35:12 35:12** Qere; Ketiv *It is desolate*

10 I will multiply the people upon you—the house of Israel in its entirety.
The cities will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.
11 I will fill you with people and animals, and they will multiply and be
fruitful. I will make you as inhabited as you once were, and I will make
you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
12 Yes, I will cause my people Israel to walk upon you; they will possess
you, and you will be their inheritance, and you will no longer deprive
them of their children.
13 For this is what the Lord GOD says: Because people say to you, 'You
devour men and deprive your nation of its children,'
14 therefore you will no longer devour men or deprive your nations of
their children,* declares the Lord GOD.
15 I will no longer allow the taunts of the nations to be heard against
you, and you will no longer endure the reproach of the peoples or cause
your nation to stumble, declares the Lord GOD."
16 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
17 "Son of man, when the people of Israel lived in their land, they defiled
it by their own ways and deeds. Their behavior before me was like the
uncleanness of a woman's impurity.
18 So I poured out my wrath upon them because of the blood they had
shed on the land, and because they had defiled it with their idols.
19 I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered
throughout the lands. I judged them according to their ways and deeds.
20 And wherever they went among the nations, they profaned my holy
name, because it was said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, yet
they had to leave his land.'
21 But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had
profaned among the nations to which they had gone.
22 Therefore tell the house of Israel that this is what the Lord GOD says:
It is not for your sake that I will act, O house of Israel, but for my holy
name, which you profaned among the nations to which you went.
23 I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned
among the nations—the name you have profaned among them. Then the
nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when I
show my holiness in you before their eyes.
24 For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all
the countries, and I will bring you back into your own land.
25 I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will
cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols.
26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will
remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
27 And I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my
statutes and to carefully observe my ordinances.
28 Then you will live in the land that I gave your forefathers; you will be
my people, and I will be your God.
29 I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will summon the grain
and make it plentiful, and I will not bring famine upon you.
30 I will also make the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field
plentiful, so that you will no longer bear reproach among the nations on
account of famine.

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* **36:14 36:14** Qere; Ketiv *or cause your nation to stumble*

31 Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you
will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and abominations.
32 It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord GOD—let it be
known to you. Be ashamed and disgraced for your ways, O house of Israel!
33 This is what the Lord GOD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your
iniquities, I will cause the cities to be resettled and the ruins to be rebuilt.
34 The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the
sight of all who pass through.
35 Then they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the
garden of Eden. The cities that were once ruined, desolate, and destroyed
are now fortified and inhabited.'
36 Then the nations around you that remain will know that I, the LORD,
have rebuilt what was destroyed, and I have replanted what was desolate.
I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do it.
37 This is what the Lord GOD says: Once again I will hear the plea of the
house of Israel and do for them this: I will multiply their people like a
flock.
38 Like the numerous flocks for sacrifices at Jerusalem during her
appointed feasts, so the ruined cities will be filled with flocks of people.
Then they will know that I am the LORD."

37

1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by his
spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley, and it was full of bones.
2 He led me all around among them, and I saw a great many bones on
the floor of the valley, and indeed, they were very dry.
3 Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones come to life?"
"O Lord GOD," I replied, "only you know."
4 And he said to me, "Prophesy concerning these bones and tell them,
'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!
5 This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: I will cause breath* to
enter you, and you will come to life.
6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh grow upon you and cover
you with skin. I will put breath within you so that you will come to life.
Then you will know that I am the LORD.' "
7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded. And as I prophesied, there
was suddenly a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to
bone.
8 As I looked on, tendons appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin
covered them; but there was no breath in them.
9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and
tell the breath that this is what the Lord GOD says: Come from the four
winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, so that they may live!"
10 So I prophesied as he had commanded me, and the breath entered
them, and they came to life and stood on their feet—a vast army.
11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of
Israel. Look, they are saying, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has
perished; we are cut off.'
12 Therefore prophesy and tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says:
'O my people, I will open your graves and bring you up from them, and I
will bring you back to the land of Israel.

* **37:5 37:5** Or *spirit*; also in verses 6, 9, and 10

13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your
graves and bring you up from them.
14 I will put my spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in
your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I
will do it, declares the LORD.' "
15 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
16 "And you, son of man, take a single stick† and write on it: 'Belonging to
Judah and to the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick
and write on it: 'Belonging to Joseph—the stick of Ephraim—and to all the
house of Israel associated with him.'
17 Then join them together into one stick, so that they become one in
your hand.
18 When your people ask you, 'Won't you explain to us what you mean
by these?'
19 you are to tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I will take the
stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel
associated with him, and I will put them together with the stick of Judah. I
will make them into a single stick, and they will become one in my hand.'
20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand and in full view
of the people,
21 you are to tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I will take
the Israelites out of the nations to which they have gone, and I will gather
them from all around and bring them into their own land.
22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel,
and one king will rule over all of them. Then they will no longer be‡ two
nations and will never again be divided into two kingdoms.
23 They will no longer defile themselves with their idols or detestable
images, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all their
dwelling places where they sinned,§ and I will cleanse them. Then they
will be my people, and I will be their God.
24 My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one
shepherd for all of them. They will follow my ordinances and keep and
observe my statutes.
25 They will live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your
fathers lived. They will live there forever with their children and
grandchildren, and my servant David will be their prince forever.
26 And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an
everlasting covenant. I will establish them and multiply them, and I will
set my sanctuary among them forever.
27 My dwelling place* will be with them; I will be their God, and they
will be my people.
28 Then the nations will know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when my
sanctuary is among them forever.' "

38

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

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† **37:16 37:16** Or *branch*; also in verses 17, 19, and 20 ‡ **37:22 37:22** Qere; Ketiv *it will no longer be*
§ **37:23 37:23** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts (see also LXX) *all their apostasies by which they sinned* * **37:27 37:27** Or *my tabernacle*

2 “Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the chief
prince of Meshech and Tubal.* Prophesy against him
3 and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against
you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.†
4 I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws, and bring you out with
all your army—your horses, your horsemen in full armor, and a great
company armed with shields and bucklers, all brandishing their swords.
5 Persia, Cush,‡ and Put will accompany them, all with shields and
helmets,
6 as well as Gomer with all its troops, and Beth-togarmah from the far
north with all its troops—the many nations with you.
7 Get ready; prepare yourself, you and all your company gathered
around you; you will be their guard.
8 After a long time you will be summoned. In the latter years you will
enter a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered
from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been
desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and all now dwell
securely.
9 You and all your troops, and many peoples with you will go up,
advancing like a thunderstorm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.
10 This is what the Lord GOD says: On that day, thoughts will arise in
your mind, and you will devise an evil plan.
11 You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will
come against a quiet people who dwell securely, all of them living without
walls or bars or gates—
12 in order to seize the spoil and carry off the plunder, to turn a hand
against the desolate places now inhabited and against a people gathered
from the nations, who have acquired livestock and possessions and who
live at the center of the land.’
13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its young
lions§ will ask, ‘Have you come to capture the plunder? Have you
assembled your hordes to carry away loot, to make off with silver and
gold, to take cattle and goods, to seize great spoil?’
14 Therefore prophesy, son of man, and tell Gog that this is what the
Lord GOD says: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely,
will you not take notice of this?*
15 And you will come from your place out of the far north—you and
many peoples with you, all riding horses—a mighty horde, a huge army.
16 You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud covering the
land. It will happen in the latter days, O Gog, that I will bring you against
my land, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy in you
before their eyes.
17 This is what the Lord GOD says: Are you the one of whom I have
spoken in former days through my servants, the prophets of Israel, who in
those times prophesied for years that I would bring you against them?
18 Now on that day when Gog comes against the land of Israel, declares
the Lord GOD, my wrath will flare up.

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* **38:2 38:2** Or *of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal* † **38:3 38:3** Or *Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal* ‡ **38:5 38:5** That is, the upper Nile region § **38:13 38:13** Or *villages*
* **38:14 38:14** LXX *will you not rouse yourself?*

19 In my zeal and fiery rage I proclaim that on that day there will be a
great earthquake in the land of Israel.
20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every
creature that crawls upon the ground, and all mankind on the face of the
earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be thrown down,
the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground.
21 And I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares
the Lord GOD, and every man's sword will be against his brother.
22 I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed. I will
pour out torrents of rain, hailstones, fire, and sulfur on him and on his
troops and on the many nations with him.
23 I will magnify and sanctify myself, and I will reveal myself in the sight
of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

39

1 "As for you, O son of man, prophesy against Gog and declare that this is
what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of
Meshech and Tubal.*
2 I will turn you around, drive you along, bring you up from the far
north, and send you against the mountains of Israel.
3 Then I will strike the bow from your left hand and dash down the
arrows from your right hand.
4 On the mountains of Israel you will fall—you and all your troops and
the nations with you. I will give you as food to every kind of ravenous bird
and wild beast.
5 You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD.
6 I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the
coastlands, and they will know that I am the LORD.
7 So I will make my holy name known among my people Israel and will
no longer allow it to be profaned. Then the nations will know that I am
the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.
8 Yes, it is coming, and it will surely happen, declares the Lord GOD. This
is the day of which I have spoken.
9 Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out, kindle fires, and
burn up the weapons—the bucklers and shields, the bows and arrows, the
clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel.
10 They will not gather wood from the countryside or cut it from the
forests, for they will use the weapons for fuel. They will loot those who
looted them and plunder those who plundered them, declares the Lord
GOD.
11 And on that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, the Valley of
the Travelers, east of the Sea.† It will block those who travel through,
because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the
Valley of Hamon-gog.‡
12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to
cleanse the land.
13 All the people of the land will bury them, and it will bring them
renown on the day I display my glory,§ declares the Lord GOD.

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* **39:1 39:1** Or *Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal* † **39:11 39:11** That is, the Dead Sea ‡ **39:11 39:11** *Hamon-gog* means *multitude of Gog.* § **39:13 39:13** Or *and the day I display my glory will be a day of renown*

14 And men will be employed to continually pass through the land to
cleanse it by burying the invaders who remain on the ground. At the end
of the seven months they will begin their search.
15 As they pass through the land, anyone who sees a human bone will set
up a pillar next to it, until the gravediggers have buried it in the Valley of
Hamon-gog.
16 (Even the city will be named Hamonah.*) And so they will cleanse the
land.
17 And as for you, son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says: Call out to
every kind of bird and to every beast of the field: 'Assemble and come
together from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for
you, a great feast on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and
drink blood.
18 You will eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the princes
of the earth as though they were rams, lambs, goats, and bulls—all the
fattened animals of Bashan.
19 At the sacrifice I am preparing, you will eat fat until you are gorged
and drink blood until you are drunk.
20 And at my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, of mighty
men and warriors of every kind,' declares the Lord GOD.
21 I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see
the judgment that I execute and the hand that I lay upon them.
22 From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the
LORD their God.
23 And the nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for
their iniquity, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from
them and delivered them into the hands of their enemies, so that they all
fell by the sword.
24 I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and transgressions,
and I hid my face from them.
25 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Now I will restore the
fortunes of Jacob† and will have compassion on the whole house of Israel,
and I will be jealous for my holy name.
26 They will bear‡ their disgrace and all the treachery they committed
against me, when they dwell securely in their land, with no one to frighten
them.
27 When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them out of the
lands of their enemies, I will show my holiness in them in the sight of
many nations.
28 Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, when I regather
them to their own land, not leaving any of them behind after their exile
among the nations.
29 And I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my
spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD."

40

1 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the
tenth day of the month—in the fourteenth year after Jerusalem had been
struck down—on that very day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and
he took me there.

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* **39:16 39:16** *Hamonah* means *multitude* or *horde*. † **39:25 39:25** Or *restore Jacob from captivity*
‡ **39:26 39:26** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts *They will forget*

2 In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very
high mountain, on whose southern slope was a structure that resembled a
city.
3 So he took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like
bronze. He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a
measuring rod in his hand.
4 "Son of man," he said to me, "look with your eyes, hear with your ears,
and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you
have been brought here. Report to the house of Israel everything you see."
5 And I saw a wall surrounding the temple area. Now the length of the
measuring rod in the man's hand was six long cubits* (each measuring a
cubit and a handbreadth), and he measured the wall to be one rod thick
and one rod high.
6 Then he came to the gate facing east and climbed its steps. He
measured the threshold of the gate to be one rod deep, even the one
threshold, one rod deep.†
7 Each gate chamber was one rod long and one rod wide, and there were
five cubits‡ between the gate chambers. The inner threshold of the gate by
the portico facing inward was one rod deep.
8 Then he measured the portico of the gateway inside; it was one rod.
9 He measured the portico of the gateway; it was eight cubits deep,§ and
its jambs were two cubits thick.* And the portico of the gateway faced the
temple.
10 There were three gate chambers on each side of the east gate, each
with the same measurements, and the gateposts on either side also had
the same measurements.
11 And he measured the width of the gateway entrance to be ten cubits,†
and its length was thirteen cubits.‡
12 In front of each gate chamber was a wall one cubit high, and the gate
chambers were six cubits square.
13 Then he measured the gateway from the roof of one gate chamber to
the roof of the opposite one; the distance was twenty-five cubits§ from
doorway to doorway.
14 Next he made the gateposts* to be sixty cubits high.† The gateway
extended around to the gatepost of the courtyard.
15 And the distance from the entrance of the gateway to the far end of its
inner portico was fifty cubits.‡
16 The gate chambers and their side pillars§ had beveled windows all
around the inside of the gateway. The porticos also had windows all
around on the inside. Each side pillar was decorated with palm trees.

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* **40:5 40:5** *6 long cubits*, the length of the reed used for measuring, is approximately 10.5 feet or 3.2 meters; similarly in verses 6, 7, and 12. The long cubit of about 21 inches or 53.3 centimeters is the basic unit of length throughout Ezekiel 40 to 48. † **40:6 40:6** LXX does not include this repetition. ‡ **40:7 40:7** *5 (long) cubits* is approximately 8.75 feet or 2.7 meters; also in verses 30 and 48. § **40:9 40:9** *8 (long) cubits* is approximately 14 feet or 4.3 meters. * **40:9 40:9** *2 (long) cubits* is approximately 3.5 feet or 1.1 meters. † **40:11 40:11** *10 (long) cubits* is approximately 17.5 feet or 5.3 meters. ‡ **40:11 40:11** *13 (long) cubits* is approximately 22.75 feet or 6.9 meters. § **40:13 40:13** *25 (long) cubits* is approximately 43.75 feet or 13.3 meters; also in verses 21, 25, 29, 30, 33, and 36. * **40:14 40:14** Many translators emend to *measured* † **40:14 40:14** *60 (long) cubits* is approximately 105 feet or 32 meters. ‡ **40:15 40:15** *50 (long) cubits* is approximately 87.5 feet or 26.7 meters; also in verses 21, 25, 29, 33, and 36. § **40:16 40:16** Or *gateposts* or *jambs* or *projecting walls*; here and throughout Ezekiel 40 and 41.

17 Then he brought me into the outer court, and there were chambers
and a pavement laid out all around the court. Thirty chambers faced the
pavement,
18 which flanked the gateways and corresponded to the length of the
gates; this was the lower pavement.
19 Then he measured the distance from the front of the lower gateway to
the outside of the inner court; it was a hundred cubits* on the east side as
well as on the north.
20 He also measured the length and width of the gateway of the outer
court facing north.
21 Its three gate chambers on each side, its side pillars, and its portico all
had the same measurements as the first gate: fifty cubits long and
twenty-five cubits wide.
22 Its windows, portico, and palm trees had the same measurements as
those of the gate facing east. Seven steps led up to it, with its portico
opposite them.
23 There was a gate to the inner court facing the north gate, just as there
was on the east. He measured the distance from gateway to gateway to be
a hundred cubits.
24 Then he led me to the south side, and I saw a gateway facing south.
He measured its side pillars and portico, and they had the same
measurements as the others.
25 Both the gateway and its portico had windows all around, like the
other windows. It was fifty cubits long and twenty-five cubits wide.
26 Seven steps led up to it, and its portico was opposite them; it had palm
trees on its side pillars, one on each side.
27 The inner court also had a gate facing south, and he measured the
distance from gateway to gateway toward the south to be a hundred
cubits.
28 Next he brought me into the inner court through the south gate, and
he measured the south gate; it had the same measurements as the others.
29 Its gate chambers, side pillars, and portico had the same
measurements as the others. Both the gateway and its portico had
windows all around; it was fifty cubits long and twenty-five cubits wide.
30 (The porticoes around the inner court were twenty-five cubits long
and five cubits deep.†)
31 Its portico faced the outer court, and its side pillars were decorated
with palm trees. Eight steps led up to it.
32 And he brought me to the inner court on the east side, and he
measured the gateway; it had the same measurements as the others.
33 Its gate chambers, side pillars, and portico had the same
measurements as the others. Both the gateway and its portico had
windows all around. It was fifty cubits long and twenty-five cubits wide.
34 Its portico faced the outer court, and its side pillars were decorated
with palm trees on each side. Eight steps led up to it.
35 Then he brought me to the north gate and measured it. It had the
same measurements as the others,
36 as did its gate chambers, side pillars, and portico. It also had windows
all around. It was fifty cubits long and twenty-five cubits wide.

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* **40:19 40:19** *100 (long) cubits* is approximately 175 feet or 53.3 meters; also in verses 23, 27, and 47.
† **40:30 40:30** The porticoes were approximately 43.75 feet long and 8.75 feet deep (13.3 meters long and 2.7 meters deep).

37 Its jambs‡ faced the outer court, and its side pillars were decorated
with palm trees on each side. Eight steps led up to it.
38 There was a chamber with a doorway by the side pillars§ in each of
the inner gateways. There the burnt offering was to be washed.
39 Inside the portico of the gateway were two tables on each side, on
which the burnt offerings, purification offerings, and guilt offerings were
to be slaughtered.
40 Outside, as one goes up to the entrance of the north gateway, there
were two tables on one side and two more tables on the other side of the
gate's portico.
41 So there were four tables inside the gateway and four outside—eight
tables in all—on which the sacrifices were to be slaughtered.
42 There were also four tables of dressed stone for the burnt offering,
each a cubit and a half long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit high.* On
these were placed the utensils used to slaughter the burnt offerings and
the other sacrifices.
43 The shelves,† each a handbreadth long,‡ were fastened all around the
inside of the room, and the flesh of the offering was to be placed on the
tables.
44 Outside the inner gate, within the inner court, were chambers for the
singers,§ one beside the north gate and facing south, and another beside
the east gate* and facing north.
45 Then the man said to me: "The chamber that faces south is for the
priests who keep charge of the temple,
46 and the chamber that faces north is for the priests who keep charge of
the altar. These are the sons of Zadok, the only Levites who may approach
the LORD to minister before him."
47 Next he measured the court. It was square, a hundred cubits long and
a hundred cubits wide. And the altar was in front of the temple.
48 Then he brought me to the portico of the temple and measured the
side pillars of the portico to be five cubits on each side. The width of the
gateway was three cubits on either side.†
49 The portico was twenty cubits wide‡ and eleven cubits deep,§ and
steps led up to it.* There were columns by the side pillars, one on each
side.

41

1 Then the man brought me into the outer sanctuary and measured the
side pillars to be six cubits wide* on each side—the width of the tent.†

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‡ **40:37 40:37** LXX and Vulgate (see also verses 26, 31, and 34) *Its portico* § **40:38 40:38** Or *jambs*; many translators emend to *by the portico* * **40:42 40:42** The tables were approximately 2.6 feet in length and width, and 1.75 feet high (79.2 centimeters in length and width, and 53.3 centimeters high). † **40:43 40:43** Or *double-pronged hooks* ‡ **40:43 40:43** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters long. § **40:44 40:44** LXX *two chambers* * **40:44 40:44** LXX *the south gate* † **40:48 40:48** LXX *The width of the gateway was fourteen cubits and its sidewalls were three cubits on either side* ‡ **40:49 40:49** *20 (long) cubits* is approximately 35 feet or 10.7 meters. § **40:49 40:49** LXX *twelve cubits deep*; *11 (long) cubits* is approximately 19.25 feet or 5.9 meters. * **40:49 40:49** LXX *and ten steps led up to it* * **41:1 41:1** *6 (long) cubits* is approximately 10.5 feet or 3.2 meters; also in verses 3, 5, and 8. † **41:1 41:1** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript and LXX lack *the width of the tent*

2 The width of the entrance was ten cubits,‡ and the sides of the
entrance were five cubits§ on each side. He also measured the length of
the outer sanctuary to be forty cubits, and the width to be twenty cubits.*
3 And he went into the inner sanctuary and measured the side pillars at
the entrance to be two cubits wide.† The entrance was six cubits wide, and
the width of the entrance was seven cubits.‡§
4 Then he measured the inner sanctuary* to be twenty cubits long and
twenty cubits wide.† And he said to me, “This is the Holy of Holies.‡”
5 Next he measured the wall of the temple to be six cubits thick, and the
width of each side room around the temple was four cubits.§
6 The side rooms were arranged one above another in three levels of
thirty rooms each. There were ledges all around the wall of the temple to
serve as supports for the side rooms, so that the supports would not be
fastened into the wall of the temple itself.
7 The side rooms surrounding the temple widened at each successive
level, because the structure surrounding the temple ascended by stages
corresponding to the narrowing of the temple wall as it rose upward. And
so a stairway went up from the lowest story to the highest, through the
middle one.
8 I saw that the temple had a raised base all around it, forming the
foundation of the side rooms. It was the full length of a rod, six long cubits.
9 The outer wall of the side rooms was five cubits thick, and the open
area between the side rooms of the temple
10 and the outer chambers was twenty cubits wide all around the temple.
11 The side rooms opened into this area, with one entrance on the north
and another on the south. The open area was five cubits wide all around.
12 Now the building that faced the temple courtyard on the west was
seventy cubits wide,* and the wall of the building was five cubits thick all
around, with a length of ninety cubits.†
13 Then he measured the temple to be a hundred cubits long,‡ and the
temple courtyard and the building with its walls were also a hundred
cubits long.
14 The width of the temple courtyard on the east, including the front of
the temple, was a hundred cubits.
15 Next he measured the length of the building facing the temple
courtyard at the rear of the temple, including its galleries on each side; it
was a hundred cubits. The outer sanctuary, the inner sanctuary, and the
porticoes facing the court,
16 as well as the thresholds and the beveled windows and the galleries
all around with their three levels opposite the threshold, were overlaid

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‡ **41:2 41:2** *10 (long) cubits* is approximately 17.5 feet or 5.3 meters. § **41:2 41:2** *5 (long) cubits* is approximately 8.75 feet or 2.7 meters; also in verses 9, 11, and 12. * **41:2 41:2** The outer sanctuary was approximately 70 feet long and 35 feet wide (21.3 meters long and 10.7 meters wide). † **41:3 41:3** *2 (long) cubits* is approximately 3.5 feet or 1.1 meters. ‡ **41:3 41:3** LXX *and the side walls of the entrance were seven cubits on each side* § **41:3 41:3** *7 (long) cubits* is approximately 12.25 feet or 3.7 meters. * **41:4 41:4** Or *the room adjacent to the inner sanctuary* † **41:4 41:4** The room was approximately 35 feet long and 35 feet wide (10.7 meters long and 10.7 meters wide). ‡ **41:4 41:4** Or *the Most Holy Place* § **41:5 41:5** *4 (long) cubits* is approximately 7 feet or 2.1 meters. * **41:12 41:12** *70 (long) cubits* is approximately 122.5 feet or 37.3 meters. † **41:12 41:12** *90 (long) cubits* is approximately 157.5 feet or 48 meters. ‡ **41:13 41:13** *100 (long) cubits* is approximately 175 feet or 53.3 meters; similarly in verses 14 and 15.

with wood on all sides. They were paneled from the ground to the windows, and the windows were covered.
17 In the space above the outside of the entrance to the inner sanctuary on all the walls, spaced evenly around the inner and outer sanctuary,
18 were alternating carved cherubim and palm trees. Each cherub had two faces:
19 the face of a man was toward the palm tree on one side, and the face of a young lion was toward the palm tree on the other side. They were carved all the way around the temple.
20 Cherubim and palm trees were carved on the wall of the outer sanctuary from the floor to the space above the entrance.
21 The outer sanctuary had a rectangular doorframe, and the doorframe of the sanctuary was similar.
22 There was an altar of wood three cubits high and two cubits long.§ Its corners, its length,* and its sides were of wood. And the man told me, "This is the table that is before the LORD."
23 Both the outer sanctuary and the inner sanctuary had double doors,
24 and each door had two swinging panels. There were two panels for one door and two for the other.
25 Cherubim and palm trees like those on the walls were carved on the doors of the outer sanctuary, and there was a wooden canopy outside, on the front of the portico.
26 There were beveled windows and palm trees on the sidewalls of the portico. The side rooms of the temple also had canopies.

42

1 Then the man led me out northward into the outer court, and he brought me to the group of chambers opposite the temple courtyard and the outer wall on the north side.
2 The building with the door facing north was a hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide.*
3 Gallery faced gallery in three levels opposite the twenty cubits† that belonged to the inner court and opposite the pavement that belonged to the outer court.
4 In front of the chambers was an inner walkway ten cubits wide and one cubit long.‡ Their doors were on the north.
5 Now the upper chambers were smaller because the galleries took more space from the chambers on the lower and middle floors of the building.
6 For they were arranged in three stories, and unlike the courts, they had no pillars. So the upper chambers were set back further than the lower and middle floors, from the ground up.
7 An outer wall in front of the chambers was fifty cubits long and ran parallel to the chambers and the outer court.
8 For the chambers on the outer court were fifty cubits long, while those facing the temple were a hundred cubits long.
9 And below these chambers was the entrance on the east side as one enters them from the outer court.

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§ **41:22 41:22** Or *square*; the altar was approximately 5.25 feet high and 3.5 feet long (1.6 meters high and 1.1 meters long) * **41:22 41:22** LXX *its base* * **42:2 42:2** The building was approximately 175 feet long and 87.5 feet wide (53.3 meters long and 26.7 meters wide). † **42:3 42:3** *20 (long) cubits* is approximately 35 feet or 10.7 meters. ‡ **42:4 42:4** Literally *a way of one cubit*; LXX *a hundred cubits long*. The walkway was approximately 17.5 feet (5.3 meters) wide.

10 On the east side§ along the length of the wall of the outer court were
chambers adjoining the courtyard and opposite the building,
11 with a passageway in front of them, just like the chambers that were
on the north. They had the same length and width, with similar exits and
dimensions.
12 And corresponding to the doors of the chambers that were facing
south, there was a door in front of the walkway that was parallel to the
wall extending eastward, as one enters them.
13 Then the man said to me, “The north and south chambers facing the
temple courtyard are the holy chambers where the priests who approach
the LORD will eat the most holy offerings. There they will place the most
holy offerings—the grain offerings, the purification offerings, and the guilt
offerings—for the place is holy.
14 Once the priests have entered the holy area, they must not go out into
the outer court until they have left behind the garments in which they
minister, for these are holy. They are to put on other clothes before they
approach the places that are for the people.”
15 Now when the man had finished measuring the interior of the temple
area, he led me out by the gate that faced east, and he measured the area
all around:

16 With a measuring rod he measured the east side to be five hundred*
reeds long by the measuring rod all around.†
17 He measured the north side to be five hundred reeds long.
18 He measured the south side to be five hundred reeds long.
19 And he came around and measured the west side to be five hundred
reeds long.
20 So he measured the area on all four sides. It had a wall all around,
five hundred long and five hundred wide,‡ to separate the holy from the
common.

43

1 Then the man brought me back to the gate that faces east,
2 and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice
was like the roar of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.
3 The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when I came* to destroy
the city and like the visions I had seen by the River Kebar. I fell facedown,
4 and the glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing
east.
5 Then the spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and
the glory of the LORD filled the temple.
6 While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to
me from inside the temple,
7 and he said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the
place for the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the Israelites
forever. The house of Israel will never again defile my holy name—neither

§ **42:10 42:10** LXX *south side* * **42:16 42:16** Qere; Ketiv *five cubits* † **42:16 42:16** LXX *five hundred cubits* (about 875 feet or 266.7 meters), also in verses 17–20. *500 reeds* is approximately 5,250 feet or 1,600 meters; similarly in verses 17, 18, and 19. ‡ **42:20 42:20** The Hebrew gives no unit here; LXX *cubits* * **43:3 43:3** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate *when he came*

they nor their kings—by their prostitution and by the funeral offerings† for their kings on their high places.‡
8 When they placed their threshold next to my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them, they defiled my holy name by the abominations they committed. Therefore I have consumed them in my anger.
9 Now let them remove far from me their prostitution and the funeral offerings for their kings, and I will dwell among them forever.
10 As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the people of Israel, so that they may be ashamed of their iniquities. Let them measure the plan,
11 and if they are ashamed§ of all they have done, then make known to them the design of the temple—its arrangement and its exits and entrances—its whole design along with all its statutes, forms, and laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they may keep its complete design and all its statutes and may carry them out.
12 This is the law of the temple: All its surrounding territory on top of the mountain will be most holy. Yes, this is the law of the temple.
13 These are the measurements of the altar in long cubits* (a cubit and a handbreadth): Its gutter shall be a cubit deep and a cubit wide, with a rim of one span† around its edge.
And this is the height of the altar:
14 The space from the gutter on the ground to the lower ledge shall be two cubits, and the ledge one cubit wide.‡ The space from the smaller ledge to the larger ledge shall be four cubits, and the ledge one cubit wide.§
15 The altar hearth shall be four cubits high, and four horns shall project upward from the hearth.
16 The altar hearth shall be square at its four corners, twelve cubits long and twelve cubits wide.*
17 The ledge shall also be square, fourteen cubits long and fourteen cubits wide,† with a rim of half a cubit‡ and a gutter of a cubit all around it. The steps of the altar shall face east."
18 Then he said to me: "Son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says: 'These are the statutes for the altar on the day it is constructed, so that burnt offerings may be sacrificed on it and blood may be splattered on it:
19 You are to give a young bull from the herd as a purification offering to the Levitical priests who are of the family of Zadok, who approach me to minister before me, declares the Lord GOD.
20 You are to take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar, on the four corners of the ledge, and all around the rim; thus you will cleanse the altar and make atonement for it.

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† **43:7 43:7** Or *the monuments*; also in verse 9 ‡ **43:7 43:7** Some Hebrew manuscripts *for their kings at their deaths* § **43:11 43:11** LXX and Vulgate *and they will be ashamed* * **43:13 43:13** The *long cubit*, about 21 inches or 53.3 centimeters, is the basic unit for linear measurement throughout Ezekiel 40–48. † **43:13 43:13** *One span* is approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters. ‡ **43:14 43:14** The space was to be approximately 3.5 feet (1.1 meters), and the ledge was to be approximately 1.75 feet wide (53.3 centimeters wide). § **43:14 43:14** The space was to be approximately 7 feet (2.1 meters), and the ledge was to be approximately 1.75 feet wide (53.3 centimeters wide). * **43:16 43:16** *12 (long) cubits* is approximately 21 feet or 6.4 meters. † **43:17 43:17** *14 (long) cubits* is approximately 24.5 feet or 7.5 meters. ‡ **43:17 43:17** *A half cubit* is approximately 10.5 inches or 26.7 centimeters.

21 Then you are to take away the bull for the purification offering and
burn it in the appointed part of the temple area outside the sanctuary.
22 On the second day you are to present an unblemished male goat as a
purification offering, and the altar is to be cleansed as it was with the bull.
23 When you have finished the purification, you are to present a young,
unblemished bull and an unblemished ram from the flock.
24 You must present them before the LORD; the priests are to sprinkle
salt on them and sacrifice them as a burnt offering to the LORD.
25 For seven days you are to provide a male goat daily for a purification
offering; you are also to provide a young bull and a ram from the flock,
both unblemished.
26 For seven days the priests are to make atonement for the altar and
cleanse it; so they shall consecrate it.§
27 At the end of these days, from the eighth day on, the priests are to
present your burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar. Then I will
accept you, declares the Lord GOD.' "

44

1 The man then brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary that
faced east, but it was shut.
2 And the LORD said to me, "This gate is to remain shut. It shall not be
opened, and no man shall enter through it, because the LORD, the God of
Israel, has entered through it. Therefore it will remain shut.
3 Only the prince himself may sit inside the gateway to eat in the
presence of the LORD. He must enter by way of the portico of the gateway
and go out the same way."
4 Then the man brought me to the front of the temple by way of the
north gate. I looked and saw the glory of the LORD filling his temple, and I
fell facedown.
5 The LORD said to me: "Son of man, pay attention; look carefully with
your eyes and listen closely with your ears to everything I tell you
concerning all the statutes and laws of the house of the LORD. Take careful
note of the entrance to the temple, along with all the exits of the sanctuary.
6 Tell the rebellious house of Israel that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I
have had enough of all your abominations, O house of Israel.
7 In addition to all your other abominations, you brought in foreigners
uncircumcised in both heart and flesh to occupy my sanctuary; you
defiled my temple when you offered my food—the fat and the blood; they
broke my covenant.*
8 And you have not kept charge of my holy things, but have appointed
others to keep charge of my sanctuary for you.'
9 This is what the Lord GOD says: No foreigner uncircumcised in heart
and flesh may enter my sanctuary—not even a foreigner who lives among
the Israelites.
10 Surely the Levites who wandered away from me when Israel went
astray, and who wandered away from me after their idols, will bear the
consequences of their iniquity.
11 Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge of the gates
of the temple and ministering there. They shall slaughter the burnt

§ **43:26 43:26** Hebrew *fill its hands* (Qere); Ketiv *fill its hand* * **44:7 44:7** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *you broke*

offerings and other sacrifices for the people and stand before them to minister to them.
12 Because they ministered before their idols and became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel, therefore I swore with an uplifted hand concerning them that they would bear the consequences of their iniquity, declares the Lord GOD.
13 They must not approach me to serve me as priests or come near any of my holy things or the most holy things. They will bear the shame of the abominations they have committed.
14 Yet I will appoint them to keep charge of all the work for the temple and everything to be done in it.
15 But the Levitical priests, who are descended from Zadok and who kept charge of my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from me, are to approach me to minister before me. They will stand before me to offer me fat and blood, declares the Lord GOD.
16 They alone shall enter my sanctuary and draw near to my table to minister before me. They will keep my charge.
17 When they enter the gates of the inner court, they are to wear linen garments; they must not wear anything made of wool when they minister at the gates of the inner court or inside the temple.
18 They are to wear linen turbans on their heads and linen undergarments around their waists. They must not wear anything that makes them perspire.
19 When they go out to the outer court, to the people, they are to take off the garments in which they have ministered, leave them in the holy chambers, and dress in other clothes so that they do not transmit holiness to the people with their garments.
20 They must not shave their heads or let their hair grow long, but must carefully trim their hair.
21 No priest may drink wine before he enters the inner court.
22 And they shall not marry a widow or a divorced woman, but must marry a virgin of the descendants of the house of Israel, or a widow of a priest.
23 They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to discern between the clean and the unclean.
24 In any dispute, they shall officiate as judges and judge according to my ordinances. They must keep my laws and statutes regarding all my appointed feasts, and they must keep my Sabbaths holy.
25 A priest must not defile himself by going near a dead person. However, for a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother, or an unmarried sister, he may do so,
26 and after he is cleansed, he must count off seven days for himself.
27 And on the day he goes into the sanctuary, into the inner court, to minister in the sanctuary, he must present his purification offering, declares the Lord GOD.
28 In regard to their inheritance, I am their inheritance. You are to give them no possession in Israel, for I am their possession.
29 They shall eat the grain offerings, the purification offerings, and the guilt offerings. Everything in Israel devoted to the LORD will belong to them.

30 The best of all the firstfruits and of every contribution from all your
offerings will belong to the priests. You are to give your first batch of
dough to the priest, so that a blessing may rest upon your homes.
31 The priests may not eat any bird or animal found dead or torn by wild
beasts.

45

1 "When you divide the land by lot as an inheritance, you are to set aside
a portion for the LORD, a holy portion of the land 25,000 cubits long and
10,000 cubits wide.* This entire tract of land will be holy.
2 Within this area there is to be a section for the sanctuary 500 cubits
square,† with 50 cubits‡ around it for open land.
3 From this holy portion, you are to measure off a length of 25,000 cubits
and a width of 10,000 cubits,§ and in it will be the sanctuary, a most holy
place.
4 It will be a holy portion of the land to be used by the priests who
minister in the sanctuary, who draw near to minister before the LORD. It
will be a place for their houses, as well as a holy area for the sanctuary.
5 An adjacent area 25,000 cubits long and 10,000 cubits wide shall
belong to the Levites who minister in the temple; it will be their
possession: twenty chambers.*
6 As the property of the city, you are to set aside an area 5,000 cubits
wide and 25,000 cubits long,† adjacent to the holy district. It will belong to
the whole house of Israel.
7 Now the prince will have the area bordering each side of the area
formed by the holy district and the property of the city, extending
westward from the western side and eastward from the eastern side,
running lengthwise from the western boundary to the eastern boundary
and parallel to one of the tribal portions.
8 This land will be his possession in Israel.
And my princes will no longer oppress my people, but will give the rest
of the land to the house of Israel according to their tribes.
9 For this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Enough, O princes of Israel! Cease
your violence and oppression, and do what is just and right. Stop
dispossessing my people, declares the Lord GOD.'
10 You must use honest scales, a just ephah,‡ and a just bath.§
11 The ephah and the bath shall be the same quantity so that the bath
will contain a tenth of a homer, and the ephah a tenth of a homer; the
homer will be the standard measure for both.*

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* **45:1 45:1** LXX *20,000 cubits wide*; see also verses 3 and 5 and Ezekiel 48:9. The portion was to be approximately 8.3 miles long and 3.3 miles wide (13.3 kilometers long and 5.3 kilometers wide). † **45:2 45:2** *500 (long) cubits* is approximately 875 feet or 266.7 meters. ‡ **45:2 45:2** *50 (long) cubits* is approximately 87.5 feet or 26.7 meters. § **45:3 45:3** The portion was to be approximately 8.3 miles long and 3.3 miles wide (13.3 kilometers long and 5.3 kilometers wide); similarly in verse 5. * **45:5 45:5** LXX *their possession for towns in which to live* † **45:6 45:6** The property of the city was to be approximately 1.7 miles wide and 8.3 miles long (2.7 kilometers wide and 13.3 kilometers long). ‡ **45:10 45:10** *An ephah* is a dry measure of approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters. § **45:10 45:10** *A bath* was a liquid measure of approximately 5.8 gallons or 22 liters. * **45:11 45:11** *A homer* was a dry measure of approximately 6.24 bushels or 220 liters; also in verses 13 and 14.

12 The shekel will consist of twenty gerahs.† Twenty shekels plus
twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels will equal one mina.‡
13 This is the contribution you are to offer: a sixth of an ephah from
each homer of wheat, and a sixth of an ephah from each homer of barley.§
14 The prescribed portion of oil, measured by the bath, is a tenth of a
bath from each cor* (a cor consists of ten baths or one homer, since ten
baths are equivalent to a homer).
15 And one sheep shall be given from each flock of two hundred from
the well-watered pastures of Israel. These are for the grain offerings,
burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement for the people,
declares the Lord GOD.
16 All the people of the land must participate in this contribution for the
prince in Israel.
17 And it shall be the prince's part to provide the burnt offerings, grain
offerings, and drink offerings for the feasts, New Moons, and
Sabbaths—for all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel. He will
provide the purification offerings,† grain offerings, burnt offerings, and
peace offerings to make atonement for the house of Israel.
18 This is what the Lord GOD says: 'On the first day of the first month
you are to take a young bull without blemish and purify the sanctuary.
19 And the priest is to take some of the blood from the purification
offering and put it on the doorposts of the temple, on the four corners of
the ledge of the altar, and on the gateposts of the inner court.
20 You must do the same thing on the seventh day of the month for
anyone who strays unintentionally or in ignorance. In this way you will
make atonement for the temple.
21 On the fourteenth day of the first month you are to observe the
Passover, a feast of seven days, during which unleavened bread shall be
eaten.
22 On that day the prince shall provide a bull as a purification offering
for himself and for all the people of the land.
23 Each day during the seven days of the feast, he shall provide seven
bulls and seven rams without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD,
along with a male goat for a purification offering.
24 He shall also provide as a grain offering an ephah for each bull and an
ephah for each ram, along with a hin of olive oil for each ephah of grain.‡
25 During the seven days of the feast that begins on the fifteenth day of
the seventh month,§ he is to make the same provision for purification
offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, and oil.'

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† **45:12 45:12** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).
‡ **45:12 45:12** That is, 60 shekels total; elsewhere, the common mina was 50 shekels. Sixty shekels weighed approximately 1.5 pounds or 683.8 grams. § **45:13 45:13** That is, a sixtieth of the harvest of wheat and of barley; *a sixth of an ephah* was approximately 3.3 dry quarts or 3.7 liters. * **45:14 45:14** That is, one percent of one's oil; *a tenth of a bath* was approximately 2.3 quarts or 2.2 liters.
† **45:17 45:17** Or *sin offerings*; also in verses 19, 22, 23, and 25 ‡ **45:24 45:24** Literally *a hin of oil for each ephah*; that is, approximately 0.97 gallons or 3.67 liters of oil for each ephah of grain § **45:25 45:25** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

46

1 “This is what the Lord GOD says: ‘The gate of the inner court that faces
east must be kept shut during the six days of work, but on the Sabbath day
and on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.
2 The prince is to enter from the outside through the portico of the
gateway and stand by the gatepost, while the priests sacrifice his burnt
offerings and peace offerings. He is to bow in worship at the threshold of
the gate and then depart, but the gate must not be shut until evening.
3 On the Sabbaths and New Moons the people of the land are also to bow
in worship before the LORD at the entrance to that gateway.
4 The burnt offering that the prince presents to the LORD on the Sabbath
day shall be six unblemished male lambs and an unblemished ram.
5 The grain offering with the ram shall be one ephah,* and the grain
offering with the lambs shall be as much as he is able, along with a hin of
oil per ephah.
6 On the day of the New Moon he shall offer a young, unblemished bull,
six lambs, and a ram without blemish.
7 He is to provide a grain offering of an ephah with the bull, an ephah
with the ram, and as much as he is able with the lambs, along with a hin
of oil per ephah.
8 When the prince enters, he shall go in through the portico of the
gateway, and he shall go out the same way.
9 When the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed
feasts, whoever enters by the north gate to worship must go out by the
south gate, and whoever enters by the south gate must go out by the north
gate. No one is to return through the gate by which he entered, but each
must go out† by the opposite gate.
10 When the people enter, the prince shall go in with them, and when
they leave, he shall leave.
11 At the festivals and appointed feasts, the grain offering shall be an
ephah with a bull, an ephah with a ram, and as much as one is able to give
with the lambs, along with a hin of oil per ephah.
12 When the prince makes a freewill offering to the LORD, whether a
burnt offering or a peace offering, the gate facing east must be opened for
him. He is to offer his burnt offering or peace offering just as he does on
the Sabbath day. Then he shall go out, and the gate must be closed after he
goes out.
13 And you shall provide an unblemished year-old lamb as a daily burnt
offering to the LORD; you are to offer it every morning.
14 You are also to provide with it every morning a grain offering of a
sixth of an ephah‡ with a third of a hin of oil§ to moisten the fine flour—a
grain offering to the LORD. This is a permanent statute.
15 Thus they shall provide the lamb, the grain offering, and the oil every
morning as a regular burnt offering.’
16 This is what the Lord GOD says: ‘If the prince gives a gift to any of his
sons as an inheritance, it will belong to his descendants. It will become
their property by inheritance.

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* **46:5 46:5** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 38.3 pounds or 17.4 kilograms of grain); also in verses 7 and 11. † **46:9 46:9** Qere; Ketiv *they must go out* ‡ **46:14 46:14** *A sixth of an ephah* is approximately 3.3 dry quarts or 3.7 liters (probably about 4.2 pounds or 1.9 kilograms of flour). § **46:14 46:14** Or *a third of a hin of olive oil*; that is, approximately 1.3 quarts or 1.2 liters

17 But if he gives a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, it will
belong to that servant until the year of freedom; then it will revert to the
prince. His inheritance belongs only to his sons; it shall be theirs.
18 The prince must not take any of the inheritance of the people by
evicting them from their property. He is to provide an inheritance for his
sons from his own property, so that none of my people will be displaced
from his property.' "
19 Then the man brought me through the entrance at the side of the gate
into the holy chambers facing north, which belonged to the priests, and he
showed me a place there at the far western end
20 and said to me, "This is the place where the priests shall boil the guilt
offering and the purification offering, and where they shall bake the grain
offering, so that they do not bring them into the outer court and transmit
holiness to the people."
21 Then he brought me into the outer court and led me around to its four
corners, and I saw a separate court in each of its corners.
22 In the four corners of the outer court there were enclosed courts, each
forty cubits long and thirty cubits wide.* Each of the four corner areas
had the same dimensions.
23 Around the inside of each of the four courts was a row of masonry
with ovens built at the base of the walls on all sides.
24 And he said to me, "These are the kitchens where those who minister
at the temple will cook the sacrifices offered by the people."

47

1 Then the man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I
saw water flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east
(for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the
south side of the temple, south of the altar.
2 Next he brought me out through the north gate and led me around the
outside to the outer gate facing east, and there I saw the water trickling
out from the south side.
3 As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he
measured off a thousand cubits* and led me through ankle-deep water.
4 Then he measured off a thousand cubits and led me through knee-deep
water.
Again he measured a thousand cubits and led me through waist-deep
water.
5 Once again he measured off a thousand cubits, but now it was a river
that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough
for swimming—a river that could not be crossed on foot.
6 "Son of man, do you see this?" he asked. Then he led me back to the
bank of the river.
7 When I arrived, I saw a great number of trees along both banks of the
river.
8 And he said to me, "This water flows out to the eastern region and goes
down into the Arabah. When it empties into the Dead Sea,† the water
there becomes fresh.‡

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* **46:22 46:22** The enclosed courts were approximately 70 feet long and 52.5 feet wide (21.3 meters long and 16 meters wide). * **47:3 47:3** *1,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 1,750 feet or 533.4 meters.
† **47:8 47:8** Literally *the Sea* ‡ **47:8 47:8** Hebrew *is healed*; similarly in verses 9 and 11

9 Wherever the two rivers flow,§ there will be swarms of living
creatures and a great number of fish, because it flows there and makes the
waters fresh; so wherever the river flows, everything will flourish.
10 Fishermen will stand by the shore; from En-gedi to En-eglaim they will
spread their nets to catch fish of many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea.*
11 But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left
for salt.
12 Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of all kinds will grow. Their
leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. Each month they will
bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit
will be used for food and their leaves for healing."
13 This is what the Lord GOD says: "These are the boundaries by which
you are to divide the land as an inheritance among the twelve tribes of
Israel; Joseph shall receive two portions.†
14 You are to divide it equally among them. Because I swore with an
uplifted hand to give it to your forefathers, this land will fall to you as an
inheritance.
15 This shall be the boundary of the land:

On the north side it will extend from the Great Sea by way of Hethlon
through Lebo to Zedad,
16 Hamath, Berothah, and Sibraim‡ (which is on the border between
Damascus and Hamath), as far as Hazer-hatticon, which is on the border
of Hauran.
17 So the border will run from the Sea to Hazar-enan, along the northern
border of Damascus, with the territory of Hamath to the north. This will
be the northern boundary.
18 On the east side the border will run between Hauran and Damascus,
along the Jordan between Gilead and the land of Israel. From the
border to the Eastern Sea you are to measure.§ This will be the
eastern boundary.
19 On the south side it will run from Tamar to the waters of
Meribath-kadesh, and along the Brook* to the Great Sea. This will be
the southern boundary.
20 And on the west side, the Great Sea will be the boundary up to a point
opposite Lebo-hamath. This will be the western boundary.
21 You are to divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of
Israel.
22 You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the
foreigners who dwell among you and who have children. You are to treat
them as native-born Israelites; along with you, they shall be allotted an
inheritance among the tribes of Israel.
23 In whatever tribe a foreigner dwells, you are to assign his inheritance
there," declares the Lord GOD.

48

1 "Now these are the names of the tribes:

§ **47:9 47:9** LXX and Syriac *the river* * **47:10 47:10** That is, the Mediterranean Sea; also in verses 15, 19, and 20 † **47:13 47:13** Since Levi had no portion, Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh received land as two tribes. ‡ **47:16 47:16** LXX *(15)...through Lebo-hamath to Zedad, (16) Berothah, and Sibraim* § **47:18 47:18** Syriac *to the Eastern Sea and as far as Tamar* * **47:19 47:19** That is, the Brook of Egypt

At the northern frontier, Dan will have one portion bordering the road
of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath and running on to Hazar-enan on the
border of Damascus with Hamath to the north, and extending from
the east side to the west side.
2 Asher will have one portion bordering the territory of Dan from east to
west.
3 Naphtali will have one portion bordering the territory of Asher from
east to west.
4 Manasseh will have one portion bordering the territory of Naphtali
from east to west.
5 Ephraim will have one portion bordering the territory of Manasseh
from east to west.
6 Reuben will have one portion bordering the territory of Ephraim from
east to west.
7 Judah will have one portion bordering the territory of Reuben from
east to west.
8 Bordering the territory of Judah, from east to west, will be the portion
you are to set apart. It will be 25,000 cubits wide,* and the length of a
tribal portion from east to west. In the center will be the sanctuary.
9 The special portion you set apart to the LORD shall be 25,000 cubits
long and 10,000 cubits wide.†
10 This will be the holy portion for the priests. It will be 25,000 cubits
long on the north side, 10,000 cubits wide on the west side, 10,000 cubits
wide on the east side, and 25,000 cubits long on the south side. In the
center will be the sanctuary of the LORD.
11 It will be for the consecrated priests, the descendants of Zadok, who
kept my charge and did not go astray as the Levites did when the Israelites
went astray.
12 It will be a special portion for them set apart from the land, a most
holy portion‡ adjacent to the territory of the Levites.
13 Bordering the territory of the priests, the Levites shall have an area
25,000 cubits long and 10,000 cubits wide. The whole length will be 25,000
cubits, and the width 10,000 cubits.
14 They must not sell or exchange any of it, and they must not transfer
this best part of the land, for it is holy to the LORD.
15 The remaining area, 5,000 cubits§ wide and 25,000 cubits long, will be
for common use by the city, for houses, and for pastureland. The city will
be in the center of it
16 and will have these measurements: 4,500 cubits* on the north side,
4,500† cubits on the south side, 4,500 cubits on the east side, and 4,500
cubits on the west side.
17 The pastureland of the city will extend 250 cubits‡ to the north, 250
cubits to the south, 250 cubits to the east, and 250 cubits to the west.
18 The remainder of the length bordering the holy portion and running
adjacent to it will be 10,000 cubits on the east side and 10,000 cubits on the
west side. Its produce will supply food for the workers of the city.
19 The workers of the city who cultivate it will come from all the tribes
of Israel.

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* **48:8 48:8** *25,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 8.3 miles or 13.3 kilometers; also in verses 9, 10, 13, 15, 20, and 21. † **48:9 48:9** *10,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 3.3 miles or 5.3 kilometers; also in verses 10, 13, and 18. ‡ **48:12 48:12** Or *a Most Holy Place* § **48:15 48:15** *5,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 1.7 miles or 2.7 kilometers. * **48:16 48:16** *4,500 (long) cubits* is approximately 1.5 miles or 2.4 kilometers; also in verses 30, 32, 33, and 34. † **48:16 48:16** Ketiv adds *five*, not read ‡ **48:17 48:17** *250 (long) cubits* is approximately 437.5 feet or 133.4 meters.

20 The entire portion will be a square, 25,000 cubits by 25,000 cubits. You
are to set apart the holy portion, along with the city property.
21 The remaining area on both sides of the holy portion and of the
property of the city will belong to the prince. He will own the land
adjacent to the tribal portions, extending eastward from the 25,000 cubits
of the holy district toward the eastern border, and westward from the
25,000 cubits to the western border. And in the center of them will be the
holy portion and the sanctuary of the temple.
22 So the Levitical property and the city property will lie in the center of
the area belonging to the prince—the area between the borders of Judah
and Benjamin.
23 As for the rest of the tribes:

Benjamin will have one portion extending from the east side to the west
side.
24 Simeon will have one portion bordering the territory of Benjamin
from east to west.
25 Issachar will have one portion bordering the territory of Simeon from
east to west.
26 Zebulun will have one portion bordering the territory of Issachar
from east to west.
27 And Gad will have one portion bordering the territory of Zebulun
from east to west.
28 The southern border of Gad will run from Tamar to the waters of
Meribath-kadesh, then along the Brook§ and out to the Great Sea.*
29 This is the land you are to allot as an inheritance to the tribes of
Israel, and these will be their portions," declares the Lord GOD.
30 "These will be the exits of the city:

Beginning on the north side, which will be 4,500 cubits long,
31 the gates of the city will be named after the tribes of Israel. On the
north side there will be three gates: the gate of Reuben, the gate of Judah,
and the gate of Levi.
32 On the east side, which will be 4,500 cubits long, there will be three
gates: the gate of Joseph, the gate of Benjamin, and the gate of Dan.
33 On the south side, which will be 4,500 cubits long, there will be three
gates: the gate of Simeon, the gate of Issachar, and the gate of Zebulun.
34 And on the west side, which will be 4,500 cubits long, there will be
three gates: the gate of Gad, the gate of Asher, and the gate of Naphtali.
35 The perimeter of the city will be 18,000 cubits,† and from that day on
the name of the city will be:
THE LORD IS THERE.‡"

§ **48:28 48:28** That is, the Brook of Egypt * **48:28 48:28** That is, the Mediterranean Sea † **48:35 48:35** *18,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 6 miles or 9.6 kilometers. ‡ **48:35 48:35** Hebrew *YHWH Shammah*

Hosea

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to Hosea son of Beeri in the
days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and of
Jeroboam son of Jehoash,* king of Israel.
2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, he told him, “Go, take a
prostitute as your wife and have children of adultery, because this land is
flagrantly prostituting itself by departing from the LORD.”
3 So Hosea went and married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she
conceived and bore him a son.
4 Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Name him Jezreel,† for soon I will bring
the bloodshed of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and I will put an end to
the kingdom of Israel.
5 And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”
6 Gomer again conceived and gave birth to a daughter, and the LORD
said to Hosea, “Name her Lo-ruhamah,‡ for I will no longer have
compassion on the house of Israel, that I should ever forgive them.
7 Yet I will have compassion on the house of Judah, and I will save
them—not by bow or sword or war, not by horses and cavalry, but by the
LORD their God.”
8 After she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, Gomer conceived and gave birth to
a son.
9 And the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi,§ for you are not my people,
and I am not your God.*

2

1 Yet the number of the Israelites will be like the sand of the sea, which
cannot be measured or counted. And it will happen that in the very place
where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called
‘sons of the living God.’
2 Then the people of Judah and of Israel will be gathered together, and
they will appoint for themselves one leader, and will go up out of the land.
For great will be the day of Jezreel.
3 “Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’*
and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’†

4 Rebuke your mother,
rebuke her,
for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband.
Let her remove the adultery from her face
and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.
5 Otherwise, I will strip her naked
and expose her like the day of her birth.
I will make her like a desert
and turn her into a parched land,
and I will let her die of thirst.

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* **1:1 1:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash* † **1:4 1:4** *Jezreel* means *God sows*; also in verse 11.
‡ **1:6 1:6** *Lo-ruhamah* means *she has not received mercy*. § **1:9 1:9** *Lo-ammi* means *not my people*.
* **1:9 1:9** Hebrew *I am not yours* * **2:3 2:3** Hebrew *Ammi* † **2:3 2:3** Or *Mercy is shown*; Hebrew *Ruhamah*, which means *she has received mercy*

6 I will have no compassion on her children,
because they are the children of adultery.
7 For their mother has played the harlot
and has conceived them in disgrace.
For she thought,
'I will go after my lovers,
who give me bread and water,
wool and linen, oil and drink.'

8 Therefore, behold,
I will hedge up your path‡ with thorns;
I will enclose her with a wall,
so she cannot find her way.
9 She will pursue her lovers but not catch them;
she will seek them but not find them.
Then she will say,
'I will return to my first husband,
for then I was better off than now.'
10 For she does not acknowledge
that it was I who gave her grain,
new wine, and oil,
who lavished on her silver and gold—
which they crafted for Baal.

11 Therefore I will take back my grain in its time
and my new wine in its season;
I will take away my wool and linen,
which were given to cover her nakedness.
12 And then I will expose her lewdness
in the sight of her lovers,
and no one will deliver her
out of my hands.
13 I will put an end to all her exultation:
her feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths—
all her appointed feasts.
14 I will destroy her vines and fig trees,
which she thinks are the wages paid by her lovers.
So I will make them into a thicket,
and the beasts of the field will devour them.
15 I will punish her for the days of the Baals
when she burned incense to them,
when she adorned herself with rings and jewelry,
and went after her lovers.

But me she forgot,"
declares the LORD.
16 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her
and lead her to the wilderness,
and speak to her tenderly.
17 There I will give back her vineyards
and make the Valley of Achor§
into a gateway of hope.

‡ **2:8 2:8** LXX and Syriac *her path* § **2:17 2:17** *Achor* means *trouble.*

There she will respond as she did
in the days of her youth,
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.
18 In that day,"
declares the LORD,
"you will call me 'my Husband,'*
and no longer call me 'my Master.'†
19 For I will remove from her lips the names of the Baals;
no longer will their names be invoked.

20 On that day I will make a covenant for them
with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
and the creatures that crawl on the ground.
And I will abolish bow and sword
and battle in the land,
and will make them lie down in safety.
21 So I will betroth you to me forever;
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,
in loving devotion‡ and compassion.
22 And I will betroth you in faithfulness,
and you will know the LORD."

23 "On that day I will respond—"
declares the LORD—
"I will respond to the heavens,
and they will respond to the earth.
24 And the earth will respond to the grain,
to the new wine and oil,
and they will respond to Jezreel.§
25 And I will sow her as my own in the land,
and I will have compassion on 'No Compassion.'*
I will say to those called 'Not my People,'†
'You are my people,'
and they will say,
'You are my God.' "

3

1 Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, show love to a woman who is loved by another* and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.†"
2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver‡ and a homer and a lethech of barley.§

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* **2:18 2:18** Hebrew *my Ishi* † **2:18 2:18** Hebrew *my Baal* ‡ **2:21 2:21** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. § **2:24 2:24** *Jezreel* means *God sows*. * **2:25 2:25** Hebrew *Lo-ruhamah*; LXX *I will love her who was not loved* † **2:25 2:25** Hebrew *Lo-ammi* * **3:1 3:1** Or *Go show love to your wife again, though she is loved by another* † **3:1 3:1** Or *and love to offer raisin cakes to idols* ‡ **3:2 3:2** *15 shekels* is approximately 6 ounces or 171 grams of silver. § **3:2 3:2** Or *a homer and a half of barley*; that is, a total of approximately 9.36 bushels or 330 liters (probably about 436 pounds or 198 kilograms of barley); LXX *a homer of barley and a wineskin full of wine*

3 Then I said to her, “You must live with me for many days; you must not
be promiscuous or belong to another, and I will do the same for you.”
4 For the Israelites must live many days without king or prince, without
sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or idol.
5 Afterward, the people of Israel will return and seek the LORD their
God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to
his goodness in the days to come.

4

1 Hear the word of the LORD,
O children of Israel,
for the LORD has a case
against the people of the land:

“There is no truth, no loving devotion,
and no knowledge of God in the land!
2 Cursing and lying,
murder and stealing,
and adultery are rampant;
one act of bloodshed follows another.
3 Therefore the land mourns,
and all who dwell in it will waste away
with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air;
even the fish of the sea disappear.

4 But let no man contend;
let no man offer reproof;
for your people are like those
who contend with a priest.*
5 You will stumble by day,
and the prophet will stumble with you by night;
so I will destroy your mother—
6 my people are destroyed
for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I will also reject you as my priests.
Since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I will also forget your children.

7 The more they multiplied,
the more they sinned against me;
I will exchange their glory†
for a thing of disgrace.
8 They feed on the purification offerings‡ of my people
and set their hearts on iniquity.
9 And it shall be
like people, like priest.
I will punish both of them for their ways
and repay them for their deeds.
10 They will eat but not be satisfied;

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* **4:4 4:4** Or *for my case is against you, O priests* † **4:7 4:7** Syriac *they exchanged their Glory* or *they exchanged their glorious God* ‡ **4:8 4:8** Or *the sins*

they will be promiscuous but not multiply.
For they have abandoned the LORD to give themselves
11 to promiscuity, wine, and new wine,
which take away understanding.

12 My people consult their wooden idols,
and their divining rods inform them.
For a spirit of prostitution leads them astray
and they have played the harlot against their God.
13 They sacrifice on the mountaintops
and burn offerings on the hills,
under oak, poplar, and terebinth,
because their shade is pleasant.
And so your daughters turn to prostitution
and your daughters-in-law to adultery.
14 I will not punish your daughters
when they prostitute themselves,
nor your daughters-in-law
when they commit adultery.
For the men themselves go off with prostitutes
and offer sacrifices with shrine prostitutes.
So a people without understanding
will come to ruin.

15 Though you prostitute yourself, O Israel,
may Judah avoid such guilt!
Do not journey to Gilgal,
do not go up to Beth-aven,§
and do not swear on oath,
'As surely as the LORD lives!'
16 For Israel is as obstinate
as a stubborn heifer.
Can the LORD now shepherd them
like lambs in an open meadow?
17 Ephraim* is joined to idols;
leave him alone!
18 When their liquor is gone,
they turn to prostitution;
their rulers† dearly love disgrace.
19 The whirlwind has wrapped them‡ in its wings,
and their sacrifices will bring them shame.

5

1 "Hear this, O priests!
Take heed, O house of Israel!
Give ear, O royal house!
For this judgment is against you
because you have been a snare at Mizpah,
a net spread out on Tabor.

§ **4:15 4:15** *Beth-aven* means *house of wickedness.* This is a derogatory term for Bethel, which means *house of God*; see 1 Kings 12:28–29. * **4:17 4:17** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel † **4:18 4:18** Hebrew *her shields* ‡ **4:19 4:19** Hebrew *has wrapped her*

2 The rebels are deep in slaughter;
but I will chastise them all.
3 I know all about Ephraim,*
and Israel is not hidden from me.
For now, O Ephraim,
you have turned to prostitution;
Israel is defiled.

4 Their deeds do not permit them
to return to their God,
for a spirit of prostitution is within them,
and they do not know the LORD.
5 Israel's arrogance testifies against them;
Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity;
even Judah stumbles with them.
6 They go with their flocks and herds
to seek the LORD,
but they do not find him;
he has withdrawn himself from them.
7 They have been unfaithful to the LORD;
for they have borne illegitimate children.
Now the New Moon† will devour them
along with their land.

8 Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah,
the trumpet in Ramah;
raise the battle cry in Beth-aven:‡
Lead on, O Benjamin!
9 Ephraim will be laid waste
on the day of rebuke.
Among the tribes of Israel
I proclaim what is certain.
10 The princes of Judah
are like those who move boundary stones;§
I will pour out my fury
upon them like water.
11 Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment,
for he is determined to follow the command.*
12 So I am like a moth to Ephraim,
and like decay to the house of Judah.

13 When Ephraim saw his sickness
and Judah his wound,
then Ephraim turned to Assyria
and sent to the great king.†
But he cannot cure you
or heal your wound.

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* **5:3 5:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14 † **5:7 5:7** Or *their New Moon feast* or *the coming month* ‡ **5:8 5:8** *Beth-aven* means *house of wickedness*. This is a derogatory term for Bethel, which means *house of God*; see 1 Kings 12:28–29. § **5:10 5:10** See Proverbs 22:28 and Proverbs 23:10. * **5:11 5:11** Or *to follow human precepts*; the meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; LXX *to follow worthless things* † **5:13 5:13** Or *to King Jareb*

14 For I am like a lion to Ephraim
and like a young lion to the house of Judah.
I, even I, will tear them to pieces
and then go away.
I will carry them off
where no one can rescue them.
15 Then I will return to my place
until they admit their guilt and seek my face;
in their affliction they will earnestly seek me."

6

1 Come, let us return to the LORD.

For he has torn us to pieces,
but he will heal us;
he has wounded us,
but he will bind up our wounds.
2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live in his presence.
3 So let us know—
let us press on to know the LORD.
As surely as the sun rises,
he will appear;
he will come to us like the rain,
like the spring showers that water the earth.

4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim*?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
For your loyalty is like a morning mist,
like the early dew that vanishes.
5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have slain them by the words of my mouth,
and your judgments go forth as light.†
6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God
rather than burnt offerings.

7 But they, like Adam, have transgressed‡ the covenant;
there they were unfaithful to me.
8 Gilead is a city of evildoers,
tracked with footprints of blood.
9 Like raiders who lie in ambush,
so does a band of priests;
they murder on the way to Shechem;
surely they have committed atrocities.
10 In the house of Israel
I have seen a horrible thing:
Ephraim practices prostitution there,
and Israel is defiled.

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* **6:4 6:4** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 10 † **6:5 6:5** LXX, Syriac and Targum *and my judgment goes forth like light* ‡ **6:7 6:7** Or *As at Adam, they have transgressed*

11 Also for you, O Judah,
a harvest is appointed,
when I restore
the fortunes of my people.§

7

1 When I heal Israel,
the iniquity of Ephraim* will be exposed,
as well as the crimes of Samaria.
For they practice deceit and thieves break in;
bandits raid in the streets.
2 But they fail to consider in their hearts
that I remember all their evil.
Now their deeds are all around them;
they are before my face.

3 They delight the king with their evil,
and the princes with their lies.
4 They are all adulterers,
like an oven heated by a baker
who needs not stoke the fire
from the kneading to the rising of the dough.
5 The princes are inflamed with wine
on the day of our king;
so he joins hands
with those who mock him.
6 For they prepare their heart like an oven
while they lie in wait;
all night their baker sleeps;†
in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.
7 All of them are hot as an oven,
and they devour their rulers.
All their kings fall;
not one of them calls upon me.

8 Ephraim mixes with the nations;
Ephraim is an unturned cake.
9 Foreigners consume his strength,
but he does not notice.
Even his hair is streaked with gray,
but he does not know.
10 Israel's arrogance testifies against them,
yet they do not return to the LORD their God;
despite all this, they do not seek him.

11 So Ephraim has become like a silly, senseless dove—
calling out to Egypt, then turning to Assyria.
12 As they go, I will spread my net over them;
I will bring them down like birds of the air.
I will chastise them

§ **6:11 6:11** Or *restore my people from captivity* * **7:1 7:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8 and 11 † **7:6 7:6** By emendation *their anger smolders*

when I hear them flocking together.‡

13 Woe to them, for they have strayed from me!
Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me!
Though I would redeem them,
they speak lies against me.
14 They do not cry out to me from their hearts
when they wail upon their beds.
They gather together§ for grain and new wine,
but turn away from me.
15 Although I trained and strengthened their arms,
they plot evil against me.
16 They turn, but not to the Most High;
they are like a faulty bow.
Their leaders will fall by the sword
for the cursing of their tongue;
for this they will be ridiculed
in the land of Egypt.

8

1 Put the ram's horn to your lips!
An eagle looms over the house of the LORD,
because the people have transgressed my covenant
and rebelled against my law.
2 Israel cries out to me,
"O our God, we know you!"
3 But Israel has rejected good;
an enemy will pursue him.

4 They set up kings, but not by me.
They make princes, but without my approval.
With their silver and gold they make themselves idols,
to their own destruction.
5 He has rejected your calf,* O Samaria.
My anger burns against them.
How long will they be
incapable of innocence?
6 For this thing is from Israel—
a craftsman made it, and it is not God.
It will be broken to pieces,
that calf of Samaria.

7 For they sow the wind,
and they shall reap the whirlwind.
There is no standing grain;
what sprouts fails to yield flour.
Even if it should produce,
the foreigners would swallow it up.
8 Israel is swallowed up!

‡ **7:12 7:12** Or *I will chastise them according to what was reported against them in the assembly.*
§ **7:14 7:14** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *They slash themselves*; see 1 Kings 18:28. * **8:5 8:5** Or *calf idol*; see 1 Kings 12:29.

Now they are among the nations
like a worthless vessel.
9 For they have gone up to Assyria
like a wild donkey on its own.
Ephraim† has hired lovers.
10 Though they hire allies among the nations,
I will now round them up,
and they will begin to diminish
under the oppression of the king of princes.

11 Though Ephraim multiplied the altars for sin,
they became his altars for sinning.
12 Though I wrote for them the great things‡ of my law,
they regarded them as something strange.
13 Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me,
and though they eat the meat,
the LORD does not accept them.
Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins:
They will return to Egypt.
14 Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces;
Judah has multiplied its fortified cities.
But I will send fire upon their cities,
and it will consume their citadels.

9

1 Do not rejoice, O Israel,
with exultation like the nations,
for you have played the harlot against your God;
you have made love for hire on every threshing floor.
2 The threshing floor and winepress will not feed them,
and the new wine will fail them.
3 They will not remain
in the land of the LORD;
Ephraim* will return to Egypt
and eat unclean food in Assyria.

4 They will not pour out wine offerings to the LORD,
and their sacrifices will not please him,
but will be to them like the bread of mourners;
all who eat will be defiled.
For their bread will be for themselves;
it will not enter the house of the LORD.
5 What will you do on the appointed day,
on the day of the LORD's feast?
6 For even if they flee destruction,
Egypt will gather them
and Memphis will bury them.
Their precious silver will be taken over by thistles,
and thorns will overrun their tents.

† **8:9 8:9** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 11 ‡ **8:12 8:12** Qere; Ketiv *ten thousand things* * **9:3 9:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; similarly in verses 8, 11, 13, and 16

7 The days of punishment have come;
the days of retribution have arrived—
let Israel know it.
The prophet is called a fool,
and the inspired man insane,
because of the greatness
of your iniquity and hostility.
8 The prophet is Ephraim's watchman,
along with my God,†
yet the snare of the fowler lies on all his paths.
Hostility is in the house of his God!
9 They have deeply corrupted themselves
as in the days of Gibeah;
he will remember their guilt;
he will punish their sins.

10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness.
I saw your fathers as the firstfruits
of the fig tree in its first season.
But they went to Baal-peor,
and consecrated themselves to Shame;
so they became as detestable
as the thing they loved.
11 Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird,
with no birth, no pregnancy, and no conception.
12 Even if they raise their children,
I will bereave them of each one.
Yes, woe be to them
when I turn away from them!
13 I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre,
planted in a meadow.
But Ephraim will bring out
his children for slaughter.
14 Give them, O LORD—
what will you give?
Give them wombs that miscarry
and breasts that dry up!

15 All their evil appears at Gilgal,
for there I hated them.
I will drive them from my house
for the wickedness of their deeds.
I will no longer love them;
all their leaders are rebellious.
16 Ephraim is struck down;
their root is withered;
they cannot bear fruit.
Even if they bear children,
I will slay the darlings of their wombs.
17 My God will reject them
because they have not obeyed him;

† **9:8 9:8** Or *The prophet is the watchman over Ephraim, the people of my God*

and they shall be wanderers
among the nations.

10

1 Israel was a luxuriant vine,
yielding fruit for himself.
The more his fruit increased,
the more he increased the altars.
The better his land produced,
the better he made the sacred pillars.
2 Their hearts are devious;
now they must bear their guilt.
The LORD will break down their altars
and demolish their sacred pillars.

3 Surely now they will say,
"We have no king,
for we do not revere the LORD.
What can a king do for us?"
4 They speak mere words;
with false oaths they make covenants.
So judgment springs up
like poisonous weeds in the furrows of a field.

5 The people of Samaria will fear
for the calf of Beth-aven.*
Indeed, its people will mourn over it
with its idolatrous priests—
those who rejoiced in its glory—
for it has been taken from them into exile.
6 Yes, it will be carried to Assyria
as tribute to the great king.†
Ephraim‡ will be seized with shame;
Israel will be ashamed of its own counsel.§
7 Samaria will be carried off with her king
like a twig on the surface of the water.
8 The high places of Aven* will be destroyed—
it is the sin of Israel;
thorns and thistles will overgrow their altars.
Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!"
and to the hills, "Fall on us!"

9 Since the days of Gibeah you have sinned, O Israel,
and there you have remained.
Did not the battle in Gibeah
overtake the sons of iniquity?†
10 I will chasten them when I please;
nations will be gathered against them

* **10:5 10:5** *Beth-aven* means *house of wickedness.* This is a derogatory term for Bethel, which means *house of God*; see 1 Kings 12:28–29. † **10:6 10:6** Or *to King Jareb* ‡ **10:6 10:6** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 11 § **10:6 10:6** Or *of its wooden idols* * **10:8 10:8** Or *of wickedness*; *Aven* is a reference to Beth-aven (a derogatory term for Bethel); see verse 5. † **10:9 10:9** Or *Did not the battle overtake the sons of iniquity in Gibeah?*

to put them in bondage
for their double transgression.

11 Ephraim is a well-trained heifer that loves to thresh;
but I will place a yoke on her fair neck.
I will harness Ephraim, Judah will plow,
and Jacob will break the hard ground.
12 Sow for yourselves righteousness
and reap the fruit of loving devotion;
break up your unplowed ground.
For it is time to seek the LORD
until he comes and sends righteousness
upon you like rain.

13 You have plowed wickedness and reaped injustice;
you have eaten the fruit of lies.
Because you have trusted in your own way
and in the multitude of your mighty men,
14 the roar of battle will rise against your people,
so that all your fortresses will be demolished
as Shalman devastated Beth-arbel
in the day of battle,
when mothers were dashed to pieces
along with their children.
15 Thus Bethel will do to you,‡
because of your great wickedness.
When the day dawns,
the king of Israel will be utterly cut off.

11

1 When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
2 The more they called them,
the more they went away from them.*
They sacrificed to the Baals
and burned incense to carved images.
3 It was I who taught Ephraim† to walk,
taking them by the arms,
but they never realized
that it was I who healed them.
4 I led them with cords of kindness,
with ropes of love;
I lifted the yoke from their necks
and bent down to feed them.
5 Will they not return to the land of Egypt
and be ruled by Assyria
because they refused to repent?
6 A sword will flash through their cities;
it will destroy the bars of their gates

‡ **10:15 10:15** LXX *Thus I will do to you, O house of Israel* * **11:2 11:2** LXX *But the more I called Israel, the farther they departed from me* † **11:3 11:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8, 9, and 12

and consume them in their own plans.
7 My people are bent on turning from me.
Though they call to the Most High,
he will by no means exalt them.
8 How could I give you up, O Ephraim?
How could I surrender you, O Israel?
How could I make you like Admah?
How could I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart is turned within me;
my compassion is stirred!
9 I will not execute the full fury of my anger;
I will not destroy Ephraim again.
For I am God and not man—
the Holy One among you—
and I will not come in wrath.
10 They will walk after the LORD;
he will roar like a lion.
When he roars,
his children will come trembling from the west.
11 They will come trembling like birds from Egypt
and like doves from the land of Assyria.
Then I will settle them in their homes,
declares the LORD.

12

1 Ephraim surrounds me with lies,
the house of Israel with deceit;
but Judah still walks with God
and is faithful to the Holy One.*
2 Ephraim† feeds on the wind
and pursues the east wind all day long;
he multiplies lies and violence;
he makes a covenant with Assyria
and sends olive oil to Egypt.

3 The LORD has a charge to bring against Judah.
He will punish Jacob‡ according to his ways
and repay him according to his deeds.
4 In the womb he grasped his brother's heel,
and in his vigor he wrestled with God.
5 Yes, he struggled with the angel and prevailed;
he wept and sought his favor;
he found him at Bethel
and there he spoke with us§—
6 the LORD God of Hosts,
the LORD is his name of renown.
7 But you must return to your God;
maintain love and justice,
and always wait on your God.

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* **12:1 12:1** Or *and Judah is unruly against God, the faithful Holy One* † **12:2 12:2** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 9 and 15 ‡ **12:3 12:3** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.* § **12:5 12:5** LXX and Syriac *and spoke with him there*

8 A merchant loves to defraud
with dishonest scales in his hands.
9 And Ephraim boasts: “How rich I have become!
I have found wealth for myself.
In all my labors, they can find in me
no iniquity that is sinful.”

10 But I am the LORD your God
ever since the land of Egypt.
I will again make you dwell in tents,
as in the days of the appointed feast.
11 I spoke through the prophets
and multiplied their visions;
I gave parables through the prophets.
12 Is there iniquity in Gilead?
They will surely come to nothing.
Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal?
Indeed, their altars will be heaps of stones
in the furrows of the field.

13 Jacob fled to the land of Aram*
and Israel worked for a wife—
for a wife he tended sheep.
14 But by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt,
and by a prophet he was preserved.

15 Ephraim has provoked bitter anger,
so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt upon him
and repay him for his contempt.

13

1 When Ephraim* spoke, there was trembling;
he was exalted in Israel.
But he incurred guilt through Baal,
and he died.

2 Now they sin more and more
and make for themselves cast images,
idols skillfully made from their silver,
all of them the work of craftsmen.
People say of them,
“The men who sacrifice kiss the calves!”†
3 Therefore they will be like the morning mist,
like the early dew that vanishes,
like chaff blown from a threshing floor,
like smoke through an open window.

4 Yet I am the LORD your God
ever since the land of Egypt;
you know no God but me,

* **12:13 12:13** That is, northwest Mesopotamia * **13:1 13:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 12 † **13:2 13:2** Or *“They offer human sacrifice and kiss the calves!”* See 1 Kings 19:18.

for there is no Savior besides me.
5 I knew you in the wilderness,
in the land of drought.
6 When they had pasture,
they became satisfied;
when they were satisfied,
their hearts became proud,
and as a result they forgot me.
7 So like a lion I will pounce on them;
like a leopard I will lurk by the path.
8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs I will attack them,
and I will tear open their chests.
There I will devour them like a lion,
like a wild beast tearing them apart.
9 You are destroyed, O Israel,
because you are against me—
against your helper.

10 Where is your king now‡
to save you in all your cities,
and the rulers to whom you said,
"Give me a king and princes"?
11 So in my anger I gave you a king,
and in my wrath I took him away.

12 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up;
his sin is stored up.
13 Labor pains come upon him,
but he is an unwise son.
When the time arrives,
he fails to present himself at the opening of the womb.

14 I will ransom them from the power of Sheol;
I will redeem them from Death.§
Where, O Death, are your plagues?
Where, O Sheol, is your destruction?*

Compassion is hidden from my eyes.
15 Although he flourishes among his brothers,
an east wind will come—
a wind from the LORD
rising up from the desert.
His fountain will fail,
and his spring will run dry.
The wind will plunder his treasury
of every precious article.

14

1 Samaria will bear her guilt

‡ **13:10 13:10** Or *Shall I be your King now* § **13:14 13:14** Or *Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death?* * **13:14 13:14** Or *I will be your plagues, O Death; I will be your destruction, O Sheol*; LXX *Where, O Death, is your penalty? Where, O Hades, is your sting?*

because she has rebelled against her God.
They will fall by the sword;
their little ones will be dashed to pieces,
and their pregnant women ripped open.
2 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for you have stumbled by your iniquity.
3 Bring your confessions
and return to the LORD.
Say to him: “Take away all our iniquity
and receive us graciously,
that we may present
our lips as sacrificial bulls.*
4 Assyria will not save us,
nor will we ride on horses.
We will never again say, ‘Our gods!’
to the work of our own hands.

For in you the fatherless find compassion.”
5 I will heal their apostasy;
I will freely love them,
for my anger has turned away from them.
6 I will be like the dew to Israel;
he will blossom like the lily
and take root like the cedars of Lebanon.
7 His shoots will sprout,
and his splendor will be like the olive tree,
his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.
8 They will return and dwell in his shade;
they will grow grain and blossom like the vine.
His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

9 O Ephraim,† what have I to do
anymore with idols?
It is I who answer and watch over him.
I am like a flourishing cypress;‡
your fruit comes from me.

10 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them.
For the ways of the LORD are right,
and the righteous walk in them
but the rebellious stumble in them.

* **14:3 14:3** LXX and Syriac *that we may present the fruit of our lips* † **14:9 14:9** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel ‡ **14:9 14:9** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

Joel

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel:

2 Hear this, O elders;
and give ear, all who dwell in the land.
Has anything like this ever happened in your days
or in the days of your fathers?
3 Tell it to your children;
let your children tell it to their children,
and their children to the next generation.
4 What the devouring locust has left,
the swarming locust has eaten;
what the swarming locust has left,
the young locust has eaten;
and what the young locust has left,
the destroying locust has eaten.*

5 Wake up, you drunkards, and weep;
wail, all you drinkers of wine,
because of the sweet wine,
for it has been cut off from your mouth.
6 For a nation has invaded my land,
powerful and without number;
its teeth are the teeth of a lion,
and its fangs are the fangs of a lioness.
7 It has laid waste my grapevine
and splintered my fig tree.
It has stripped off the bark and thrown it away;
the branches have turned white.
8 Wail like a virgin dressed in sackcloth,
grieving for the husband of her youth.
9 Grain and drink offerings have been cut off
from the house of the LORD;
the priests are in mourning,
those who minister before the LORD.
10 The field is ruined;
the land mourns.
For the grain is destroyed,
the new wine is dried up, and the oil fails.
11 Be dismayed, O farmers,
wail, O vinedressers,
over the wheat and barley,
because the harvest of the field has perished.
12 The grapevine is dried up,
and the fig tree is withered;
the pomegranate, palm, and apple—
all the trees of the orchard—are withered.
Surely the joy of mankind has dried up.

* **1:4 1:4** The precise identification of the four kinds of locusts mentioned here is uncertain.

13 Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests;
wail, O ministers of the altar.
Come, spend the night in sackcloth,
O ministers of my God,
because the grain and drink offerings
are withheld from the house of your God.
14 Consecrate a fast;
proclaim a solemn assembly!
Gather the elders
and all the residents of the land
to the house of the LORD your God,
and cry out to the LORD.

15 Alas for the day!
For the Day of the LORD is near,
and it will come
as destruction from the Almighty.†
16 Has not the food been cut off
before our very eyes—
joy and gladness
from the house of our God?
17 The seeds lie shriveled beneath the clods;
the storehouses are in ruins;
the granaries are broken down,
for the grain has withered away.
18 How the cattle groan!
The herds wander in confusion
because they have no pasture.
Even the flocks of sheep are suffering.

19 To you, O LORD, I call,
for fire has consumed the open pastures
and flames have scorched all the trees of the field.
20 Even the beasts of the field pant for you,
for the streams of water have dried up,
and fire has consumed the open pastures.

2

1 Blow the ram's horn in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all who dwell in the land tremble,
for the Day of the LORD is coming;
indeed, it is near—
2 a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness.
Like the dawn overspreading the mountains
a great and strong army appears,
such as never was of old,
nor will ever be in ages to come.

3 Before them a fire devours,
and behind them a flame scorches.
The land before them is like the Garden of Eden,

† **1:15 1:15** Hebrew *Shaddai*

but behind them, it is like a desert wasteland—
surely nothing will escape them.
4 Their appearance is like that of horses,
and they gallop like swift steeds.*
5 With a sound like that of chariots
they bound over the mountaintops,
like the crackling of fire consuming stubble,
like a mighty army deployed for battle.

6 Nations writhe in horror before them;
every face turns pale.
7 They charge like mighty men;
they scale the walls like men of war.
Each one marches in formation,
not swerving from the course.
8 They do not jostle one another;
each proceeds in his path.
They burst through the defenses,
never breaking ranks.
9 They storm the city;
they run along the wall;
they climb into houses,
entering through windows like thieves.

10 Before them the earth quakes;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and moon grow dark,
and the stars lose their brightness.
11 The LORD raises his voice
in the presence of his army.
Indeed, his camp is very large,
for mighty are those who obey his command.
For the Day of the LORD is great and very dreadful.
Who can endure it?
12 "Yet even now,"
declares the LORD,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning."

13 So rend your hearts and not your garments,
and return to the LORD your God.
For he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion.†
And he relents from sending disaster.
14 Who knows? He may turn and relent
and leave a blessing behind him—
grain and drink offerings
for the LORD your God.

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* **2:4 2:4** Or *like charioteers* or *like cavalry* † **2:13 2:13** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

15 Blow the ram's horn in Zion,
consecrate a fast,
proclaim a sacred assembly.
16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation,
assemble the aged, gather the children,
even those nursing at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
17 Let the priests who minister before the LORD
weep between the portico and the altar,
saying, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a reproach,
an object of scorn among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
'Where is their God?' "
18 Then the LORD became jealous for his land,
and he spared his people.

19 And the LORD answered his people:

"Behold, I will send you
grain, new wine, and oil,
and by them you will be satisfied.
I will never again make you
a reproach among the nations.

20 The northern army I will drive away from you,
banishing it to a barren and desolate land,
its front ranks into the Eastern Sea,‡
and its rear guard into the Western Sea.§
And its stench will rise;
its foul odor will ascend.

For he has done great things.

21 Do not be afraid, O land;
rejoice and be glad,
for the LORD has done great things.
22 Do not be afraid, O beasts of the field,
for the open pastures have turned green,
the trees bear their fruit,
and the fig tree and vine yield their best.*
23 Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
for your vindication.
He sends you showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.
24 The threshing floors will be full of grain,
and the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

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‡ **2:20 2:20** That is, the Dead Sea § **2:20 2:20** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea * **2:22 2:22** Literally *their strength*

25 I will repay you for the years eaten by locusts—
the swarming locust, the young locust,
the destroying locust, and the devouring locust†—
my great army that I sent against you.
26 You will have plenty to eat,
until you are satisfied.
You will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has worked wonders for you.
My people will never again
be put to shame.
27 Then you will know that I am present in Israel
and that I am the LORD your God,
and there is no other.
My people will never again
be put to shame.

3

1 And afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.
2 Even on the male and female slaves*
I will pour out my spirit in those days.
3 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth,
blood and fire and columns† of smoke.
4 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and awesome‡ Day of the LORD.
5 And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance, as the LORD has promised,
among the remnant called by the LORD.

4

1 "Yes, in those days and at that time,
when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,*
2 I will gather all the nations
and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.†
There I will enter into judgment against them
concerning my people, my inheritance, Israel,
whom they have scattered among the nations
as they divided up my land.
3 They cast lots for my people;
they bartered a boy for a prostitute
and sold a girl for wine to drink.
4 Now what do you have against me, O Tyre, Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you rendering against me a recompense? If you retaliate

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† **2:25 2:25** The precise identification of the four kinds of insects mentioned here is uncertain. * **3:2 3:2** LXX *my male and female slaves* † **3:3 3:3** LXX *clouds* or *billows* ‡ **3:4 3:4** Or *dreadful*; LXX *glorious* * **4:1 4:1** Or *restore Judah and Jerusalem from captivity* † **4:2 4:2** *Jehoshaphat* means *the LORD judges*; also in verse 12.

against me, I will swiftly and speedily return your recompense upon your heads.
5 For you took my silver and gold and carried off my finest treasures to your palaces.‡
6 You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks,§ to send them far from their homeland.
7 Behold, I will rouse them from the places to which you sold them; I will return your recompense upon your heads.
8 I will sell your sons and daughters into the hands of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans—to a distant nation."
Indeed, the LORD has spoken.
9 Proclaim this among the nations:

"Prepare for war;
rouse the mighty men;
let all the men of war
advance and attack!
10 Beat your plowshares into swords
and your pruning hooks into spears.
Let the weak say, 'I am strong!'
11 Come quickly, all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves.
Bring down your mighty ones,
O LORD.

12 Let the nations be roused
and advance to the Valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will sit down
to judge all the nations on every side.
13 Swing the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.*
Come, trample the grapes,
for the winepress is full;
the wine vats overflow
because their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes
in the valley of decision!
For the Day of the LORD is near
in the valley of decision.
15 The sun and moon will grow dark,
and the stars will no longer shine.
16 The LORD will roar from Zion
and raise his voice from Jerusalem;
heaven and earth will tremble.
But the LORD will be a refuge for his people,
a stronghold for the people of Israel.
17 Then you will know that I am the LORD your God,
who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.
Jerusalem will be holy,
never again to be overrun by foreigners.

‡ **4:5 4:5** Or *temples* § **4:6 4:6** Or *to the peoples of Javan* * **4:13 4:13** LXX *the harvest has come*

18 And in that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine,
and the hills will flow with milk.
All the streams of Judah will run with water,
and a spring will flow from the house of the LORD
to water the Valley of Acacias.†
19 Egypt will become desolate,
and Edom a desert wasteland,
because of the violence done to the people of Judah,
in whose land they shed innocent blood.
20 But Judah will be inhabited forever,
and Jerusalem from generation to generation.
21 For I will pardon their bloodguilt,
which I have not yet pardoned.‡”
For the LORD dwells in Zion.

† **4:18 4:18** Or *Valley of Shittim* ‡ **4:21 4:21** Or *For I will avenge their blood, which I have not yet avenged.*

Amos

1 These are the words of Amos, who was among the sheep breeders* of
Tekoa—what he saw concerning Israel two years† before the earthquake,
in the days when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash‡
was king of Israel.
2 He said:

“The LORD roars from Zion
and raises his voice from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds mourn,
and the summit of Carmel withers.”
3 This is what the LORD says:

“For three transgressions of Damascus, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,§
because they threshed Gilead
with sledges of iron.
4 So I will send fire upon the house of Hazael
to consume the citadels of Ben-hadad.
5 I will break down the gates of Damascus;
I will cut off the inhabitants* from the Valley of Aven†
and the one who wields the scepter in Beth-eden.
The people of Aram will be exiled to Kir,”
says the LORD.
6 This is what the LORD says:

“For three transgressions of Gaza, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they exiled a whole population,
delivering them up to Edom.
7 So I will send fire upon the walls of Gaza,
to consume its citadels.
8 I will cut off the ruler of Ashdod
and the one who wields the scepter in Ashkelon.
I will turn my hand against Ekron,
and the remnant of the Philistines will perish,”
says the Lord GOD.
9 This is what the LORD says:

“For three transgressions of Tyre, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they delivered up a whole congregation of exiles to Edom
and broke a covenant of brotherhood.
10 So I will send fire upon the walls of Tyre
to consume its citadels.”
11 This is what the LORD says:

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* **1:1 1:1** Or *sheepherders* † **1:1 1:1** Or *during the two years* ‡ **1:1 1:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash* § **1:3 1:3** Or *I will not revoke the punishment*; Hebrew *I will not revoke it*; also in verses 6, 9, 11, and 13 * **1:5 1:5** Or *the ruler* † **1:5 1:5** *Aven* means *wickedness.*

“For three transgressions of Edom, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because he pursued his brother with the sword
and stifled all compassion;
his anger raged continually,
and his fury flamed incessantly.
12 So I will send fire upon Teman
to consume the citadels of Bozrah.”
13 This is what the LORD says:

“For three transgressions of the Ammonites, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead
in order to enlarge their territory.
14 So I will kindle a fire in the walls of Rabbah
to consume its citadels
amid war cries on the day of battle
and a violent wind on the day of tempest.
15 Their king will go into exile‡—
he and his princes together,”
says the LORD.

2

1 This is what the LORD says:
“For three transgressions of Moab, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,*
because he burned to lime
the bones of Edom’s king.
2 So I will send fire against Moab
to consume the citadels of Kerioth.
Moab will die in tumult,
amid war cries and the sound of the ram’s horn.
3 I will cut off the ruler of Moab
and kill all the officials with him,”
says the LORD.
4 This is what the LORD says:

“For three transgressions of Judah, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they reject the Teaching of the LORD
and fail to keep his statutes;
they are led astray by the lies
in which their fathers walked.
5 So I will send fire upon Judah
to consume the citadels of Jerusalem.”
6 This is what the LORD says:

“For three transgressions of Israel, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they sell the righteous for silver

‡ **1:15 1:15** Possibly *Milcom will go into exile*; Milcom, also called Molech, was god of the Ammonites; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7.
* **2:1 2:1** Or *I will not revoke the punishment*; Hebrew *I will not revoke it*; also in verses 4 and 6

and the needy for a pair of sandals.
7 They trample on the heads of the poor
as on the dust of the earth;
they push the needy out of their way.
A man and his father
have relations with the same girl
and so profane my holy name.
8 They lie down beside every altar
on garments taken in pledge.
And in the house of their God,†
they drink wine obtained through fines.‡

9 Yet it was I who destroyed
the Amorite before them,
though his height was like that of the cedars,
and he was as strong as the oaks.
Yet I destroyed his fruit above
and his roots below.
10 And I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and led you forty years in the wilderness,
that you might take possession
of the land of the Amorite.
11 I raised up prophets from your sons
and Nazirites from your young men.
Is this not true,
O children of Israel?”
declares the LORD.
12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine
and commanded the prophets not to prophesy.
13 Behold, I am about to crush you in your place
as with a cart full of grain.
14 Escape will fail the swift,
the strong will not prevail by his strength,
and the mighty will not save his life.
15 The archer will not stand his ground,
the fleet of foot will not escape,
and the horseman will not save his life.
16 Even the bravest of mighty men
will flee naked on that day,”
declares the LORD.

3

1 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O children of
Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

2 “Only you have I chosen*
from all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you
for all your iniquities.”

3 Can two walk together

† **2:8 2:8** Or *of their gods* ‡ **2:8 2:8** Or *they drink the wine of those who have been fined* * **3:2 3:2** Or *known*

without an appointment to meet?†
4 Does a lion roar in the forest
when he has no prey?
Does a young lion growl in his den
if he has caught nothing?
5 Does a bird land in a snare
on the ground where no bait has been set?
Does a trap spring from the ground
when it has nothing to catch?
6 If a ram's horn sounds in a city,
do the people not tremble?
If calamity comes to a city,
has not the LORD caused it?

7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing
without revealing his plan
to his servants the prophets.
8 The lion has roared—
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken—
who will not prophesy?

9 Proclaim to the citadels of Ashdod
and to the citadels of Egypt:
"Assemble on the mountains of Samaria;
see the great unrest in the city
and the acts of oppression in her midst."

10 "For they know not how to do right,"
declares the LORD.
"They store up violence and destruction
in their citadels."
11 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says:

"An enemy‡ will surround the land;
he will pull down your strongholds
and plunder your citadels."
12 This is what the LORD says:

"As the shepherd snatches from the mouth of the lion
two legs or a piece of an ear,
so the Israelites dwelling in Samaria will be rescued
having just the corner of a bed
or the cushion of a couch.§

13 Hear and testify against the house of Jacob,
declares the Lord GOD, the God of Hosts.
14 On the day I punish Israel for their transgressions,
I will visit destruction on the altars of Bethel;
the horns of the altar will be cut off,

† **3:3 3:3** Or *without agreeing where to go* ‡ **3:11 3:11** Or *An adversary* § **3:12 3:12** Or *so will the Israelites be snatched away, those who sit in Samaria on the edge of their beds and in Damascus on their couches*

and they will fall to the ground.
15 I will tear down the winter house
along with the summer house;
the houses of ivory will also perish,
and the great houses will come to an end,"
declares the LORD.

4

1 Hear this word,
you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria,
you women who oppress the poor
and crush the needy,
who say to your husbands,
"Bring us more to drink."
2 The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness:

"Behold, the days are coming
when you will be taken away with hooks,
and your posterity with fishhooks.
3 You will go out through broken walls,
each one straight ahead of her,
and you will be cast out toward Harmon,*"
declares the LORD.
4 "Go to Bethel and transgress;
rebel even more at Gilgal!
Bring your sacrifices every morning,
your tithes every three days.†
5 Offer leavened bread as a thank offering,
and loudly proclaim your freewill offerings.
For that is what you children of Israel love to do,"
declares the Lord GOD.
6 "I afflicted all your cities with cleanness of teeth‡
and all your towns with lack of bread,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
7 "I also withheld the rain from you
when the harvest was three months away.
I sent rain on one city
but withheld it from another.
One field received rain;
another without rain withered.
8 People staggered from city to city
for water to drink,
but they were not satisfied;
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
9 "I struck you with blight and mildew
in your growing gardens and vineyards;
the locust devoured your fig and olive trees,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
10 "I sent plagues among you

* **4:3 4:3** That is, possibly Mount Hermon † **4:4 4:4** Or *years* ‡ **4:6 4:6** That is, *with empty stomachs*

like those of Egypt;
I killed your young men with the sword,
along with your captured horses.
I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camp,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
11 "Some of you I overthrew
as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
and you were like a firebrand§ snatched from a blaze,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
12 "Therefore, that is what I will do
to you, O Israel,
and since I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!
13 For behold, he who forms the mountains,
who creates the wind
and reveals his thoughts to man,
who turns the dawn to darkness
and strides on the heights of the earth—
the LORD, the God of Hosts, is his name."

5

1 Hear this word, O house of Israel, this lamentation I take up against you:

2 "Fallen is Virgin Israel,
never to rise again.
She lies abandoned on her land,
with no one to raise her up."
3 This is what the Lord GOD says:

"The city that marches out a thousand strong
will have but a hundred left,
and the one that marches out a hundred strong
will have but ten left in the house of Israel."
4 For this is what the LORD says to the house of Israel:

"Seek me and live!

5 Do not seek Bethel or go to Gilgal;
do not journey to Beersheba,
for Gilgal will surely go into exile,
and Bethel will come to nothing.*
6 Seek the LORD and live,
or he will sweep like fire through the house of Joseph;
it will devour everything,
with no one at Bethel to extinguish it.

7 There are those who turn justice into wormwood
and cast righteousness to the ground.

§ **4:11 4:11** That is, *a burning stick* * **5:5 5:5** Hebrew *to Aven*, a reference to Beth-aven, a derogatory term for Bethel; see Hosea 4:15.

8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion,
who turns darkness into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who summons the waters of the sea
and pours them over the face of the earth—
the LORD is his name—
9 he flashes destruction on the strong,
so that fury comes upon the stronghold.

10 There are those who hate the one who reproves in the gate
and despise him who speaks with integrity.
11 Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and exact from him a tax of grain,
you will never live
in the stone houses you have built;
you will never drink the wine
from the lush vineyards you have planted.

12 For I know that your transgressions are many
and your sins are numerous.
You oppress the righteous by taking bribes;
you deprive the poor of justice in the gate.
13 Therefore, the prudent keep silent in such times,
for the days are evil.

14 Seek good, not evil,
so that you may live.
And the LORD, the God of Hosts,
will be with you, as you have claimed.
15 Hate evil and love good;
establish justice in the gate.
Perhaps the LORD, the God of Hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."
16 Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Hosts, the Lord, says:

"There will be wailing in all the public squares
and cries of 'Alas! Alas!' in all the streets.
The farmer will be summoned to mourn,
and the mourners to wail.
17 There will be wailing in all the vineyards,
for I will pass through your midst,"
says the LORD.
18 Woe to you who long for the Day of the LORD!
What will the Day of the LORD be for you?
It will be darkness and not light.
19 It will be like a man who flees from a lion,
only to encounter a bear,
or who enters his house and rests his hand against the wall,
only to be bitten by a snake.
20 Will not the Day of the LORD
be darkness and not light,
even gloom with no brightness in it?

21 “I hate, I despise your feasts!
I cannot stand the stench of your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
for your peace offerings of fattened cattle
I will have no regard.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
24 But let justice roll on like a river,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

25 Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings
forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?
26 You have taken along Sakkuth your king
and Kaiwan your star god,†
the idols you made for yourselves.
27 Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,”
says the LORD, whose name is the God of Hosts.

6

1 Woe to those at ease in Zion
and those secure on Mount Samaria,
the distinguished ones of the foremost nation,
to whom the house of Israel comes.
2 Cross over to Calneh and see;
go from there to the great Hamath;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Is their territory larger than yours?

3 You dismiss the day of calamity
and bring near a reign of violence.
4 You lie on beds inlaid with ivory,
and lounge upon your couches.
You dine on lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall.
5 You improvise songs on the harp like David
and invent your own musical instruments.
6 You drink wine by the bowlful
and anoint yourselves with the finest oils,
but you fail to grieve
over the ruin of Joseph.

7 Therefore, you will now go into exile
as the first of the captives,
and your feasting and lounging
will come to an end.
8 The Lord GOD has sworn by himself—the LORD, the God of Hosts, has declared:

“I abhor Jacob’s pride

† **5:26 5:26** LXX *you have taken along the tabernacle of Molech and the star of your god Rephan*

and detest his citadels,
so I will deliver up the city
and everything in it."
9 And if there are ten men left in one house, they too will die.
10 And when the relative who is to make a funeral fire to honor the dead* picks them up to remove them from the house, he will call to one inside, "Is anyone else with you?"
"None," that person will answer.
"Silence," the relative will retort, "for the name of the LORD must not be invoked."
11 For the LORD gives a command:

"The great house will be smashed to pieces,
and the small house to rubble."

12 "Do horses gallop on the cliffs?
Does one plow there with oxen?†
But you have turned justice into poison
and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—
13 you who rejoice in Lo-debar‡ and say,
'Did we not take Karnaim§ by our own strength?'
14 For behold, I will raise up a nation
against you, O house of Israel,"
declares the LORD, the God of Hosts,
"and they will oppress you
from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of the Arabah."

7

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts just after the king's harvest, as the late spring crop was coming up.*
2 And when the locusts had eaten every green plant in the land, I said, "Lord GOD, please forgive! How will Jacob survive, since he is so small?"
3 So the LORD relented from this plan. "It will not happen," he said.
4 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: The Lord GOD was calling for judgment by fire. It consumed the great deep and devoured the land.
5 Then I said, "Lord GOD, please stop! How will Jacob survive, since he is so small?"
6 So the LORD relented from this plan. "It will not happen either," said the Lord GOD.
7 This is what he showed me: Behold, the Lord was standing by a wall true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand.
8 "Amos, what do you see?" asked the LORD.
"A plumb line," I replied.
"Behold," said the Lord, "I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will no longer spare them:

9 The high places of Isaac will be deserted,
and the sanctuaries of Israel will be laid waste;
and I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam

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* **6:10 6:10** Or *to burn the bodies* † **6:12 6:12** By emendation *Does one plow the sea with oxen?* ‡ **6:13 6:13** *Lo-debar* means *nothing.* § **6:13 6:13** *Karnaim* means *horn*, a symbol of strength. * **7:1 7:1** LXX *A swarm of locusts coming from the east; and, behold, one grasshopper, king Gog.*

with the sword."
10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent word to Jeroboam king of
Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house
of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words,
11 for this is what Amos has said:

'Jeroboam will die by the sword,
and Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their homeland.' "
12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "Go away, you seer! Flee to the land of
Judah; earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.
13 But never prophesy at Bethel again, because it is the sanctuary of the
king and the temple of the kingdom."
14 "I am not† a prophet," Amos replied, "nor am I the son‡ of a prophet;
rather, I am a herdsman and a tender of sycamore-fig trees.
15 But the LORD took me from following the flock and said to me, 'Go,
prophesy to my people Israel.'
16 Now, therefore, hear the word of the LORD. You say:

'Do not prophesy against Israel;
do not preach against the house of Isaac.'
17 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

'Your wife will become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword.
Your land will be divided by a measuring line,
and you yourself will die on pagan§ soil.
And Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their homeland.' "

8

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: I saw a basket of summer fruit.*
2 "Amos, what do you see?" He asked.
"A basket of summer fruit," I replied.
So the LORD said to me, "The end has come for my people Israel; I will
no longer spare them."
3 "In that day," declares the Lord GOD, "the singing women† of the
palace‡ will turn to wailing. Many will be the corpses, strewn in silence
everywhere!"

4 Hear this, you who trample the needy,
who do away with the poor of the land,
5 asking, "When will the New Moon be over,
that we may sell grain?
When will the Sabbath end,
that we may market wheat?
Let us reduce the ephah and increase the shekel;§
let us cheat with dishonest scales.
6 Let us buy the poor with silver

† **7:14 7:14** Or *I was not* ‡ **7:14 7:14** Or *nor was I the son* § **7:17 7:17** Hebrew *unclean* * **8:1 8:1** Or *ripe fruit*; also in verse 2 † **8:3 8:3** Or *the songs* ‡ **8:3 8:3** Or *temple* § **8:5 8:5** Or *Let us reduce the measure and increase the price*

and the needy for a pair of sandals,
selling even the chaff with the wheat!"
7 The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob:

"I will never forget any of their deeds.

8 Will not the land quake for this,
and all its dwellers mourn?
All of it will swell like the Nile;
it will surge and then subside
like the Nile in Egypt.

9 And in that day,
declares the Lord GOD,
I will make the sun go down at noon,
and I will darken the earth in the daytime.
10 I will turn your feasts into mourning
and all your songs into lamentation.
I will cause everyone to wear sackcloth
and every head to be shaved.
I will make it like a time of mourning for an only son,
and its outcome like a bitter day.

11 Behold, the days are coming,
declares the Lord GOD,
when I will send a famine on the land—
not a famine of bread or a thirst for water,
but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.
12 People will stagger from sea to sea
and roam from north to east,
seeking the word of the LORD,
but they will not find it.
13 In that day the lovely young women—
the young men as well—
will faint from thirst.
14 Those who swear by the guilt of Samaria
and say, 'As surely as your god lives, O Dan,'
or, 'As surely as the way* of Beersheba lives'—
they will fall, never to rise again."

9

1 I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said:

"Strike the tops of the pillars
so that the thresholds shake.
Topple them on the heads of all the people,
and I will kill the rest with the sword.
None of those who flee will get away;
none of the fugitives will escape.
2 Though they dig down to Sheol,
from there my hand will take them;
and though they climb up to heaven,

* **8:14 8:14** Or *the god*

from there I will pull them down.
3 Though they hide themselves atop Carmel,
there I will track them and seize them;
and though they hide from me at the bottom of the sea,
there I will command the serpent* to bite them.
4 Though they are driven by their enemies into captivity,
there I will command the sword to slay them.
I will fix my eyes upon them
for harm and not for good."

5 The Lord GOD of Hosts,
he who touches the earth and it melts,
and all its dwellers mourn—
all the land rises like the Nile,
then sinks like the river of Egypt—
6 he builds his upper rooms in the heavens
and founds his vault upon the earth.
He summons the waters of the sea
and pours them over the face of the earth.
The LORD is his name.

7 "Are you not like the Cushites† to me,
O children of Israel?"
declares the LORD.
"Did I not bring Israel
up from the land of Egypt,
the Philistines from Caphtor,‡
and the Arameans from Kir?
8 Surely the eyes of the Lord GOD
are on the sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy it from the face of the earth.
Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,"
declares the LORD.
9 "For surely I will give the command,
and I will shake the house of Israel
among all the nations
as grain is sifted in a sieve;
but not a pebble will reach the ground.
10 All the sinners among my people
will die by the sword—
all those who say,
'Disaster will never draw near or confront us.' "
11 "In that day I will restore
the fallen tent of David.
I will repair its gaps, restore its ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old,
12 that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations that bear my name,"§
declares the LORD, who will do this.
13 "Behold, the days are coming,"

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* **9:3 9:3** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake* † **9:7 9:7** That is, people from the upper Nile region ‡ **9:7 9:7** That is, Crete § **9:12 9:12** LXX *that the remnant of men, and all the nations that bear my name, may earnestly seek me*

declares the LORD,
“when the plowman will overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes, the sower of seed.
The mountains will drip with sweet wine,
with which all the hills will flow.
14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel;*
they will rebuild and inhabit the ruined cities.
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.
15 I will firmly plant them in their own land,
never again to be uprooted
from the land that I have given them,”
says the LORD your God.

* **9:14 9:14** Or *restore my people Israel from captivity*

Obadiah

1 This is the vision of Obadiah:

This is what the Lord GOD says about Edom—

We have heard a message from the LORD;
an envoy has been sent among the nations
to say, “Rise up,
and let us go to battle against her!”—

2 “Behold, I will make you small among the nations;
you will be deeply despised.
3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,
O dwellers in the clefts of the rocks*
whose habitation is the heights,
who say in your heart,
‘Who can bring me down to the ground?’
4 Though you soar like the eagle
and make your nest among the stars,
even from there I will bring you down,”
declares the LORD.
5 “If thieves came to you,
if robbers by night—
oh, how you will be ruined—
would they not steal only what they wanted?
If grape gatherers came to you,
would they not leave some gleanings?
6 But how Esau will be pillaged,
his hidden treasures sought out!
7 All the men allied with you
will drive you to the border;
the men at peace with you
will deceive and overpower you.
Those who eat your bread†
will set a trap for you
without your awareness of it.
8 In that day, declares the LORD,
will I not destroy the wise men of Edom
and the men of understanding
in the mountains of Esau?
9 Then your mighty men, O Teman,
will be terrified,
so that everyone in the mountains of Esau
will be cut down in the slaughter.

10 Because of the violence against your brother Jacob,
you will be covered with shame
and cut off forever.

* **1:3 1:3** Or *in the retreats of Sela* † **1:7 1:7** Hebrew does not include *Those who eat*.

11 On the day you stood aloof
while strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates‡
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were just like one of them.
12 But you should not gloat in that day,
your brother's day of misfortune,
nor rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their destruction,
nor boast proudly§
in the day of their distress.
13 You should not enter the gate of my people
in the day of their disaster,
nor gloat over their affliction
in the day of their disaster,
nor loot their wealth
in the day of their disaster.
14 Nor should you stand at the crossroads
to cut off their fugitives,
nor deliver up their survivors
in the day of their distress.
15 For the Day of the LORD is near
for all the nations.
As you have done, it will be done to you;
your recompense will return upon your own head.
16 For as you drank on my holy mountain,
so all the nations will drink continually.
They will drink and gulp it down;
they will be as if they had never existed.
17 But on Mount Zion there will be deliverance,
and it will be holy,
and the house of Jacob
will reclaim their possession.
18 Then the house of Jacob will be a blazing fire,
and the house of Joseph a burning flame;
but the house of Esau will be stubble—
Jacob will set it ablaze and consume it.
Therefore no survivor will remain
from the house of Esau."
For the LORD has spoken.
19 Those from the Negev will possess the mountains of Esau;
those from the foothills* will possess the land of the Philistines.
They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria,
and Benjamin will possess Gilead.
20 And the exiles of this host of the Israelites
will possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath;
and the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
will possess the cities of the Negev.
21 The deliverers will ascend† Mount Zion

‡ **1:11 1:11** Qere; Ketiv *his gate* § **1:12 1:12** Hebrew *nor enlarge your mouth* * **1:19 1:19** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **1:21 1:21** Or *The deliverers will go up from*; LXX *Those being delivered will go up*

to rule over the mountains of Esau.

And the kingdom will belong to the LORD.

Jonah

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying,
2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because
its wickedness has come up before me.”
3 Jonah, however, got up to flee to Tarshish, away from the presence of
the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship bound for Tarshish.
So he paid the fare and went aboard to sail for Tarshish, away from the
presence of the LORD.
4 Then the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a violent
storm arose that the ship was in danger of breaking apart.
5 The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his own god. And they
threw the ship's cargo into the sea to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone
down to the lowest part of the vessel, where he lay down and fell into a
deep sleep.
6 The captain approached him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and
call upon your God. Perhaps this God will consider us, so that we may not
perish.”
7 “Come!” said the sailors to one another. “Let us cast lots to find out who
is responsible for this calamity that is upon us.”
So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.
8 “Tell us now,” they demanded, “who is to blame for this calamity that is
upon us? What is your occupation, and where have you come from? What
is your country, and who are your people?”
9 “I am a Hebrew,” replied Jonah. “I worship the LORD, the God of the
heavens, who made the sea and the dry land.”
10 Then the men were even more afraid and said to him, “What have you
done?” The men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD,
because he had told them.
11 Now the sea was growing worse and worse, so they said to Jonah,
“What must we do to you to calm this sea for us?”
12 “Pick me up,” he answered, “and cast me into the sea, so it may quiet
down for you. For I know that I am to blame for this violent storm that
has come upon you.”
13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard* to get back to dry land, but they
could not, for the sea was raging against them more and more.
14 So they cried out to the LORD: “Please, O LORD, do not let us perish on
account of this man's life! Do not charge us with innocent blood! For you,
O LORD, have done as you pleased.”
15 Then they picked up Jonah and cast him into the sea, and the raging
sea grew calm.
16 Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to
the LORD and made vows to him.

2

1 Now the LORD had appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah
spent three days and three nights in the belly of the fish.
2 From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the LORD his God,

* **1:13 1:13** Hebrew *the men dug in*

3 saying:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.
From the belly of Sheol I called for help,
and you heard my voice.
4 For you cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the current swirled about me;
all your breakers and waves swept over me.
5 At this, I said,
‘I have been banished from your sight;
yet I will look once more
toward your holy temple.’

6 The waters engulfed me
to take my life;
the watery depths closed around me;
the seaweed wrapped around my head.
7 To the roots of the mountains I descended;
the earth beneath me barred me in forever!
But you raised my life from the pit,
O LORD my God!

8 As my life was fading away,
I remembered the LORD.
My prayer went up to you,
to your holy temple.
9 Those who cling to worthless idols
forsake his loving devotion.*
10 But I, with the voice of thanksgiving,
will sacrifice to you.
I will fulfill what I have vowed.
Deliverance is from the LORD!”
11 And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:
2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message that I give you.”
3 This time Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, in accordance with the word of the LORD.
Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city,* requiring a three-day journey.†
4 On the first day of his journey, Jonah set out into the city and proclaimed, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned!”
5 And the Ninevites believed God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

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* **2:9 2:9** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. * **3:3 3:3** Or *was a great city to God* † **3:3 3:3** Literally *great city, a three-day journey*

6 When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne,
took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
7 Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:
"By the decree of the king and his nobles:
Let no man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything at all. They must not
eat or drink.
8 Furthermore, let both man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and
have everyone call out earnestly to God. Let each one turn from his evil
ways and from the violence in his hands.
9 Who knows? God may turn and relent; he may turn from his fierce
anger, so that we will not perish."
10 When God saw their actions—that they had turned from their evil
ways—he relented from the disaster he had threatened to bring upon
them.

4

1 Jonah, however, was greatly displeased, and he became angry.*
2 So he prayed to the LORD, saying, "O LORD, is this not what I said while
I was still in my own country? This is why I was so quick to flee toward
Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to
anger, abounding in loving devotion—One who relents from sending
disaster.
3 And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to
die than to live."
4 But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"
5 Then Jonah left the city and sat down east of it, where he made himself
a shelter and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city.
6 So the LORD God appointed a vine,† and it grew up to provide shade
over Jonah's head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was greatly pleased
with the plant.
7 When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked
the plant so that it withered.
8 As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the
sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint and wished to die,
saying, "It is better for me to die than to live."
9 Then God asked Jonah, "Have you any right to be angry about the
plant?"
"I do," he replied. "I am angry enough to die!"
10 But the LORD said, "You cared about the plant, which you neither
tended nor made grow. It sprang up in a night and perished in a night.
11 So should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more
than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and
many cattle as well?"

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* **4:1 4:1** Or *It was exceedingly evil to Jonah, and he became angry* † **4:6 4:6** Hebrew *qiqayon*; that is, possibly the castor oil plant; also in verses 7, 9, and 10

Micah

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to Micah the Moreshite in the
days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—what he saw
regarding Samaria and Jerusalem:

2 Hear, O peoples, all of you;
listen, O earth, and everyone in it!
May the Lord GOD bear witness against you,
the Lord from his holy temple.
3 For behold, the LORD comes forth
from his dwelling place;
he will come down and tread
on the high places of the earth.
4 The mountains will melt beneath him,
and the valleys will split apart,
like wax before the fire,
like water rushing down a slope.

5 All this is for the transgression of Jacob
and the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the transgression of Jacob?
Is it not Samaria?
And what is the high place of Judah?
Is it not Jerusalem?

6 Therefore I will make Samaria
a heap of rubble in the open field,
a planting area for a vineyard.
I will pour her stones into the valley
and expose her foundations.
7 All her carved images will be smashed to pieces;
all her wages will be burned in the fire,
and I will destroy all her idols.
Since she collected the wages of a prostitute,
they will be used again on a prostitute.
8 Because of this I will lament and wail;
I will walk barefoot and naked.
I will howl like a jackal*
and mourn like an ostrich.†
9 For her wound is incurable;
it has reached even Judah;
it has approached the gate of my people,
as far as Jerusalem itself.

10 Do not tell it in Gath;‡ do not weep at all.
Roll in the dust§ in Beth-leaphrah.*
11 Depart in shameful nakedness,

* **1:8 1:8** Or *a serpent* or *a dragon* † **1:8 1:8** Literally *like daughters of an ostrich* or *like daughters of an owl* ‡ **1:10 1:10** *Gath* sounds like the Hebrew for *tell.* § **1:10 1:10** Qere; Ketiv *I have rolled in the dust* * **1:10 1:10** *Beth-leaphrah* means *house of dust.*

O dwellers of Shaphir.†
The dwellers of Zaanan‡
will not come out.
Beth-ezel§ is in mourning;
its support is taken from you.
12 For the dwellers of Maroth* pined for good,
but calamity came down from the LORD,
even to the gate of Jerusalem.

13 Harness your chariot horses,
O dweller of Lachish.†
You were the beginning of sin to the Daughter of Zion,
for the transgressions of Israel were found in you.
14 Therefore, send farewell gifts‡ to Moresheth-gath;§
the houses of Achzib* will prove deceptive
to the kings of Israel.
15 I will again bring a conqueror against you,
O dweller of Mareshah.†
The glory of Israel will come to Adullam.
16 Shave yourselves bald and cut off your hair
in mourning for your precious children;
make yourselves as bald as an eagle,
for they will go from you into exile.

2

1 Woe to those who devise iniquity
and plot evil on their beds!
At morning's light they accomplish it
because the power is in their hands.
2 They covet fields and seize them;
they take away houses.
They deprive a man of his home,
a fellow man of his inheritance.
3 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

"I am planning against this nation a disaster
from which you cannot free your necks.
Then you will not walk so proudly,
for it will be a time of calamity.
4 In that day they will take up a proverb against you
and taunt you with this bitter lamentation:
'We are utterly ruined!
He has changed the portion of my people.
How he has removed it from me!
He has allotted our fields to traitors.' "

5 Therefore, you will have no one in the assembly of the LORD

† **1:11 1:11** *Shaphir* means *pleasant*. ‡ **1:11 1:11** *Zaanan* sounds like the Hebrew for *come out*. § **1:11 1:11** *Beth-ezel* means *adjoining house*. * **1:12 1:12** *Maroth* sounds like the Hebrew for *bitter*. † **1:13 1:13** *Lachish* sounds like the Hebrew term for *team of horses*. ‡ **1:14 1:14** Or *give dowry* § **1:14 1:14** *Moresheth* sounds like the Hebrew for *gift* or *dowry*. * **1:14 1:14** *Achzib* means *deception*. † **1:15 1:15** *Mareshah* sounds like the Hebrew for *conqueror*.

to divide the land by lot.
6 “Do not preach,” they preach.
“Do not preach these things;
disgrace will not overtake us.”
7 Should it be said, O house of Jacob,
“Is the spirit of the LORD impatient?
Are these the things he does?”

Do not my words bring good
to him who walks uprightly?
8 But of late my people have risen up
like an enemy:
You strip off the splendid robe
from unsuspecting passersby
like men returning from battle.
9 You drive the women of my people
from their pleasant homes.
You take away my blessing
from their children forever.

10 Arise and depart,
for this is not your place of rest,
because its defilement brings destruction—
a grievous destruction!
11 If a man of wind were to come
and say falsely,
“I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,”*
he would be just the preacher for this people!
12 I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob;
I will collect the remnant of Israel.
I will bring them together like sheep in a pen,
like a flock in the midst of its pasture—
a noisy throng.
13 One who breaks open the way
will go up before them;
they will break through the gate,
and go out by it.
Their King will pass through before them,
the LORD as their leader.

3

1 Then I said:

“Hear now, O leaders of Jacob,
you rulers of the house of Israel.
Should you not know justice?
2 You hate good and love evil.
You tear the skin from my people
and strip the flesh from their bones.
3 You eat the flesh of my people
after stripping off their skin

* **2:11 2:11** Or *“I will prophesy to you for wine and strong drink”*

and breaking their bones.
You chop them up like flesh for the cooking pot,
like meat in a cauldron."

4 Then they will cry out to the LORD,
but he will not answer them.
At that time he will hide his face from them
because of the evil they have done.
5 This is what the LORD says:

"As for the prophets
who lead my people astray,
who proclaim peace
while they chew with their teeth,
but declare war against one
who puts nothing in their mouths:
6 Therefore night will come over you without visions,
and darkness without divination.
The sun will set on these prophets,
and the daylight will turn black over them.
7 Then the seers will be ashamed
and the diviners will be disgraced.
They will all cover their mouths
because there is no answer from God."

8 As for me, however, I am filled with power
by the spirit of the LORD,
with justice and courage,
to declare to Jacob his transgression
and to Israel his sin.

9 Now hear this, O leaders of the house of Jacob
and rulers of the house of Israel,
who despise justice
and pervert all that is right,
10 who build Zion with bloodshed
and Jerusalem with iniquity.
11 Her leaders judge for a bribe,
her priests teach for a price,
and her prophets practice divination for money.
Yet they lean upon the LORD, saying,
"Is not the LORD among us?
No disaster can come upon us."
12 Therefore, because of you,
Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
and the temple mount a wooded ridge.

4

1 In the days to come the mountain of the house of the LORD
will be established as the chief of the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and the peoples will stream to it.

2 And many nations will come and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

For the law will go forth from Zion
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
3 Then he will judge between many peoples
and arbitrate for strong nations far and wide.
Then they will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation,
nor will they train anymore for war.
4 And each man will sit under his own vine
and under his own fig tree,
with no one to frighten him.
For the mouth of the LORD of Hosts has spoken.
5 Though all the nations
may walk in the name of their gods,
yet we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.
6 “On that day,” declares the LORD,
“I will gather the lame;
I will assemble the outcast,
even those whom I have afflicted.
7 And I will make the lame into a remnant,
the outcast into a strong nation.
Then the LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion
from that day and forever.
8 And you, O watchtower of the flock,
O stronghold* of the Daughter of Zion—
the former dominion will be restored to you;
sovereignty will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem.”

9 Why do you now cry aloud?
Is there no king among you?
Has your counselor perished
so that anguish grips you like a woman in labor?
10 Writhe in agony, O Daughter of Zion,
like a woman in labor.
For now you will leave the city
and camp in the open fields.
You will go to Babylon;
there you will be rescued;
there the LORD will redeem you
from the hand of your enemies!

11 But now many nations
have assembled against you,

* **4:8 4:8** Or *hill*; Hebrew *And you, Migdal-eder, the Ophel*

saying, “Let her be defiled,
and let us feast our eyes on Zion.”
12 But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD
or understand his plan,
for he has gathered them
like sheaves to the threshing floor.
13 Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion,
for I will give you horns of iron
and hooves of bronze
to break to pieces many peoples.
Then you will devote† their gain to the LORD,
their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.
14 Now, O daughter of troops,
mobilize your troops;
for a siege is laid against us!
With a rod they will strike the cheek
of the judge of Israel.

5

1 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are small among the clans* of Judah,
out of you will come forth for me
one to be ruler over Israel—
one whose origins are of old,
from ancient days.†
2 Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers will return
to the children of Israel.

3 He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majestic name of the LORD his God.
And they will dwell securely,
for then his greatness will extend
to the ends of the earth.
4 And he will be our peace‡
when Assyria invades our land
and tramples our citadels.
We will raise against it seven shepherds,
even eight leaders of men.
5 And they will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod at its gateways.§
So he will deliver us
when Assyria invades our land
and marches into our borders.
6 Then the remnant of Jacob will be
in the midst of many peoples
like dew from the LORD,
like showers on the grass,
which do not wait for man

† **4:13 4:13** Or *devote to destruction* * **5:1 5:1** Or *thousands* † **5:1 5:1** Or *from the days of eternity*
‡ **5:4 5:4** Or *their peace* § **5:5 5:5** Or *with the drawn blade*

or linger for mankind.
7 Then the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations,
in the midst of many peoples,
like a lion among the beasts of the forest,
like a young lion among flocks of sheep,
which tramples and tears as it passes through,
with no one to rescue them.
8 Your hand will be lifted over your foes,
and all your enemies will be cut off.

9 "In that day,"
declares the LORD,
"I will remove your horses from among you
and wreck your chariots.
10 I will remove the cities of your land
and tear down all your strongholds.
11 I will cut the sorceries from your hand,
and you will have no fortune-tellers.
12 I will also cut off the carved images
and sacred pillars from among you,
so that you will no longer bow down
to the work of your own hands.
13 I will root out the Asherah poles from your midst
and demolish your cities.
14 I will take vengeance in anger and wrath
upon the nations that have not obeyed me."

6

1 Hear now what the LORD says:

"Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
2 Hear, O mountains, the LORD's indictment,
you enduring foundations of the earth.
For the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will argue it against Israel:

3 'My people, what have I done to you?
Testify against me how I have wearied you!
4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery.
I sent Moses before you,
as well as Aaron and Miriam.
5 My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counseled
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.
Remember your journey from Shittim* to Gilgal,
so that you may acknowledge the righteousness of the LORD.' "

6 With what shall I come before the LORD
when I bow before the God on high?
Should I come to him with burnt offerings,

* **6:5 6:5** Or *Acacia Grove*

with year-old calves?
7 Would the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I present my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for my own sin?

8 He has shown you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you
but to act justly, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?
9 The voice of the LORD calls out to the city
(and sound wisdom regards your name):†
"Heed the rod
and the One who ordained it.
10 Are there still in the house of the wicked
the treasures of wickedness‡
and the short ephah, which is accursed?
11 Can I excuse dishonest scales
or bags of false weights?
12 For the wealthy of the city
are full of violence,
and its residents speak lies;
their tongues are deceitful in their mouths.

13 Therefore I am striking you severely,
to ruin you because of your sins.
14 You will eat but not be satisfied,
and your hunger will remain with you.
What you acquire, you will not preserve;
and what you save, I will give to the sword.
15 You will sow but not reap;
you will press olives but not anoint yourselves with oil;
you will tread grapes but not drink the wine.
16 You have kept the statutes of Omri
and all the practices of Ahab's house;
you have followed their counsel.
Therefore I will make you a desolation,
and your inhabitants an object of contempt;
you will bear the scorn of my people.§"

7

1 Woe is me!

For I am like one gathering summer fruit
at the gleaning of the vineyard;
there is no cluster to eat,
no early fig that I crave.
2 The godly man has perished from the earth;
there is no one upright among men.
They all lie in wait for blood;

† **6:9 6:9** Or *and it is sound wisdom to fear your name,* as in LXX and Syriac ‡ **6:10 6:10** Many translators emend to *Can I forget any longer, O house of the wicked, the treasures of wickedness*
§ **6:16 6:16** LXX *the scorn of the nations*

they hunt one another with a net.
3 Both hands are skilled at evil;
the prince and the judge demand a bribe.
When the powerful utters his evil desire,
they all conspire together.
4 The best of them is like a brier;
the most upright is sharper than a hedge of thorns.
The day for your watchmen has come,
the day of your punishment.*
Now is the time of their confusion.
5 Do not rely on a friend;
do not trust in a companion.
Seal the doors of your mouth
from her who lies in your arms.†
6 For a son dishonors his father,
a daughter rises against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.
A man's enemies are the members
of his own household.
7 But as for me, I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my deliverance.
My God will hear me.

8 Do not gloat over me, my enemy!
Though I have fallen, I will arise;
though I sit in darkness,
the LORD will be my light.
9 Because I have sinned against him,
I must endure the rage of the LORD,
until he argues my case
and executes justice for me.
He will bring me into the light;
I will see his righteousness.
10 Then my enemy will see
and will be covered with shame—
she who said to me,
"Where is the LORD your God?"
My eyes will see her;
at that time she will be trampled
like mud in the streets.

11 The day for rebuilding your walls will come—
the day for extending your boundary.
12 On that day they will come to you
from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,
even from Egypt to the Euphrates,‡
from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.
13 Then the earth will become desolate
because of its inhabitants,
as the fruit of their deeds.
14 Shepherd with your staff your people,

* **7:4 7:4** Or *your visitation* † **7:5 7:5** Hebrew *in your bosom* ‡ **7:12 7:12** Hebrew *the River*

the flock of your inheritance.
They live alone in a woodland,
surrounded by pastures.§
Let them graze in Bashan and Gilead,
as in the days of old.

15 As in the days when you came out of Egypt,
I will show my wonders.
16 Nations will see and be ashamed,
deprived of all their might.
They will put their hands over their mouths,
and their ears will become deaf.
17 They will lick the dust like a snake,
like reptiles slithering on the ground.
They will come trembling from their strongholds
in the presence of the LORD our God;
they will tremble in fear of you.

18 Who is a God like you,
who pardons iniquity
and passes over the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance—
who does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in loving devotion?*
19 He will again have compassion on us;
he will vanquish our iniquities.
You will cast out all their sins†
into the depths of the sea.
20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and loving devotion to Abraham,
as you swore to our fathers
from the days of old.

§ **7:14 7:14** Or *in a woodland, in the midst of Carmel* * **7:18 7:18** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. † **7:19 7:19** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *all our sins*

Nahum

1 This is the burden against Nineveh, the book of the vision of Nahum
the Elkoshite:

2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;
the LORD is avenging and full of wrath.
The LORD takes vengeance on his foes
and reserves wrath for his enemies.
3 The LORD is slow to anger
and great in power;
the LORD will by no means
leave the guilty unpunished.
His path is in the whirlwind and storm,
and clouds are the dust beneath his feet.
4 He rebukes the sea and dries it up;
he makes all the rivers run dry.
Bashan and Carmel wither,
and the flower of Lebanon wilts.
5 The mountains quake before him,
and the hills melt away;
the earth trembles at his presence—
the world and all its dwellers.
6 Who can withstand his indignation?
Who can endure his burning anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire;
even rocks are shattered before him.

7 The LORD is good,
a stronghold in the day of distress;
he cares for those who trust in him.
8 But with an overwhelming flood
he will make an end of Nineveh*
and pursue his enemies into darkness.

9 Whatever you plot against the LORD,
he will bring to an end.
Affliction will not rise up
a second time.
10 For they will be entangled as with thorns
and consumed like the drink of a drunkard—
like stubble that is fully dry.
11 From you, O Nineveh, comes forth
a plotter of evil against the LORD,
a counselor of wickedness.
12 This is what the LORD says:

“Though they are allied and numerous,
yet they will be cut down and pass away.
Though I have afflicted you, O Judah,

* **1:8 1:8** Literally *of her place*

I will afflict you no longer.
13 For I will now break their yoke from your neck
and tear away your shackles."
14 The LORD has issued a command concerning you, O Nineveh:

"There will be no descendants
to carry on your name.
I will cut off the carved image and cast idol
from the house of your gods;
I will prepare your grave,
for you are contemptible."

2

1 Look to the mountains—
the feet of one who brings good news,
who proclaims peace!
Celebrate your feasts, O Judah;
fulfill your vows.
For the wicked will never again march through you;
they will be utterly cut off.
2 One who scatters advances
against you, O Nineveh.
Guard the fortress!
Watch the road!
Brace yourselves!*
Summon all your strength!

3 For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob
like the splendor of Israel,
though destroyers have laid them waste
and ruined the branches of their vine.

4 The shields of his mighty men are red;
the valiant warriors are dressed in scarlet.
The fittings of the chariots flash like fire
on the day they are prepared,
and the spears of cypress
have been brandished.†
5 The chariots dash through the streets;
they rush around the plazas,
appearing like torches,
darting about like lightning.
6 He summons his nobles;
they stumble as they advance.
They race to its wall;
the protective shield is set in place.
7 The river gates are thrown open
and the palace collapses.

8 It is decreed that the city be exiled
and carried away;

* **2:2 2:2** Hebrew *Strengthen your loins!* † **2:4 2:4** Alternately, the spears may be of *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; LXX and Syriac *they are prepared, and the horsemen rush to and fro.*

her maidservants moan like doves,
and beat upon their breasts.
9 Nineveh has been like a pool of water
throughout her days,
but now it is draining away.
"Stop! Stop!" they cry,
but no one turns back.
10 "Plunder the silver!
Plunder the gold!"
There is no end to the treasure,
an abundance of every precious thing.
11 She is emptied!
Yes, she is desolate and laid waste!
Hearts melt, knees knock,
bodies tremble, and every face grows pale!

12 Where is the lions' lair
or the feeding ground of the young lions,
where the lion and lioness prowled with their cubs,
with nothing to frighten them away?
13 The lion mauled enough for its cubs
and strangled prey for the lioness.
It filled its dens with the kill,
and its lairs with mauled prey.

14 "Behold, I am against you,"
declares the LORD of Hosts.
"I will reduce your chariots to cinders,
and the sword will devour your young lions.
I will cut off your prey from the earth,
and the voices of your messengers
will no longer be heard."

3

1 Woe to the city of blood,
full of lies,
full of plunder,
never without prey.
2 The crack of the whip,
the rumble of the wheel,
galloping horse
and bounding chariot!
3 Charging horseman,
flashing sword,
shining spear;
heaps of slain,
mounds of corpses,
dead bodies without end—
they stumble over their dead—
4 because of the many harlotries of the harlot,
the seductive mistress of sorcery,
who betrays nations by her prostitution
and clans by her witchcraft.

5 “Behold, I am against you,”
declares the LORD of Hosts.
“I will lift your skirts over your face.
I will show your nakedness to the nations
and your shame to the kingdoms.
6 I will pelt you with filth
and treat you with contempt;
I will make a spectacle of you.
7 Then all who see you
will recoil from you and say,
‘Nineveh is devastated;
who will grieve for her?’
Where can I find
comforters for you?”

8 Are you better than Thebes,*
stationed by the Nile with water around her,
whose rampart was the sea,
whose wall was the water?
9 Cush† and Egypt were her boundless strength;
Put and Libya were your allies.‡
10 Yet she became an exile;
she went into captivity.
Her infants were dashed to pieces
at the head of every street.
They cast lots for her dignitaries,
and all her nobles were bound in chains.
11 You too will become drunk;
you will go into hiding
and seek refuge from the enemy.

12 All your fortresses are fig trees
with the first ripe figs;
when shaken, they fall
into the mouth of the eater!

13 Look at your troops—
they are like your women!
The gates of your land
are wide open to your enemies;
fire consumes their bars.

14 Draw your water for the siege;
strengthen your fortresses.
Work the clay and tread the mortar;
repair the brick kiln!
15 There the fire will devour you;
the sword will cut you down
and consume you like a young locust.
Make yourself many like the young locust;
make yourself many like the swarming locust!

* **3:8 3:8** Hebrew *No-amon* † **3:9 3:9** That is, the upper Nile region ‡ **3:9 3:9** LXX and Syriac *her allies*

16 You have multiplied your merchants
more than the stars of the sky.
The young locust strips the land
and flies away.
17 Your guards§ are like the swarming locust,
and your marshals* like clouds of locusts
that settle on the walls on a cold day.
When the sun rises, they fly away,
and no one knows where.

18 O king of Assyria, your shepherds slumber;
your officers sleep.
Your people are scattered on the mountains
with no one to gather them.
19 There is no healing for your injury;
your wound is severe.
All who hear the news of you
applaud your downfall,
for who has not experienced
your constant cruelty?

§ **3:17 3:17** Or *princes* * **3:17 3:17** Or *scribes*

Habakkuk

1 This is the burden that Habakkuk the prophet received in a vision:

2 How long, O LORD, must I call for help
but you do not hear,
or cry out to you, “Violence!”
but you do not save?
3 Why do you make me see iniquity?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me.
Strife is ongoing, and conflict abounds.
4 Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.
5 “Look at the nations and observe—
be utterly astounded!*
For I am doing a work in your days
that you would never believe
even if someone told you.
6 For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans†—
that ruthless and impetuous nation
which marches through the breadth of the earth
to seize dwellings not their own.
7 They are dreaded and feared;
from themselves they derive justice and sovereignty.
8 Their horses are swifter than leopards,
fiercer than wolves of the night.
Their horsemen charge ahead,
and their cavalry comes from afar.
They fly like a vulture,
swooping down to devour.
9 All of them come bent on violence;
their hordes advance like the east wind;
they gather prisoners like sand.
10 They scoff at kings
and make rulers an object of scorn.
They laugh at every fortress
and build up siege ramps to seize it.
11 Then they sweep by like the wind
and pass through.
They are guilty;
their own strength is their god.”
12 Are you not from everlasting,
O LORD, my God, my Holy One?
We will not die.
O LORD, you have appointed them

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* **1:5 1:5** LXX *Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish!* † **1:6 1:6** That is, the Babylonians

to execute judgment;
O Rock, you have established them
for correction.
13 Your eyes are too pure to look upon evil,
and you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.
So why do you tolerate the faithless?
Why are you silent
while the wicked swallow up
those more righteous than themselves?
14 You have made men like the fish of the sea,
like creeping things that have no ruler.
15 The foe pulls all of them up‡ with a hook;
he catches them in his dragnet,
and gathers them in his fishing net;
so he rejoices gladly.
16 Therefore he sacrifices to his dragnet
and burns incense to his fishing net,
for by these things his portion is sumptuous
and his food is rich.
17 Will he, therefore, empty his net
and continue to slay nations without mercy?

2

1 I will stand at my guard post
and station myself on the ramparts.
I will watch to see what he will say to me,
and how I should answer when corrected.
2 Then the LORD answered me:

"Write down this vision
and clearly inscribe it on tablets,
so that a herald may run with it.
3 For the vision awaits an appointed time;
it testifies of the end and does not lie.
Though it lingers, wait for it,
since it will surely come and will not delay.*
4 Look at the proud one; his soul is not upright†—
but the righteous will live by faithfulness‡—
5 and wine§ indeed betrays him.
He is an arrogant man never at rest.
He enlarges his appetite like Sheol,
and like Death, he is never satisfied.
He gathers all the nations to himself
and collects all the peoples as his own.
6 Will not all of these take up a taunt against him,
speaking with mockery and derision:

'Woe to him who amasses what is not his
and makes himself rich with many loans!

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‡ **1:15 1:15** Literally *he pulls all of them up* * **2:3 2:3** Or *Though he lingers, wait for him, since he will surely come and will not delay*; see also LXX. † **2:4 2:4** LXX *If he should draw back, my soul has no pleasure in him* ‡ **2:4 2:4** Or *faith* § **2:5 2:5** DSS *wealth*

How long will this go on?'
7 Will not your creditors suddenly arise
and those who disturb you awaken?
Then you will become their prey.
8 Because you have plundered many nations,
the remnant of the people will plunder you—
because of your bloodshed against man
and your violence against the land, the city,
and all their dwellers.

9 Woe to him who builds his house
by unjust gain,
to place his nest on high
and escape the hand of disaster!
10 You have plotted shame for your house
by cutting off many peoples
and forfeiting your life.*
11 For the stones will cry out from the wall,
and the rafters will echo it from the woodwork.

12 Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed
and establishes a town by iniquity!
13 Is it not indeed from the LORD of Hosts
that the labor of the people only feeds the fire,
and the nations weary themselves in vain?
14 For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

15 Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors,
mixing in your venom† until they are drunk,
in order to gaze at their nakedness!
16 You will be filled with shame instead of glory.
You too must drink
and expose your uncircumcision!‡
The cup in the LORD's right hand
will come around to you,
and utter disgrace will cover your glory.
17 For your violence against Lebanon will overwhelm you,
and the destruction of animals will terrify you,
because of your bloodshed against men
and your violence against the land, the city,
and all their dwellers.

18 What use is an idol,
that a craftsman should carve it—
or an image,
a teacher of lies?
For its maker trusts in his own creation;
he makes idols that cannot speak.
19 Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!'

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* **2:10 2:10** Literally *sinning against your soul* † **2:15 2:15** Or *your wrath*; many translators read *pouring it from the wineskin* ‡ **2:16 2:16** DSS, LXX, and Syriac *and stagger*

or to silent stone, ‘Arise!’
Can it give guidance?
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,
yet there is no breath in it at all.”

20 But the LORD is in his holy temple;
let all the earth be silent before him.

3

1 This is a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth:*

2 O LORD, I have heard the report of you;
I stand in awe, O LORD, of your deeds.
Revive them in these years;
make them known in these years.
In your wrath, remember mercy!

3 God came from Teman,
and the Holy One from Mount Paran.
Selah
†
His glory covered the heavens,
and his praise filled the earth.
4 His radiance was like the sunlight;
rays flashed from his hand,
where his power is hidden.
5 Plague went before him,
and fever followed in his steps.
6 He stood and measured the earth;
he looked and startled the nations;
the ancient mountains crumbled;
the perpetual hills collapsed.
His ways are everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in distress;
the curtains of Midian were trembling.
8 Were you angry at the rivers, O LORD?
Was your wrath against the streams?
Did you rage against the sea
when you rode on your horses,
on your chariots of victory?
9 You brandished your bow;
you called for many arrows.
Selah
You split the earth with rivers.
10 The mountains saw you and quaked;
torrents of water swept by.
The deep roared with its voice
and lifted its hands on high.
11 Sun and moon stood still

* **3:1 3:1** *Shigionoth* is probably a musical term indicating the setting for the prayer. † **3:3 3:3** *Selah* or *Interlude* is probably a musical or literary term; also in verses 9 and 13.

in their places
at the flash of your flying arrows,
at the brightness of your shining spear.
12 You marched across the earth with fury;
you threshed the nations in wrath.
13 You went forth for the deliverance of your people,
to save your anointed.
You crushed the head of the house of the wicked
and stripped him from head to toe.
Selah
14 With his own spear you pierced his head,
when his warriors stormed out to scatter us,
gloating as though ready
to secretly devour the weak.
15 You trampled the sea with your horses,
churning the great waters.

16 I heard and trembled within;
my lips quivered at the sound.
Decay entered my bones;
I trembled where I stood.
Yet I must wait patiently for the day of distress
to come upon the people who invade us.
17 Though the fig tree does not bud
and no fruit is on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though the sheep are cut off from the fold
and no cattle are in the stalls,
18 yet I will exult in the LORD;
I will rejoice in the God of my deliverance!
19 GOD the Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like those of a deer;
he makes me walk upon the heights!
For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments.

Zephaniah

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the
son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of
Josiah son of Amon king of Judah:

2 “I will completely sweep away
everything from the face of the earth,”
declares the LORD.
3 “I will sweep away man and beast;
I will sweep away the birds of the air,
and the fish of the sea,
and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.*
I will cut off mankind
from the face of the earth,”
declares the LORD.
4 “I will stretch out my hand against Judah
and against all who dwell in Jerusalem.
I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal,
the names of the idolatrous and pagan priests—
5 those who bow on the rooftops
to worship the host of heaven,
those who bow down and swear by the LORD
but also swear by Milcom,†
6 and those who turn back
from following the LORD,
neither seeking the LORD
nor inquiring of him.”
7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD,
for the Day of the LORD is near.
Indeed, the LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

8 “On the Day of the LORD’s sacrifice
I will punish the princes,
the sons of the king,
and all who are dressed in foreign apparel.
9 On that day I will punish
all who leap over the threshold,‡
who fill the house of their master§
with violence and deceit.
10 On that day,” declares the LORD,
“a cry will go up from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second District,*
and a loud crashing from the hills.
11 Wail, O dwellers of the Hollow,†

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* **1:3 1:3** Or *and the idols with their wicked worshipers* † **1:5 1:5** Or *by their king*; *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7. ‡ **1:9 1:9** See 1 Samuel 5:5. § **1:9 1:9** Or *the temple of their gods* * **1:10 1:10** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh* † **1:11 1:11** Or *the market district* or *the Mortar*

for all your merchants‡ will be silenced;
all who weigh out silver will be cut off.

12 And at that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish the men thickening on their dregs,§
who say to themselves,
'The LORD will do nothing,
either good or bad.'
13 Their wealth will be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
They will build houses but not inhabit them,
and plant vineyards but never drink their wine.

14 The great Day of the LORD is near—
near and coming quickly.
Listen, the Day of the LORD!
Then the cry of the mighty will be bitter.
15 That day will be
a day of wrath,
a day of trouble and distress,
a day of destruction and desolation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness,
16 a day of horn blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities,
and against the high corner towers.
17 I will bring such distress on mankind
that they will walk like the blind,
because they have sinned against the LORD.
Their blood will be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to deliver them
on the Day of the LORD's wrath.
The whole earth will be consumed
by the fire of his jealousy."

For indeed, he will make a sudden end
of all the people living in the land.*

2

1 Gather yourselves, gather together,
O shameful nation,
2 before the decree takes effect*
and the day passes like chaff,
before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you,
before the Day of the LORD's anger comes upon you.
3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth
who carry out his justice.
Seek righteousness; seek humility.

‡ **1:11 1:11** Or *all the people of Canaan* § **1:12 1:12** Or *settled in complacency* * **1:18 1:18** Or *of all who dwell on the earth* * **2:2 2:2** Hebrew *is given birth*

Perhaps you will be sheltered
on the day of the LORD's anger.
4 For Gaza will be abandoned,
and Ashkelon left in ruins.
Ashdod will be driven out at noon,
and Ekron will be uprooted.
5 Woe to the dwellers of the seacoast,
O nation of the Cherethites!
The word of the LORD is against you,
O Canaan, land of the Philistines:
"I will destroy you,
and no one will be left."
6 So the seacoast will become a land of pastures,
with wells† for shepherds and folds for sheep.
7 The coast will belong to the remnant of the house of Judah;
there they will find pasture.
They will lie down in the evening
among the houses of Ashkelon,
for the LORD their God will attend to them
and restore their fortunes.‡
8 "I have heard the reproach of Moab
and the insults of the Ammonites,
who have taunted my people
and threatened their borders.
9 Therefore, as surely as I live,"
declares the LORD of Hosts,
the God of Israel,
"surely Moab will be like Sodom
and the Ammonites like Gomorrah—
a place of weeds and salt pits,
a perpetual wasteland.
The remnant of my people will plunder them;
the remainder of my nation will dispossess them."

10 This they shall have in return for their pride,
for taunting and mocking the people
of the LORD of Hosts.
11 The LORD will be terrifying to them
when he starves all the gods of the earth.
Then the nations of every shore
will bow in worship to him,
each in its own place.
12 "You too, O Cushites,§
will be slain by my sword."

13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north
and destroy Assyria;
he will make Nineveh a desolation,
as dry as a desert.
14 Herds will lie down in her midst,
creatures of every kind.*

† **2:6 2:6** Or *caves* or *camps* ‡ **2:7 2:7** Or *their captives* § **2:12 2:12** That is, people from the upper Nile region * **2:14 2:14** Hebrew *beasts of every nation*

Both the desert owl and screech owl†
will roost atop her pillars.
Their calls will sound from the window,
but desolation will lie on the threshold,
for he will expose the beams of cedar.

15 This carefree city
that dwells securely,
that thinks to herself:
"I am it, and there is none besides me,"
what a ruin she has become,
a resting place for beasts.
Everyone who passes by her
hisses and shakes his fist.

3

1 Woe to the city of oppressors,
rebellious and defiled!
2 She heeded no voice;
she accepted no correction.
She does not trust in the LORD;
she has not drawn near to her God.
3 Her princes are roaring lions;
her judges are evening wolves,
leaving nothing for the morning.
4 Her prophets are reckless,
faithless men.
Her priests profane the sanctuary;
they do violence to the law.
5 The LORD within her is righteous;
he does no wrong.
He applies his justice morning by morning;
he does not fail at dawn,
yet the unjust know no shame.
6 "I have cut off the nations;
their corner towers are destroyed.
I have made their streets deserted
with no one to pass through.
Their cities are laid waste,
with no man, no inhabitant.
7 I said, 'Surely you will fear me
and accept correction.'
Then her dwelling place would not be cut off
despite all for which I punished her.
But they rose early
to corrupt all their deeds.
8 Therefore wait for me,"
declares the LORD,
"until the day
I rise up to plunder.*
For my decision is to gather nations,
to assemble kingdoms,

† **2:14 2:14** The precise identification of the animals rendered *desert owl* and *screech owl* is uncertain.

* **3:8 3:8** LXX and Syriac *rise to testify*

to pour out upon them my indignation—
all my burning anger.
For all the earth will be consumed
by the fire of my jealousy.
9 For then I will restore
pure lips to the peoples,
that all may call upon the name of the LORD
and serve him shoulder to shoulder.
10 From beyond the rivers of Cush†
my worshipers, my scattered people,
will bring me an offering.
11 On that day you will not be put to shame
for any of the deeds
by which you have transgressed against me.
For then I will remove from among you
those who rejoice in their pride,
and you will never again be haughty
on my holy mountain.
12 But I will leave within you a meek and humble people,
and they will trust in the name of the LORD.
13 The remnant of Israel
will no longer do wrong or speak lies,
nor will a deceitful tongue
be found in their mouths.
But they will feed and lie down,
with no one to make them tremble."
14 Sing for joy, O Daughter of Zion;
shout aloud, O Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
O Daughter of Jerusalem!
15 The LORD has taken away your punishment;
he has turned back your enemy.
Israel's King, the LORD, is among you;
no longer will you fear any harm.
16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem:
"Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands fall limp.
17 The LORD your God is among you;
he is mighty to save.
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you with his love;‡
he will rejoice over you with singing."

18 "I will gather those among you who grieve
over the appointed feasts,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
19 Behold, at that time,
I will deal with all who afflict you.
I will save the lame
and gather the scattered;
and I will appoint praise and fame

† **3:10 3:10** That is, the upper Nile region ‡ **3:17 3:17** Or *he will be silent in his love*; LXX and Syriac *he will renew you with his love*

for the disgraced throughout the earth.
20 At that time I will bring you in;
yes, at that time I will gather you.
For I will give you fame and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes§
before your very eyes,"
says the LORD.

§ **3:20 3:20** Or *your captives*

Haggai

1 In the second year of the reign of Darius, on the first day of the sixth
month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet to
Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of
Jehozadak,* the high priest, stating
2 that this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"These people say, 'The time has not yet come
to rebuild the house of the LORD.' "
3 Then the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet, saying:

4 "Is it a time for you yourselves
to live in your paneled houses,
while this house lies in ruins?"
5 Now this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Consider carefully your ways.

6 You have planted much
but harvested little.
You eat but never have enough.
You drink but never have your fill.
You put on clothes but never get warm.
You earn wages to put into a bag pierced through."
7 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Consider carefully your ways.

8 Go up into the hills,
bring down lumber, and build the house,
so that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,
says the LORD.
9 You expected much,
but behold, it amounted to little.
And what you brought home, I blew away.
Why? declares the LORD of Hosts.
Because my house still lies in ruins,
while each of you is busy
with his own house.

10 Therefore, on account of you
the heavens have withheld their dew
and the earth has withheld its crops.
11 I have summoned a drought
on the fields and on the mountains,
on the grain, new wine, and oil,
and on whatever the ground yields,
on man and beast,

* **1:1 1:1** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; also in verses 12 and 14; see Ezra 3:2.

and on all the labor of your hands."
12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jehozadak, the
high priest, as well as all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of
the LORD their God and the words of the prophet Haggai, because the
LORD their God had sent him. So the people feared the LORD.
13 Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, delivered the message of the
LORD to the people:

"I am with you,"
declares the LORD.
14 So the LORD stirred the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor
of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, as well
as the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and began
the work on the house of the LORD of Hosts, their God,
15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of
King Darius.

2

1 On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD
came through Haggai the prophet, saying:
2 "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua
son of Jehozadak,* the high priest, and also to the remnant of the people.
Ask them,
3 'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How
does it look to you now? Does it not appear to you like nothing in
comparison?'

4 But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,
declares the LORD.
Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak,
the high priest.
And be strong, all you people of the land,
declares the LORD.
Work! For I am with you,
declares the LORD of Hosts.
5 This is the promise I made to you
when you came out of Egypt.
And my spirit remains among you;
do not be afraid."
6 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Once more, in a little while,
I will shake the heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land.
7 I will shake all the nations,
and they will come with all their treasures,
and I will fill this house with glory,
says the LORD of Hosts.
8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine,
declares the LORD of Hosts.
9 The latter glory of this house

* **2:2 2:2** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; also in verse 4; see Ezra 3:2.

will be greater than the former,
says the LORD of Hosts.
And in this place I will provide peace,
declares the LORD of Hosts."
10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of
Darius, the word of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet, saying,
11 "This is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'Ask the priests for a ruling.
12 If a man carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and it
touches bread, stew, wine, oil, or any other food, does that item become
holy?' "
"No," replied the priests.
13 So Haggai asked, "If one who is defiled by contact with a corpse
touches any of these, does it become defiled?"
"Yes, it becomes defiled," the priests answered.
14 Then Haggai replied, "So it is with this people and this nation before
me, declares the LORD, and so it is with every work of their hands;
whatever they offer there is defiled.
15 Now consider carefully from this day backward:† Before one stone
was placed on another in the temple of the LORD,
16 from that time, when one came expecting a heap of twenty ephahs of
grain,‡ there were but ten. When one came to the winepress to draw out
fifty baths,§ there were but twenty.
17 I struck you—all the work of your hands—with blight, mildew, and
hail, but you did not turn to me, declares the LORD.
18 Consider carefully from this day forward—from the twenty-fourth
day of the ninth month, the day the foundation of the LORD's temple was
laid—consider carefully:
19 Is there still seed in the barn? The vine, the fig, the pomegranate, and
the olive tree have not yet yielded fruit. But from this day on, I will bless
you."
20 For the second time that day, the twenty-fourth day of the month, the
word of the LORD came to Haggai, saying,
21 "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am about to shake the
heavens and the earth:

22 I will overturn royal thrones
and destroy the power
of the kingdoms of the nations.
I will overturn chariots and their riders;
horses and their riders will fall,
each by the sword of his brother.
23 On that day,
declares the LORD of Hosts,
I will take you, my servant,
Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,
declares the LORD,
and I will make you like my signet ring,
for I have chosen you,
declares the LORD of Hosts."

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† **2:15 2:15** Or *forward* ‡ **2:16 2:16** Literally *a heap of twenty* § **2:16 2:16** Literally *to draw out fifty from the winepress*

Zechariah

1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD
came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, saying:
2 "The LORD was very angry with your fathers.
3 So tell the people that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'Return to
me, declares the LORD of Hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of
Hosts.'
4 Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed
that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'Turn now from your evil ways
and deeds.'
But they did not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.
5 Where are your fathers now? And the prophets, do they live forever?
6 But did not my words and my statutes, which I commanded my
servants the prophets, overtake your fathers? They repented and said,
'Just as the LORD of Hosts purposed to do to us according to our ways and
deeds, so he has done to us.' "
7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat,*
in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet
Zechariah son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo.
8 I looked out into the night and saw a man riding on a red horse. He
was standing among the myrtle trees in the hollow, and behind him were
red, sorrel, and white horses.
9 "What are these, my lord?" I asked.
And the angel who was speaking with me replied, "I will show you what
they are."
10 Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are
the ones the LORD has sent to patrol the earth."
11 And the riders answered the angel of the LORD who was standing
among the myrtle trees, "We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the
earth is at rest and tranquil."
12 Then the angel of the LORD said, "How long, O LORD of Hosts, will you
withhold mercy from Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which you
have been angry these seventy years?"
13 So the LORD spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who was
speaking with me.
14 Then the angel who was speaking with me said, "Proclaim this word:
This is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'I am very jealous for Jerusalem and
Zion,
15 but I am fiercely angry with the nations that are at ease. For I was a
little angry, but they have overdone the punishment.†'
16 Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with
mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt, declares the LORD of Hosts,
and a measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem.'
17 Proclaim further that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'My cities
will again overflow with prosperity; the LORD will again comfort Zion and
choose Jerusalem.' "

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* **1:7 1:7** *Shebat* is the eleventh month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of January and February. † **1:15 1:15** Or *they have added to the calamity*

2

1 Then I looked up and saw four horns.
2 So I asked the angel who was speaking with me, “What are these?”
And he told me, “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.”
3 Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.
4 “What are these coming to do?” I asked.
And he replied, “These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise his head; but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations that have lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it.”
5 Then I lifted up my eyes and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand.
6 “Where are you going?” I asked.
“To measure Jerusalem,” he replied, “and to determine its width and length.”
7 Then the angel who was speaking with me went forth, and another angel came forward to meet him
8 and said to him, “Run and tell that young man: ‘Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the multitude of men and livestock within it.
9 For I will be a wall of fire around it, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory within it.’ ”
10 “Get up! Get up! Flee from the land of the north,” declares the LORD, “for I have scattered you like the four winds of heaven,” declares the LORD.
11 “Get up, O Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the Daughter of Babylon!”
12 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “After glory he has sent me* against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the pupil† of his eye—
13 I will surely wave my hand over them, so that they will become plunder for their own servants. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me.”
14 “Shout for joy and be glad, O Daughter of Zion, for I am coming to dwell among you,” declares the LORD.
15 “On that day many nations will join themselves to the LORD, and they will become my people. I will dwell among you, and you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you.
16 And the LORD will take possession of Judah as his portion in the Holy Land, and he will once again choose Jerusalem.
17 Be silent before the LORD, all people, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”

3

1 Then the angel showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, with the adversary* standing at his right hand to accuse him.
2 And the LORD said to the adversary: “The LORD rebukes you, O adversary! Indeed, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you! Is not this man a firebrand† snatched from the fire?”
3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy garments as he stood before the angel.

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* **2:12 2:12** Or *After he has honored me and sent me* † **2:12 2:12** Or *the apple* * **3:1 3:1** Hebrew *ha-satan*, a title (*the adversary* or *the accuser*), not a proper name; also in verse 2 † **3:2 3:2** That is, *a burning stick*

4 So the angel said to those standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes!”
Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have removed your iniquity, and I will clothe you with splendid robes.”
5 Then I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So a clean turban was placed on his head, and they clothed him, as the angel of the LORD stood by.
6 Then the angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua:
7 “This is what the LORD of Hosts says: ‘If you walk in my ways and keep my instructions, then you will govern my house and will also have charge of my courts; and I will give you a place among these who are standing here.
8 Hear now, O high priest Joshua, you and your companions seated before you, who are indeed a sign. For behold, I am going to bring my servant Zemah.‡
9 See the stone I have set before Joshua; on that one stone are seven eyes.§ Behold, I will engrave on it an inscription, declares the LORD of Hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.
10 On that day, declares the LORD of Hosts, you will each invite your neighbor to sit under your own vine and fig tree.’ ”

4

1 Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and woke me, as a man is awakened from his sleep.
2 “What do you see?” he asked.
“I see a solid gold lampstand,” I replied, “with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven spouts to each of the lamps.*
3 There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left.”
4 “What are these, my lord?” I asked the angel who was speaking with me.
5 “Do you not know what they are?” replied the angel who was speaking with me.
“No, my lord,” I answered.
6 So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of Hosts.
7 What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain. Then he will bring forth the capstone accompanied by shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’ ”
8 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
9 “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you.
10 For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven eyes† of the LORD, which scan the whole earth, will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone‡ in the hand of Zerubbabel.”
11 Then I asked the angel, “What are the two olive trees on the right and left of the lampstand?”
12 And I questioned him further, “What are the two olive branches beside the two gold pipes from which the golden oil§ pours?”

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‡ **3:8 3:8** *Zemah* means *Branch* or *Shoot*; see 6:12. § **3:9 3:9** Or *facets* * **4:2 4:2** Hebrew *seven and seven spouts*; LXX *seven spouts* † **4:10 4:10** Or *facets* ‡ **4:10 4:10** Or *the plumb line* § **4:12 4:12** Hebrew *from which the gold*

13 “Do you not know what these are?” he inquired.
“No, my lord,” I replied.
14 So he said, “These are the two anointed ones* who are standing beside the Lord of all the earth.”

5

1 Again I lifted up my eyes and saw before me a flying scroll.
2 “What do you see?” asked the angel.
“I see a flying scroll,” I replied, “twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide.*”
3 Then he told me, “This is the curse that is going out over the face of all the land, for according to one side of the scroll, every thief will be removed; and according to the other side, every perjurer will be removed.
4 I will send it out, declares the LORD of Hosts, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain inside his house and destroy it, down to its timbers and stones.”
5 Then the angel who was speaking with me came forward and told me, “Now lift up your eyes and see what is approaching.”
6 “What is it?” I asked.
And he replied, “A measuring basket† is going forth.” Then he continued, “This is their eye‡ in all the land.”
7 And behold, the cover of lead was raised, and there was a woman sitting inside the basket.
8 “This is Wickedness,” he said. And he shoved her down into the basket, pushing down the lead cover over its opening.
9 Then I lifted up my eyes and saw two women approaching, with the wind in their wings. Their wings were like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth.
10 “Where are they taking the basket?” I asked the angel who was speaking with me.
11 “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar,§” he told me. “And when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its pedestal.”

6

1 And again I lifted up my eyes and saw four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze.
2 The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses,
3 the third white horses, and the fourth dappled horses—all of them strong.
4 So I inquired of the angel who was speaking with me, “What are these, my lord?”
5 And the angel told me, “These are the four winds* of heaven, going forth from their station before the Lord of all the earth.
6 The one with the black horses is going toward the land of the north, the one with the white horses after them,† and the one with the dappled horses toward the south.”
7 As the strong horses went out, they were eager to go and patrol the earth; and the LORD said, “Go and patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth.

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* **4:14 4:14** Hebrew *the two sons of new oil* * **5:2 5:2** The flying scroll was approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet wide (9.1 meters long and 4.6 meters wide). † **5:6 5:6** Or *An ephah* ‡ **5:6 5:6** Or *their appearance*; one Hebrew manuscript, LXX, and Syriac *their iniquity* § **5:11 5:11** That is, Babylonia * **6:5 6:5** Or *spirits* † **6:6 6:6** A proposed emendation reads *the one with the white horses toward the west*

8 Then the LORD summoned me and said, “Behold, those going to the
land of the north have given rest to my spirit in the land of the north.”
9 The word of the LORD also came to me, saying,
10 “Take an offering from the exiles—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah,
who have arrived from Babylon—and go that same day to the house of
Josiah son of Zephaniah.
11 Take silver and gold, make an ornate crown, and set it on the head of
the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak.‡
12 And you are to tell him that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: ‘Here
is a man whose name is Zemah,§ and he will branch out from his place
and build the temple of the LORD.
13 Yes, he will build the temple of the LORD; he will be clothed in
splendor and will sit on his throne and rule. And there will be a priest on
his throne,* and there will be peaceful counsel between the two.’
14 The crown will reside in the temple of the LORD as a memorial to
Helem,† Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen‡ son of Zephaniah.
15 Even those far away will come and build the temple of the LORD, and
you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you. This will happen
if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

7

1 In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to
Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, the month of Chislev.*
2 Now Bethel-sharezer, with Regem-melech and his men, had sent† to
plead before the LORD
3 by asking the priests of the house of the LORD of Hosts, as well as the
prophets, “Should I weep and fast in the fifth month, as I have done these
many years?”
4 Then the word of the LORD of Hosts came to me, saying,
5 “Ask all the people of the land and the priests, ‘When you fasted and
mourned in the fifth and seventh months for these seventy years, was it
really for me that you fasted?
6 And when you were eating and drinking, were you not doing so simply
for yourselves?
7 Are these not the words that the LORD proclaimed through the earlier
prophets, when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were populous and
prosperous, and the Negev and the foothills‡ were inhabited?’ ”
8 Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying,
9 “This is what the LORD of Hosts says: ‘Administer true justice. Show
loving devotion§ and compassion to one another.
10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor.
And do not plot evil in your hearts against one another.’

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‡ **6:11 6:11** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; see Ezra 3:2. § **6:12 6:12** *Zemah* means *Branch* or *Shoot*; the name plays on *yitsmah, he will branch out*. * **6:13 6:13** Or *And he will be a priest on his throne* † **6:14 6:14** Syriac *Heldai*; see verse 10. ‡ **6:14 6:14** Or *and the gracious*; Syriac *and Josiah*; see verse 10. * **7:1 7:1** *Chislev* is the ninth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of November and December. † **7:2 7:2** Or *the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-melech, along with their men,* ‡ **7:7 7:7** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea § **7:9 7:9** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love, goodness, kindness, faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

11 But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder;
they stopped up their ears from hearing.*
12 They made their hearts like flint and would not listen to the law or to
the words that the LORD of Hosts had sent by his spirit through the earlier
prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of Hosts.
13 And just as he had called and they would not listen, so when they
called I would not listen, says the LORD of Hosts.
14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they
had not known, and the land was left desolate behind them so that no one
could come or go. Thus they turned the pleasant land into a desolation."

8

1 Again the word of the LORD of Hosts came, saying:
2 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "I am jealous for Zion with great
zeal; I am jealous for her with great fervor."
3 This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in
Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the
mountain of the LORD of Hosts will be called the Holy Mountain."
4 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Old men and old women will
again sit along the streets of Jerusalem, each with a staff in hand because
of great age.
5 And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing
there."
6 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "If this is impossible* in the eyes
of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be impossible in
my eyes?" declares the LORD of Hosts.
7 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "I will save my people from the
land of the east and from the land of the west.
8 I will bring them back to dwell in Jerusalem, where they will be my
people, and I will be their faithful and righteous God."
9 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Let your hands be strong, you
who now hear these words spoken by the prophets who were present
when the foundations were laid to rebuild the temple, the house of the
LORD of Hosts.
10 For before those days neither man nor beast received wages, nor was
there safety from the enemy for anyone who came or went, for I had
turned every man against his neighbor.
11 But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as I did in the past,"
declares the LORD of Hosts.
12 "For the seed will be prosperous, the vine will yield its fruit, the
ground will yield its produce, and the skies will give their dew. To the
remnant of this people I will give all these things as an inheritance.
13 As you have been a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and
house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be
afraid; let your hands be strong."
14 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Just as I resolved to bring
disaster upon you when your fathers provoked me to anger, and I did not
relent," says the LORD of Hosts,
15 "so now I have resolved to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do
not be afraid.

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* **7:11 7:11** Hebrew *they made their ears too heavy to hear*
* **8:6 8:6** Or *marvelous*; twice in this verse

16 These are the things you must do: Speak truth to one another, render
true and sound judgments in your gates,
17 do not plot evil in your hearts against your neighbor, and do not love
to swear falsely, for I hate all these things," declares the LORD.
18 Then the word of the LORD of Hosts came to me, saying,
19 "This is what the LORD of Hosts says: The fasts of the fourth, the fifth,
the seventh, and the tenth months will become times of joy and gladness,
cheerful feasts for the house of Judah. Therefore you are to love both
truth and peace."
20 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Peoples will yet come—the
residents of many cities—
21 and the residents of one city will go to another, saying: 'Let us go at
once to plead before the LORD and to seek the LORD of Hosts. I myself am
going.'
22 And many peoples and strong nations will come to seek the LORD of
Hosts in Jerusalem and to plead before the LORD."
23 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "In those days ten men from the
nations of every tongue will tightly grasp the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us
go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.' "

9

1 This is the burden of the word of the LORD
against the land of Hadrach
and Damascus its resting place—
for the eyes of men
and of all the tribes of Israel
are upon the LORD*—
2 and also against Hamath,
which borders it,
as well as Tyre and Sidon,
though they are very shrewd.

3 Tyre has built herself a fortress;
she has heaped up silver like dust,
and gold like the dirt of the streets.
4 Behold, the Lord will impoverish her
and strike down her power on the sea,†
and she will be consumed by fire.

5 Ashkelon will see and fear;
Gaza will writhe in agony,
as will Ekron,
for her hope will wither.
There will cease to be a king in Gaza,
and Ashkelon will be uninhabited.
6 A mixed race will occupy Ashdod,
and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.
7 I will remove the blood from their mouths
and the abominations from between their teeth.
Then they too will become a remnant for our God;

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* **9:1 9:1** Or *for the eye of the LORD is on all men and all the tribes of Israel* † **9:4 9:4** Or *cast her wealth into the sea*

they will become like a clan‡ in Judah,
and Ekron will be like the Jebusites.
8 But I will camp around my house because of an army,
because of those who march to and fro,
and never again will an oppressor overrun my people,
for now I keep watch with my own eyes.
9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,§
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim*
and the horse from Jerusalem,
and the bow of war will be broken.
Then he will proclaim peace to the nations.
His dominion will extend from sea to sea,
and from the Euphrates†
to the ends of the earth.
11 As for you,
because of the blood of your covenant,
I will release your prisoners
from the waterless pit.
12 Return to your stronghold,
O prisoners of hope;
even today I declare
that I will restore to you double.
13 For I will bend Judah as my bow
and fit it with Ephraim.
I will rouse your sons, O Zion,
against the sons of Greece.‡
I will make you like the sword
of a mighty man.
14 Then the LORD will appear over them,
and his arrow will go forth like lightning.
The Lord GOD will sound the ram's horn
and advance in the whirlwinds of the south.
15 The LORD of Hosts will shield them.
They will destroy and conquer with slingstones;
they will drink and roar as with wine.
And they will be filled like sprinkling bowls,
drenched like the corners of the altar.
16 On that day the LORD their God will save them
as the flock of his people;
for like jewels in a crown
they will sparkle over his land.
17 How lovely they will be,
and how beautiful!
Grain will make the young men flourish,
and new wine, the young women.

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‡ **9:7 9:7** Or *like a leader* § **9:9 9:9** Or *righteous and endowed with victory* * **9:10 9:10** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel † **9:10 9:10** Hebrew *the River* ‡ **9:13 9:13** Hebrew *the sons of Javan*

10

1 Ask the LORD for rain in springtime;
the LORD makes the storm clouds,
and he will give everyone showers of rain
and crops in the field.
2 For idols speak deceit
and diviners see illusions;
they tell false dreams
and offer empty comfort.
Therefore the people wander like sheep,
oppressed for lack of a shepherd.

3 “My anger burns against the shepherds,
and I will punish the male goats.*
For the LORD of Hosts attends to his flock,
the house of Judah;
he will make them
like his royal steed in battle.
4 The cornerstone will come from Judah,
the tent peg from him,
as well as the battle bow
and every ruler together.
5 They will be like mighty men in battle,
trampling the enemy in the mire of the streets.
They will fight because the LORD is with them,
and they will put the horsemen to shame.

6 I will strengthen the house of Judah
and save the house of Joseph.
I will restore them because I have compassion on them,
and they will be as though I had not rejected them.
For I am the LORD their God,
and I will answer them.
7 Ephraim will be like a mighty man,
and their hearts will be glad as with wine.
Their children will see it and be joyful;
their hearts will rejoice in the LORD.

8 I will whistle for them to gather,
for I have redeemed them;
and they will be as numerous
as they once were.
9 Though I sow them among the nations,
they will remember me in distant lands;
they and their children
will live and return.
10 I will bring them back from Egypt
and gather them from Assyria.
I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon
until no more room is found for them.
11 He will pass through the sea of distress

* **10:3 10:3** Or *the leaders*

and strike† the waves of the sea;
all the depths of the Nile will dry up.
The pride of Assyria will be brought down,
and the scepter of Egypt will depart.
12 I will strengthen them in the LORD,
and in his name they will walk,"
declares the LORD.

11

1 Open your doors, O Lebanon,
that the fire may consume your cedars!
2 Wail, O cypress,* for the cedar has fallen;
the majestic trees are ruined!
Wail, O oaks of Bashan,
for the dense forest has been cut down!
3 Listen to the wailing of the shepherds,
for their glory is in ruins.
Listen to the roaring of the young lions,
for the thickets of the Jordan are destroyed.
4 This is what the LORD my God says: "Pasture the flock marked for slaughter,
5 whose buyers slaughter them without remorse. Those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the LORD, for I am rich!' Even their own shepherds have no compassion on them.
6 For I will no longer have compassion on the people of the land, declares the LORD, but behold, I will cause each man to fall into the hands of his neighbor and his king, who will devastate the land, and I will not deliver it from their hands."
7 So I pastured the flock marked for slaughter, especially the afflicted of the flock. Then I took for myself two staffs, calling one Favor and the other Union, and I pastured the flock.
8 And in one month I dismissed three shepherds.
My soul grew impatient with the flock, and their souls also detested me.
9 Then I said, "I will no longer shepherd you. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish; and let those who remain devour one another's flesh."
10 Next I took my staff called Favor and cut it in two,† revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations.
11 It was revoked on that day, and so the afflicted of the flock who were watching me knew that it was the word of the LORD.
12 Then I told them, "If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." So they weighed out my wages, thirty pieces of silver.
13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—this magnificent price at which they valued me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.
14 Then I cut in two my second staff called Union, breaking the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.
15 And the LORD said to me: "Take up once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd.
16 For behold, I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will neither care for the lost, nor seek the young, nor heal the broken, nor sustain the

† **10:11 10:11** LXX *They will pass through the sea of distress and strike* * **11:2 11:2** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir* † **11:10 11:10** Or *broke it*; similarly in verse 14

healthy, but he will devour the flesh of the choice sheep and tear off their hooves.

17 Woe to the worthless shepherd,
who deserts the flock!
May a sword strike his arm
and his right eye!
May his arm be completely withered
and his right eye utterly blinded!”

12

1 This is the burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel.
Thus declares the LORD, who stretches out the heavens and lays the foundation of the earth, who forms the spirit of man within him:
2 “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples. Judah will be besieged, as well as Jerusalem.
3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth gather against her, I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who would heave it away will be severely injured.
4 On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and every rider with madness. I will keep a watchful eye on the house of Judah, but I will strike with blindness all the horses of the nations.
5 Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts: ‘The people of Jerusalem are my strength, for the LORD of Hosts is their God.’
6 On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among the sheaves; they will consume all the peoples around them on the right and on the left, while the people of Jerusalem remain secure there.
7 The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and of the people of Jerusalem may not be greater than that of Judah.
8 On that day the LORD will defend the people of Jerusalem, so that the weakest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD going before them.
9 So on that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
10 Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the people of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look to me,* concerning the one they have pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.
11 On that day the wailing in Jerusalem will be as great as the wailing of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.
12 The land will mourn, each clan on its own: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives,
13 the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives,
14 and all the remaining clans and their wives.

* **12:10 12:10** Or *on me*

13

1 “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the
people of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.
2 And on that day, declares the LORD of Hosts, I will erase the names of
the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered. I will also
remove the prophets and the unclean spirit* from the land.
3 And if anyone still prophesies, his father and mother who bore him
will say to him, ‘You shall not remain alive, because you have spoken
falsely in the name of the LORD.’ When he prophesies, his father and
mother who bore him will pierce him through.
4 And on that day every prophet who prophesies will be ashamed of his
vision, and he will not put on a hairy cloak in order to deceive.
5 He will say, ‘I am not a prophet; I work the land, for I was purchased as
a servant in my youth.†’
6 If someone asks him, ‘What are these wounds on your chest‡?’ he will
answer, ‘These are the wounds I received in the house of my friends.’
7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,
against the man who is my companion,
declares the LORD of Hosts.
Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered,
and I will turn my hand against the little ones.
8 And in all the land,
declares the LORD,
two-thirds will be cut off and perish,
but a third will be left in it.
9 This third I will bring through the fire;
I will refine them like silver
and test them like gold.
They will call on my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, ‘They are my people,’
and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’ ”

14

1 Behold, a day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be
divided in your presence.
2 For I will gather all the nations for battle against Jerusalem, and the
city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women violated.* Half of
the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed
from the city.
3 Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as he fights in
the day of battle.
4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of
Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west,
forming a great valley, with half the mountain moving to the north and
half to the south.
5 You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azal. You will
flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.
Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with you.†

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* **13:2 13:2** Or *the spirit of impurity* † **13:5 13:5** Or *I am a farmer, for the land has been my livelihood since my youth.* ‡ **13:6 13:6** Literally *between your hands* * **14:2 14:2** Qere *lain with*; Ketiv *ravished,* a coarser verb † **14:5 14:5** LXX *with him*

6 On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost.‡
7 It will be a unique day known only to the LORD, without day or night;
but when evening comes, there will be light.
8 And on that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it
toward the Eastern Sea§ and the other half toward the Western Sea,* in
summer and winter alike.
9 On that day the LORD will become King over all the earth—the LORD
alone, and his name alone.
10 All the land from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem will be turned
into a plain, but Jerusalem will be raised up and will remain in her place,
from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and
from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses.
11 People will live there, and never again will there be an utter
destruction. So Jerusalem will dwell securely.

12 And this will be the plague with which the LORD strikes all the
peoples who have warred against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while
they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their
tongues will rot in their mouths.
13 On that day a great panic from the LORD will come upon them, so that
each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will rise against
the other.
14 Judah will also fight at Jerusalem, and the wealth of all the
surrounding nations will be collected—gold, silver, and apparel in great
abundance.
15 And a similar plague will strike the horses and mules, camels and
donkeys, and all the animals in those camps.
16 Then all the survivors from the nations that came against Jerusalem
will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to
celebrate the Feast of Booths.†
17 And should any of the families of the earth not go up to Jerusalem to
worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, then the rain will not fall on them.
18 And if the people of Egypt will not go up and enter in, then the rain
will not fall on them;‡ this will be the plague with which the LORD strikes
the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.
19 This will be the punishment of Egypt and of all the nations that do not
go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.
20 On that day, HOLY TO THE LORD§ will be inscribed on the bells of the
horses, and the cooking pots in the house of the LORD will be like the
sprinkling bowls before the altar.
21 Indeed, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD of
Hosts, and all who sacrifice will come and take some pots and cook in
them. And on that day there will no longer be a merchant* in the house of
the LORD of Hosts.

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‡ **14:6 14:6** Qere; Ketiv *the glorious ones will congeal* § **14:8 14:8** That is, the Dead Sea * **14:8 14:8** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea † **14:16 14:16** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22). ‡ **14:18 14:18** Hebrew *then not on them*; rain is implied from verse 17 § **14:20 14:20** That is, *the LORD* * **14:21 14:21** Or *Canaanite*

Malachi

1 This is the burden of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi:*

2 “I have loved you,” says the LORD.
But you ask, “How have you loved us?”
“Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet Jacob I have loved,
3 but Esau I have hated, and I have made his mountains a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.†”
4 Though Edom may say, “We have been devastated, but we will rebuild the ruins,” this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Land of Wickedness, and a people with whom the LORD is indignant forever.
5 You will see this with your own eyes, and you yourselves will say, ‘The LORD is great—even beyond the borders of Israel.’ ”
6 “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. But if I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is your fear of me?” says the LORD of Hosts to you priests who despise my name.
“But you ask, ‘How have we despised your name?’
7 By presenting defiled food on my altar.
But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you‡?’
By saying that the table of the LORD is contemptible.
8 When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is it not wrong? And when you present the lame and sick ones, is it not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you or show you favor?” asks the LORD of Hosts.
9 “But ask now for God’s favor. Will he be gracious? Since this has come from your hands, will he show you favor?” asks the LORD of Hosts.
10 “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would no longer kindle useless fires on my altar! I take no pleasure in you,” says the LORD of Hosts, “and I will accept no offering from your hands.
11 For my name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place, incense and pure offerings will be presented in my name, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD of Hosts.
12 “But you profane it when you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is contemptible.’
13 You also say: ‘Oh, what a nuisance!’ And you turn up your nose at it,” says the LORD of Hosts.
“You bring offerings that are stolen, lame, or sick! Should I accept these from your hands?” asks the LORD.
14 “But cursed is the deceiver who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but sacrifices a defective animal to the Lord. For I am a great King,” says the LORD of Hosts, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

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* **1:1 1:1** *Malachi* means *my messenger.* † **1:3 1:3** Or *to the serpents of the wilderness* or *to the dragons of the wilderness* ‡ **1:7 1:7** LXX *defiled it*

2

1 “And now this decree is for you, O priests:
2 If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to honor my
name,” says the LORD of Hosts, “I will send a curse among you, and I will
curse your blessings. Yes, I have already begun to curse them, because you
are not taking it to heart.
3 Behold, I will rebuke your descendants,* and I will spread dung on
your faces, the waste from your feasts, and you will be carried off with it.
4 Then you will know that I have sent you this commandment so that my
covenant with Levi may continue,” says the LORD of Hosts.
5 “My covenant with him was one of life and peace, which I gave to him;
it called for reverence, and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.
6 True instruction was in his mouth, and nothing false was found on his
lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many
from iniquity.
7 For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and people should
seek instruction from his mouth, because he is the messenger of the LORD
of Hosts.
8 But you have departed from the way, and your instruction has caused
many to stumble. You have violated the covenant of Levi,” says the LORD
of Hosts.
9 “So I in turn have made you despised and humiliated before all the
people, because you have not kept my ways, but have shown partiality in
matters of the law.”
10 Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why then
do we break faith with one another so as to profane the covenant of our
fathers?
11 Judah has broken faith; an abomination has been committed in Israel
and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the LORD’s beloved sanctuary
by marrying the daughter of a foreign god.
12 As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of
Jacob everyone who is awake and aware—even if he brings an offering to
the LORD of Hosts.
13 And this is another thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with
tears, with weeping and groaning, because he no longer regards your
offerings or receives them gladly from your hands.
14 Yet you ask, “Why?”
It is because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of
your youth, against whom you have broken faith, though she is your
companion and your wife by covenant.
15 Has not the LORD made them one, having a portion of the spirit? And
why one? Because he seeks godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your
spirit and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.
16 “For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel. “He who
divorces his wife covers his garment with violence,”† says the LORD of
Hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit and do not break faith.

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words; yet you ask, “How have
we wearied him?”

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* **2:3 2:3** Or *I will blight your grain* † **2:16 2:16** Or *“For the man who hates his wife and divorces her,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “covers his garment with violence,”*

By saying, “All who do evil are good in the sight of the LORD, and in
them he delights,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

3

1 “Behold, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before
me. Then the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple—the
messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight—see, he is coming,” says
the LORD of Hosts.
2 But who can endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when
he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like a launderer's soap.
3 And he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the sons
of Levi and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will present
offerings to the LORD in righteousness.
4 Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will please the LORD, as in
days of old and years gone by.

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. And I will be a swift
witness against sorcerers and adulterers and perjurers, against oppressors
of the widowed and fatherless, and against those who defraud laborers of
their wages and deny justice to the foreigner but do not fear me,” says the
LORD of Hosts.
6 “Because I, the LORD, do not change, you descendants of Jacob have
not been destroyed.
7 Yet from the days of your fathers, you have turned away from my
statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,”
says the LORD of Hosts.
“But you ask, ‘How can we return?’
8 Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!
But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’
In tithes and offerings.
9 You are cursed with a curse, yet you—the whole nation—are still
robbing me.
10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in
my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD of Hosts. “See if I will not open
the windows of heaven and pour out for you blessing without measure.*
11 I will rebuke the devourer† for you, so that it will not destroy the
fruits of your land, and the vine in your field will not fail to produce fruit,”
says the LORD of Hosts.
12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of
delight,” says the LORD of Hosts.
13 “Your words against me have been harsh,” says the LORD. “Yet you ask,
‘What have we spoken against you?’
14 You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What have we gained by
keeping his requirements and walking mournfully before the LORD of
Hosts?
15 So now we call the arrogant blessed. Not only do evildoers prosper,
they even test God and escape.’ ”
16 At that time those who feared the LORD spoke with one another, and
the LORD listened and heard them. So a scroll of remembrance was

* **3:10 3:10** Literally *blessing for which there will be no room* † **3:11 3:11** *The devourer* is probably a name for a crop-destroying pest.

written before him regarding those who feared the LORD and honored his name.
17 “They will be mine,” says the LORD of Hosts, “on the day when I prepare my treasured possession. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.
18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”
19 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble; the coming day will set them ablaze,” says the LORD of Hosts. “Not a root or branch will be left to them.”
20 “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go out and leap like calves from the stall.
21 Then you will trample the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day I am preparing,” says the LORD of Hosts.

22 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances I commanded him for all Israel at Horeb.‡
23 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome§ Day of the LORD.
24 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

‡ **3:22 3:22** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai § **3:23 3:23** Or *dreadful*; LXX *glorious*

Psalms

1

1 Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
or set foot on the path of sinners,
or sit in the seat of mockers.
2 But his delight is in the Teaching of the LORD,
and on his teaching he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
yielding its fruit in season,
whose leaf does not wither,
and who prospers in all he does.

4 Not so the wicked!
For they are like chaff driven off by the wind.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD guards the path of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

2

1 Why do the nations noisily assemble*
and the peoples plot in vain?
2 The kings of the earth take their stand
and the rulers gather together,
against the LORD
and against his anointed:
3 “Let us break their chains
and cast away their cords.”

4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord taunts them.
5 Then he rebukes them in his anger,
and terrifies them in his fury:
6 “I have installed my king on Zion,
upon my holy mountain.”

7 I will proclaim the decree
spoken to me by the LORD:
“You are my son;
today I have become your father.†
8 Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.
9 You will break them‡ with an iron scepter;
you will shatter them like pottery.”

10 Therefore be wise, O kings;

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* **2:1 2:1** Or *rage* † **2:7 2:7** Literally *today I have begotten you* ‡ **2:9 2:9** LXX *you will rule them* or *you will shepherd them*

be admonished, O judges of the earth.
11 Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
12 Do homage in purity,§ lest he be angry
and you perish in your rebellion,
when his wrath ignites in an instant.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

3

1 A Psalm of David, when he fled from his son Absalom.

2 O LORD, how my foes have increased!
How many rise up against me!
3 Many say of me,
"God will not deliver him."
Selah
*
4 But you, O LORD, are a shield around me,
my glory, and the One who lifts my head.
5 To the LORD I cry aloud,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.
Selah
6 I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, for the LORD sustains me.
7 I will not fear the myriads
set against me on every side.

8 Arise, O LORD!
Save me, O my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.
9 Deliverance belongs to the LORD;
may your blessing be on your people.
Selah

4

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

2 Answer me when I call,
O God of my righteousness!
You have relieved my distress;
show me grace and hear my prayer.

3 How long, O men, will my honor be maligned?
How long will you love vanity and seek after lies*?
Selah
4 Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

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§ **2:12 2:12** Or, taking *bar* as Aramaic *son*, *Kiss the son*; a traditional Christian rendering * **3:3 3:3** *Selah* or *Interlude* is probably a musical or literary term; here and throughout the Psalms. * **4:3 4:3** Or *false gods*

5 Tremble and do not sin;†
on your bed, search your heart and be still.
Selah
6 Offer the sacrifices of the righteous
and trust in the LORD.

7 Many ask, “Who can show us the good?”
Shine the light of your face upon us, O LORD.
8 You have filled my heart with more joy
than when grain and new wine abound.
9 I will lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

5

1 For the choirmaster, to be accompanied by flutes. A Psalm of David.

2 Give ear to my words, O LORD;
consider my groaning.
3 Attend to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.

4 In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice;
at daybreak I lay my plea before you
and wait in expectation.

5 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
no evil can dwell with you.
6 The boastful cannot stand in your presence;
you hate all workers of iniquity.
7 You destroy those who tell lies;
the LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

8 But I will enter your house
by the abundance of your loving devotion;*
in reverence I will bow down
toward your holy temple.

9 Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness
because of my enemies;
make straight your way before me.
10 For not a word they speak can be trusted;
destruction lies within them.
Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice flattery.†

11 Declare them guilty, O God;
let them fall by their own devices.
Drive them out for their many transgressions,

† **4:5 4:5** Or *Be angry, yet do not sin* or *In your anger do not sin* * **5:8 5:8** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.
† **5:10 5:10** Or *deceit*

for they have rebelled against you.

12 But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever shout for joy.
May you shelter them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.
13 For surely you, O LORD, bless the righteous;
you surround them with the shield of your favor.

6

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments, according to Sheminith.*
A Psalm of David.

2 O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.
3 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am frail;
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are in agony.
4 My soul is deeply distressed.
But you, O LORD—how long?

5 Turn, O LORD, and deliver my life;
save me because of your loving devotion.
6 For there is no mention of you in death;
who can praise you from Sheol?

7 I am weary from groaning;
all night I flood my bed with weeping
and drench my couch with tears.
8 My eyes fail from grief;
they grow dim because of all my foes.

9 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity,
for the LORD has heard my weeping.
10 The LORD has heard my cry for mercy;
the LORD accepts my prayer.
11 All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed;
they will turn back in sudden disgrace.

7

1 A Shiggaion* of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning the words
of Cush, a Benjamite.

2 O LORD my God, I take refuge in you;
save me and deliver me from all my pursuers,
3 or they will shred me like a lion
and tear me to pieces with no one to rescue me.

4 O LORD my God, if I have done this,
if injustice is on my hands,

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* **6:1 6:1** *Sheminith* is probably a musical term; here and in 1 Chronicles 15:21 and Psalm 12:1. * **7:1 7:1** *Shiggaion* is probably a musical or liturgical term.

5 if I have rewarded my ally† with evil,
if I have plundered my foe without cause,
6 then may my enemy pursue me and overtake me;
may he trample me to the ground
and leave my honor in the dust.
Selah
7 Arise, O LORD, in your anger;
rise up against the fury of my enemies.
Awake for me,‡ and ordain judgment.
8 Let the assembled peoples gather around you;
take your seat over them on high.
9 The LORD judges the peoples;
vindicate me, O LORD,
according to my righteousness and integrity.
10 Put an end to the evil of the wicked,
but establish the righteous,
O righteous God who searches hearts and minds.§

11 My shield is with God,
who saves the upright in heart.
12 God is a righteous judge
and a God who feels indignation each day.
13 If one does not repent,
God will sharpen his sword;
he has bent and strung his bow.
14 He has prepared his deadly weapons;
he ordains his arrows with fire.

15 Behold, the wicked man travails with evil;
he conceives trouble and births falsehood.
16 He has dug a hole and hollowed it out;
he has fallen into a pit of his own making.
17 His trouble recoils on himself,
and his violence falls on his own head.

18 I will thank the LORD for his righteousness
and sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

8

1 For the choirmaster. According to Gittith.* A Psalm of David.

2 O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory
above the heavens.
3 From the mouths of children and infants
you have ordained strength†
on account of your adversaries,
to silence the enemy and avenger.

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† **7:5 7:5** Hebrew *the one at peace with me* ‡ **7:7 7:7** LXX *Awake, O LORD my God* § **7:10 7:10** Hebrew *hearts and kidneys* * **8:1 8:1** *Gittith* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalms 81 and 84. † **8:3 8:3** LXX *you have prepared praise*

4 When I behold your heavens,
the works‡ of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place—

5 what is man that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man that you care for him?
6 You made him a little lower than gods;§
you crowned him with glory and honor.
7 You made him ruler of the works of your hands;
you have placed everything under his feet:
8 all sheep and oxen,
and even the beasts of the field,
9 the birds of the air and the fish of the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

10 O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

9

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Death of the Son." A Psalm of David.*

2 I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;
I will recount all your wonders.
3 I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

4 When my enemies retreat,
they stumble and perish before you.
5 For you have upheld my just cause;
you sit on your throne judging righteously.
6 You have rebuked the nations;
you have destroyed the wicked;
you have erased their name forever and ever.
7 The enemy has come to eternal ruin,
and you have uprooted their cities;
the very memory of them has vanished.

8 But the LORD abides forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.
9 He judges the world with justice;
he governs the people with equity.
10 The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
11 Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

12 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion;

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‡ **8:4 8:4** Leningrad Codex; Aleppo Codex *the work* § **8:6 8:6** Or *than God* or *than the heavenly beings*; LXX *than the angels* * **9:1 9:1** Psalms 9 and 10 together follow an acrostic pattern, each stanza beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. In the LXX they form one psalm.

proclaim his deeds among the nations.
13 For the Avenger of bloodshed remembers;
he does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.†

14 Be merciful to me, O LORD;
see how my enemies afflict me!
Lift me up from the gates of death,
15 that I may declare all your praises—
that within the gates of Daughter Zion
I may rejoice in your deliverance.

16 The nations have fallen into a pit of their making;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.
17 The LORD is known by the justice he brings;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.
Higgaion Selah
‡
18 The wicked will return to Sheol—
all the nations who forget God.
19 For the needy will not always be forgotten;
nor the hope of the oppressed§ forever dashed.

20 Rise up, O LORD, do not let man prevail;
let the nations be judged in your presence.
21 Lay terror upon them, O LORD;
let the nations know they are but men.
Selah

10

1 Why, O LORD, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide in times of trouble?
2 In pride the wicked pursue the needy;
let them be caught in the schemes they devise.

3 For the wicked man boasts in the cravings of his heart;
he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.
4 In his pride the wicked man does not seek him;
in all his schemes there is no God.
5 He is secure in his ways at all times;
your lofty judgments are far from him;
he sneers at all his foes.
6 He says to himself, "I will not be moved;
from age to age I am free of distress."

7 His mouth is full of cursing, deceit,* and violence;
trouble and malice are under his tongue.
8 He lies in wait near the villages;
in ambush he slays the innocent;
his eyes watch in stealth for the helpless.
9 He lies in wait like a lion in a thicket;

† **9:13 9:13** Ketiv; Qere *the humble* ‡ **9:17 9:17** *Higgaion Selah* or *quiet interlude* is probably a musical or liturgical term. § **9:19 9:19** Qere; Ketiv *the humble* * **10:7 10:7** LXX *bitterness*

he lurks to seize the oppressed;
he catches the lowly in his net.
10 He crouches and lies low;†
the helpless fall prey to his strength.
11 He says to himself, “God has forgotten;
he hides his face and never sees.”

12 Arise, O LORD! Lift up your hand, O God!
Do not forget the helpless.‡
13 Why has the wicked man renounced God?
He says to himself, “You will never call me to account.”
14 But you have regarded trouble and grief;
you see to repay it by your hand.
The victim entrusts himself to you;
you are the helper of the fatherless.
15 Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer;
call him to account for his wickedness
until none is left to be found.

16 The LORD is King forever and ever;
the nations perish from his land.
17 You have heard, O LORD, the desire of the humble;
you will strengthen their hearts.
You will incline your ear,
18 to vindicate the fatherless and oppressed,
that the men of the earth
may strike terror no more.

11

1 For the choirmaster. Of David.

In the LORD I take refuge.
How then can you say to me:

“Flee to your mountain, O bird!*
2 For behold, the wicked bend their bows.
They set their arrow on the string
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.
3 If the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?”

4 The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD is on his heavenly throne.
His eyes are watching closely;
they examine† the sons of men.
5 The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked;
his soul hates the lover of violence.
6 On the wicked he will rain down snares, fire and sulfur;‡
a scorching wind will be their portion.

† **10:10 10:10** Qere; Ketiv *They are crushed and beaten down* ‡ **10:12 10:12** Qere; Ketiv *the afflicted*
* **11:1 11:1** LXX, Syriac, and Targum *Flee like a bird to your mountain* † **11:4 11:4** Hebrew *his eyelids examine* ‡ **11:6 11:6** A slight emendation reads *fiery coals and sulfur*

7 For the LORD is righteous; he loves justice.
The upright will see his face.

12

1 For the choirmaster. According to Sheminith.* A Psalm of David.

2 Help, O LORD, for the godly are no more;
the faithful have vanished from among men.
3 They lie to one another;
they speak with flattering lips and a double heart.
4 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips
and every boastful tongue.
5 They say, "With our tongues we will prevail.
We own our lips—who can be our master?"

6 "For the cause of the oppressed
and for the groaning of the needy,
I will now arise," says the LORD.
"I will bring safety to him who yearns."

7 The words of the LORD are flawless,
like silver refined in a furnace of clay,
purified sevenfold.†
8 You, O LORD, will keep them;
you will forever guard him‡ from this generation.
9 The wicked wander freely,
and vileness is exalted among men.

13

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 How long, O LORD?
Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
3 How long must I wrestle in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart each day?
How long will my enemy dominate me?

4 Consider me and respond, O LORD my God.
Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death,
5 lest my enemy say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes rejoice when I fall.

6 But I have trusted in your loving devotion;
my heart will rejoice in your deliverance.
I will sing to the LORD,
for he has been good to me.

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* **12:1 12:1** *Sheminith* is probably a musical term; here and in 1 Chronicles 15:21 and Psalm 6:1.
† **12:7 12:7** A proposed emendation reads *like silver refined in a furnace, like gold purified sevenfold*
‡ **12:8 12:8** LXX *keep us … guard us*

14

1 For the choirmaster. Of David.

The fool* says in his heart,
“There is no God.”

They are corrupt; their acts are vile.
There is no one who does good.

2 The LORD looks down from heaven
upon the sons of men
to see if any understand,
if any seek God.
3 All have turned away,
they have together become corrupt;†
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

4 Will the workers of iniquity never learn?

They devour my people like bread;
they refuse to call upon the LORD.
5 There they are, overwhelmed with dread,
for God is in the company of the righteous.
6 You sinners frustrate the plans of the oppressed,
yet the LORD is their shelter.

7 Oh, that the deliverance of Israel would come from Zion!

When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,‡
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad!

15

1 A Psalm of David.

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy mountain?

2 He who walks with integrity
and practices righteousness,
who speaks the truth from his heart,
3 who has no slander on his tongue,
who does no harm to his neighbor,
who casts no scorn on his friend,
4 who despises the vile
but honors those who fear the LORD,
who does not revise a costly oath,
5 who lends his money without interest
and refuses a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things

* **14:1 14:1** The Hebrew words rendered *fool* throughout the Psalms denote one who is morally deficient. † **14:3 14:3** LXX *worthless* ‡ **14:7 14:7** Or *restores his captive people*

will never be shaken.

16

1 A Miktam* of David.

Preserve me, O God,
for in you I take refuge.

2 You have said to the LORD,† "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."
3 As for the holy ones in the land,
they are the excellence
in whom all my delight resides.
4 Sorrows will multiply
to those who chase other gods.
I will not pour out their libations of blood,
or speak their names with my lips.

5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you have made my lot secure.
6 The lines of my boundary have fallen in pleasant places;
surely my inheritance is delightful.
7 I will bless the LORD who counsels me;
even at night my conscience instructs me.‡

8 I have set§ the LORD always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will dwell securely.*
10 For you will not abandon me to Sheol,†
nor will you let your faithful one see the pit.‡
11 You have made known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

17

1 A prayer of David.

Hear, O LORD, my righteous plea;
listen to my cry.
Give ear to my prayer—
it comes from lips free of deceit.
2 May my vindication come from your presence;
may your eyes see what is right.

3 You have tried my heart;

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* **16:1 16:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalm 16 and Psalms 56–60. † **16:2 16:2** Hebrew *you* is feminine singular, probably addressed to the soul; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *I said* ‡ **16:7 16:7** Or *my heart instructs me*; Hebrew *my kidneys instruct me* § **16:8 16:8** LXX *I foresaw* * **16:9 16:9** LXX *will dwell in hope* † **16:10 16:10** Hebrew *my nefesh, my life* or *my self* ‡ **16:10 16:10** Qere; Ketiv *your faithful ones*; LXX *your holy one see corruption*

you have visited me in the night.
You have tested me and found no evil;
I have resolved not to sin with my mouth.
4 As for the deeds of men—
by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
5 My steps have held to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.

6 I call on you, O God,
for you will answer me.
Incline your ear to me;
hear my words.
7 Show the wonders of your loving devotion,
you who save by your right hand
those who seek refuge from their foes.
8 Keep me as the apple of* your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings
9 from the wicked who assail me,
from my mortal enemies who surround me.

10 They have closed their callous hearts;
their mouths speak with arrogance.
11 They have tracked us down, and now surround us;†
their eyes are set to cast us to the ground,
12 like a lion greedy for prey,
like a young lion lurking in ambush.

13 Arise, O LORD, confront them!
Bring them to their knees;
deliver me from the wicked by your sword,
14 from such men, O LORD, by your hand—
from men of the world
whose portion is in this life.
May you fill the bellies of your treasured ones‡ and satisfy their sons,
so they leave their abundance to their children.

15 As for me, I will behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake, I will be satisfied in your presence.

18

1 For the choirmaster. Of David the servant of the LORD, who sang this song to the LORD on the day the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

2 I love you, O LORD, my strength.

3 The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.
My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my deliverance,

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* **17:8 17:8** Literally *as the pupil, the daughter of* † **17:11 17:11** Qere; Ketiv *me* ‡ **17:14 17:14** Or *May what you have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies*

my stronghold.
4 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
so shall I be saved from my enemies.

5 The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of chaos overwhelmed me.
6 The cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
7 In my distress I called upon the LORD;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry for his help reached his ears.

8 Then the earth shook and quaked,
and the foundations of the mountains trembled;
they were shaken because he burned with anger.
9 Smoke rose from his nostrils,
and consuming fire came from his mouth;
glowing coals blazed forth.
10 He parted the heavens and came down
with dark clouds beneath his feet.
11 He mounted a cherub and flew;
he soared on the wings of the wind.
12 He made darkness his hiding place,
and dark storm clouds of the sky a canopy around him.
13 From the brightness of his presence
his clouds advanced—
hailstones and coals of fire.*

14 The LORD thundered from heaven;
the voice of the Most High resounded—
hailstones and coals of fire.†
15 He shot his arrows and scattered the foes;
he hurled lightning and routed them.
16 The channels of water appeared,‡
and the foundations of the world were exposed,
at your rebuke, O LORD,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

17 He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.
18 He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from foes too mighty for me.
19 They confronted me in my day of calamity,
but the LORD was my support.
20 He brought me out into the open;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

21 The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness;

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* **18:13 18:13** Or *bolts of lightning*; also in verse 14 † **18:14 18:14** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX do not include *—hailstones and coals of fire*; see 2 Samuel 22:14.
‡ **18:16 18:16** 2 Samuel 22:16 *The channels of the sea*

he has repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands.
22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD
and have not wickedly departed from my God.
23 For all his ordinances are before me;
I have not disregarded his statutes.
24 And I have been blameless before him
and kept myself from iniquity.
25 So the LORD has repaid me according to my righteousness,
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

26 To the faithful you show yourself faithful,
to the blameless you show yourself blameless;
27 to the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
28 For you save an afflicted people,
but you humble those with haughty eyes.

29 For you, O LORD, light my lamp;
my God lights up my darkness.
30 For in you I can charge an army,
and with my God I can scale a wall.
31 As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD is flawless.
He is a shield to all who take refuge in him.

32 For who is God besides the LORD?
And who is the Rock except our God?
33 It is God who arms me with strength
and makes my way clear.
34 He makes my feet like those of a deer
and stations me upon the heights.
35 He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

36 You have given me your shield of deliverance;
your right hand upholds me,
and your help exalts me.§
37 You broaden the path beneath me
so that my ankles do not give way.
38 I pursued my enemies and overtook them;
I did not turn back until they were consumed.
39 I crushed them so they could not rise;
they have fallen under my feet.

40 You have armed me with strength for battle;
you have subdued my foes beneath me.
41 You have made my enemies retreat before me;
I destroyed those who hated me.
42 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—
to the LORD, but he did not answer.

§ **18:36 18:36** Or *and your gentleness exalts me* or *and you stoop down to make me great*

43 I ground them as dust in the face of the wind;
I poured them out* like mud in the streets.

44 You have delivered me from the strife of the people;
you have made me the head of nations;
a people I had not known shall serve me.
45 When they hear me, they obey me;
foreigners cower before me.
46 Foreigners lose heart
and come trembling from their strongholds.

47 The LORD lives, and blessed be my Rock!
And may the God of my deliverance be exalted—
48 the God who avenges me
and subdues nations beneath me,
49 who delivers me from my enemies.
You exalt me above my foes;
you rescue me from violent men.
50 Therefore I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations;
I will sing praises to your name.

51 Great victories he brings to his king.†
He shows loving devotion to his anointed,
to David and his descendants forever.

19

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
3 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
4 There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.*
5 Their measuring line† has gone out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens he has pitched
a tent for the sun.
6 Like a bridegroom emerging from his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course,
7 it rises at one end of the heavens
and runs its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

8 The Teaching of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

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* **18:43 18:43** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also 2 Samuel 22:43) *I trampled them*
† **18:51 18:51** Qere; Ketiv *he is a tower of victories for his king* (see 2 Samuel 22:51) * **19:4 19:4** Or *Without speech or language, without a sound to be heard,* † **19:5 19:5** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *their voice*

9 The precepts of the LORD are right,
bringing joy to the heart;
the commandments of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
10 The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true,
being altogether righteous.
11 They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.
12 By them indeed your servant is warned;
in keeping them is great reward.

13 Who can discern his own errors?
Cleanse me from my hidden faults.
14 Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless
and cleansed of great transgression.
15 May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

20

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble;
may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
3 May he send you help from the sanctuary
and sustain you from Zion.
4 May he remember all your gifts
and look favorably on your burnt offerings.
Selah
5 May he give you the desires of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.
6 May we shout for joy at your victory
and raise a banner in the name of our God.
May the LORD grant all your petitions.

7 Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed;
he answers him from his holy heaven
with the saving power of his right hand.
8 Some trust in chariots and others in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
9 They collapse and fall,
but we rise up and stand firm.
10 O LORD, give victory!*
May the King answer us on the day we call.†

* **20:10 20:10** Or *save* † **20:10 20:10** LXX *O LORD, save the king, and answer us on the day we call*

21

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 O LORD, the king rejoices in your strength.
How greatly he exults in your victory!
3 You have granted his heart's desire
and have not withheld the request of his lips.
Selah
4 For you welcomed him with rich blessings;
you placed on his head a crown of pure gold.
5 He asked you for life, and you granted it—
length of days, forever and ever.

6 Great is his glory in your victory;
you bestow on him splendor and majesty.
7 For you grant him blessings forever;
you cheer him with joy in your presence.
8 For the king trusts in the LORD;
through the loving devotion of the Most High,
he will not be shaken.

9 Your hand will apprehend all your enemies;
your right hand will seize those who hate you.
10 You will place them in a fiery furnace
at the time of your appearing.

In his wrath the LORD will engulf them,
and the fire will consume them.
11 You will wipe their descendants from the earth,
and their offspring from the sons of men.

12 Though they intend you harm,
the schemes they devise will not prevail.
13 For you will put them to flight
when your bow is trained upon them.

14 Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength;
we will sing and praise your power.

22

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Doe of the Dawn." A Psalm of David.

2 My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my words of groaning?
3 I cry out by day, O my God,
but you do not answer,
and by night,
but I have no rest.

4 Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.
5 In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted and you delivered them.
6 They cried out to you and were set free;
they trusted in you and were not disappointed.

7 But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the people.
8 All who see me mock me;
they sneer and shake their heads:
9 "He trusts in the LORD,
let the LORD deliver him;
let the LORD rescue him,
since he delights in him."

10 Yet you brought me forth from the womb;
you made me secure at my mother's breast.
11 From birth I was cast upon you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.
12 Be not far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

13 Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
14 They open their jaws against me
like lions that roar and maul.
15 I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are disjointed.
My heart is like wax;
it melts away within me.
16 My strength* is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.
You lay me in the dust of death.

17 For dogs surround me;
a band of evil men encircles me;
like a lion at my hands and feet.
18 I can count all my bones;
they stare and gloat over me.
19 They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

20 But you, O LORD, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.
21 Deliver my life from the sword,
my precious life from the power of wild dogs.
22 Save me from the mouth of the lion;
at the horns of the wild oxen you have answered me!

23 I will proclaim your name to my brothers;

* **22:16 22:16** Or *my mouth*, a possible reading of the original Hebrew text

I will praise you in the assembly.†
24 You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All descendants of Jacob, honor him!
All offspring of Israel, revere him!
25 For he has not despised or detested
the torment of the afflicted.
He has not hidden his face from him,
but has attended to his cry for help.

26 My praise for you resounds in the great assembly;
I will fulfill my vows before those who fear him.
27 The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him.
May your hearts live forever!

28 All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD.
All the families of the nations
will bow down before you.‡
29 For dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.
30 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
even those unable to preserve their lives.
31 Posterity will serve him;
they will declare the Lord to a new generation.
32 They will come and proclaim his righteousness
to a people yet unborn—
all that he has done.

23

1 A Psalm of David.
The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside quiet waters.
3 He restores my life;
he guides me in the paths of righteousness
for the sake of his name.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of deep darkness,*
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Only† goodness and loving devotion will follow me
all the days of my life,

† **22:23 22:23** LXX *I will sing your praises in the assembly* ‡ **22:28 22:28** Syriac *before him* * **23:4 23:4** Or *the valley of the shadow of death* † **23:6 23:6** Or *Surely*

and I will return‡ to the house of the LORD
for many long days.§

24

1 A Psalm of David.

The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof,
the world and all who dwell therein.
2 For he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.

3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up my soul* to falsehood†
or swear deceitfully.
5 He will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from the God of his deliverance.
6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, O Jacob.‡

Selah

7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
Be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of Glory may enter!
8 Who is this King of Glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.
9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
Be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of Glory may enter!
10 Who is he, this King of Glory?
The LORD of Hosts—
he is the King of Glory.

Selah

25

1 Of David.*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
2 in you, my God, I trust.
Do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
3 Surely none who wait for you will be put to shame;
but those who engage in treachery without cause will be disgraced.

4 Show me your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

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‡ **23:6 23:6** So the Masoretic vowels (*ve-shavti*); LXX *and I will dwell*, reading *ve-yashavti* § **23:6 23:6** Hebrew *for length of days*; or *forever* * **24:4 24:4** Some Hebrew manuscripts and ancient versions *his soul. My soul* probably means *my life*, that is, an oath by God. † **24:4 24:4** Or *to an idol* or *to vanity* ‡ **24:6 24:6** LXX, Syriac, and two Hebrew manuscripts *who seek your face, O God of Jacob* * **25:1 25:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

5 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my deliverance;
all day long I wait for you.
6 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and loving devotion,
for they are from age to age.
7 Remember not the sins of my youth,
nor my rebellious acts;
remember me according to your loving devotion,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

8 Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows sinners the way.
9 He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.
10 All the LORD's ways are loving and faithful
to those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
11 For the sake of your name, O LORD,
forgive my iniquity, for it is great.

12 Who is the man who fears the LORD?
He will instruct him in the path chosen for him.
13 His soul will dwell in prosperity,
and his descendants will inherit the land.
14 The LORD confides in those who fear him,
and reveals his covenant to them.
15 My eyes are always on the LORD,
for he will free my feet from the mesh.

16 Turn to me and be gracious,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
17 The troubles of my heart increase;
free me from my distress.
18 Consider my affliction and trouble,
and take away all my sins.
19 Consider my enemies, for they are many,
and they hate me with vicious hatred.

20 Guard my life and deliver me;
let me not be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you.†

22 Redeem Israel, O God,
from all its distress.

26

1 Of David.

Vindicate me, O LORD!

† **25:21 25:21** Or *because my hope is in you*; LXX *because I wait for you, O Lord*

For I have walked with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
2 Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart* and mind.
3 For your loving devotion is before my eyes,
and I have walked in your truth.

4 I do not sit with deceitful men,
nor keep company with hypocrites.
5 I hate the mob of evildoers,
and refuse to sit with the wicked.
6 I wash my hands in innocence
that I may go about your altar, O LORD,
7 to raise my voice in thanksgiving
and declare all your wonderful works.

8 O LORD, I love the house where you dwell,
the place where your glory resides.
9 Do not take me away with sinners,
or my life with men of bloodshed,
10 in whose hands are wicked schemes,
whose right hands are full of bribes.

11 But I will walk with integrity;
redeem me and be merciful to me.
12 My feet stand on level ground;
in the congregations I will bless the LORD.

27

1 Of David.
The LORD is my light and my deliverance—
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
whom shall I dread?
2 When the wicked came upon me to devour my flesh,
my enemies and foes stumbled and fell.
3 Though an army encamps around me,
my heart will not fear;
though a war breaks out against me,
I will keep my trust.

4 One thing I have asked of the LORD;
this is what I desire:
to dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and seek him in his temple.
5 For in the day of trouble
he will hide me in his shelter;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high upon a rock.
6 Then my head will be held high

* **26:2 26:2** Hebrew *my kidneys*

above my enemies around me.
At his tabernacle I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, my voice when I call;
be merciful and answer me.
8 My heart said of you, “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.
9 Hide not your face from me,
nor turn away your servant in anger.
You have been my helper;
do not leave me or forsake me,
O God of my deliverance.

10 Though my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will receive me.
11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path,
because of my oppressors.
12 Do not hand me over to the will of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
breathing out violence.

13 Still I am certain to see
the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
14 Wait patiently for the LORD;
be strong and courageous.

Wait patiently for the LORD!

28

1 Of David.
To you, O LORD, I call;
be not deaf to me, O my Rock.
For if you remain silent,
I will be like those descending to the Pit.
2 Hear my cry for mercy
when I call to you for help,
when I lift up my hands
toward your innermost sanctuary.*

3 Do not drag me away with the wicked,
and with the workers of iniquity,
who speak peace to their neighbors
while malice is in their hearts.
4 Repay them according to their deeds
and for their works of evil.
Repay them for what their hands have done;
bring back on them what they deserve.
5 Since they show no regard for the works of the LORD

* **28:2 28:2** Or *your holy sanctuary* or *your Most Holy Place*

or what his hands have done,
he will tear them down
and never rebuild them.

6 Blessed be the LORD,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
7 The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
Therefore my heart rejoices,
and I give thanks to him with my song.

8 The LORD is their strength,†
a stronghold of deliverance for his anointed.
9 Save your people and bless your inheritance;
shepherd them and carry them forever.

29

1 A Psalm of David.

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,*
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.†

3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is heard over many waters.
4 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.
5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion‡ like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the LORD
strikes with flames of fire.
8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.
9 The voice of the LORD makes the deer to calve§
and strips the forests bare.
And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
11 The LORD gives his people strength;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

30

1 A Psalm. A song for the dedication of the temple. Of David.

2 I will exalt you, O LORD,

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† **28:8 28:8** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *the strength of his people* * **29:1 29:1** Or *sons of God* or *sons of might* † **29:2 29:2** Or *in holy attire* ‡ **29:6 29:6** That is, Mount Hermon § **29:9 29:9** Or *twists the oaks*

for you have lifted me up
and have not allowed my foes
to rejoice over me.
3 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you healed me.
4 O LORD, you pulled me up from Sheol;
you spared me from descending into the Pit.

5 Sing to the LORD, O you his godly ones,
and praise his holy name.*
6 For his anger is fleeting,
but his favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping may stay the night,
but joy comes in the morning.

7 In prosperity I said,
"I will never be shaken."
8 O LORD, you favored me;
you made my mountain stand strong.

When you hid your face,
I was dismayed.
9 To you, O LORD, I called,
and I begged my Lord for mercy:
10 "What gain is there in my bloodshed,†
in my descent to the Pit?‡
Will the dust praise you?
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?
11 Hear me, O LORD, and have mercy;
O LORD, be my helper."

12 You turned my mourning into dancing;
you peeled off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
13 that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks forever.

31

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
save me by your righteousness.
3 Incline your ear to me;
come quickly to my rescue.
Be my rock of refuge,
the stronghold of my deliverance.

4 For you are my rock and my fortress;
lead me and guide me for the sake of your name.
5 You free me from the net laid out for me,

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* **30:5 30:5** Or *and praise the memorial of his holiness*; see Exodus 3:15. † **30:10 30:10** Or *in my destruction* ‡ **30:10 30:10** Or *to corruption*

for you are my refuge.
6 Into your hands I commit my spirit; you
have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

7 I hate* those who cling to worthless idols,
but in the LORD I trust.
8 I will be glad and rejoice in your loving devotion,
for you have seen my affliction;
you have known the anguish of my soul.
9 You have not delivered me to the enemy;
you have set my feet in the open.

10 Be merciful to me, O LORD,
for I am in distress;
my eyes fail from sorrow,
my soul and body as well.
11 For my life is consumed with grief
and my years with groaning;
my iniquity has drained my strength,
and my bones are wasting away.
12 Among all my enemies I am a disgrace,
and among my neighbors even more.
I am dreaded by my friends—
they flee when they see me on the street.
13 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind.
I am like a broken vessel.
14 For I hear the slander of many;
there is terror on every side.
They conspire against me
and plot to take my life.

15 But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my God.”
16 My times are in your hands;
deliver me from my enemies
and from those who pursue me.
17 Make your face shine on your servant;
save me by your loving devotion.

18 O LORD, let me not be ashamed,
for I have called on you.
Let the wicked be put to shame;
let them lie silent in Sheol.
19 May lying lips be silenced—
lips that speak with arrogance against the righteous,
full of pride and contempt.

20 How great is your goodness
which you have laid up for those who fear you,
which you have bestowed before the sons of men
on those who take refuge in you!

* **31:7 31:7** One Hebrew manuscript, LXX, and Syriac *you hate*

21 You hide them in the secret place of your presence
from the schemes of men.
You conceal them in your shelter
from accusing tongues.

22 Blessed be the LORD,
for he has shown me his loving devotion
in a city under siege.
23 In my alarm I said,
"I am cut off from your sight!"
But you heard my plea for mercy
when I called to you for help.

24 Love the LORD, all his godly ones.
The LORD preserves the faithful,
but fully repays the arrogant.
25 Be strong and courageous,
all you who hope in the LORD.

32

1 Of David. A Maskil.*

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.†
2 Blessed is the man
whose iniquity the LORD does not count against him,‡
in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 When I kept silent, my bones became brittle
from my groaning all day long.
4 For day and night
your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was drained§
as in the summer heat.
Selah
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not hide my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Selah
6 Therefore let all the godly pray to you
while you may be found.
Surely when great waters rise,
they will not come near.
7 You are my hiding place.
You protect me from trouble;
you surround me with songs of deliverance.
Selah
8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

* **32:1 32:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142. † **32:1 32:1** LXX *Blessed is he whose lawless acts are forgiven, whose sins are covered* ‡ **32:2 32:2** LXX *Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him* § **32:4 32:4** Or *my vitality was turned*

I will give you counsel and watch over you.
9 Do not be like the horse or mule,
which have no understanding;
they must be controlled with bit and bridle
to make them come to you.
10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but loving devotion surrounds him who trusts in the LORD.

11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous ones;
shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

33

1 Rejoice in the LORD, O righteous ones;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
2 Praise the LORD with the harp;
make music to him with ten strings.
3 Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully with a shout of joy.

4 For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is trustworthy.
5 The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his loving devotion.

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and all the stars by the breath of his mouth.
7 He piles up the waters of the sea;
he puts the depths into storehouses.
8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.
9 For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

10 The LORD frustrates the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the devices of the peoples.
11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the purposes of his heart to all generations.
12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he has chosen as his inheritance!

13 The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the sons of men.
14 From his dwelling place he gazes
on all who inhabit the earth.
15 He shapes the hearts of each;
he considers all their works.
16 No king is saved by his vast army;
no warrior is delivered by his great strength.
17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
even its great strength cannot save.

18 Surely the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,

on those whose hope is in his loving devotion
19 to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.

20 Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
21 For our hearts rejoice in him,
since we trust in his holy name.
22 May your loving devotion rest on us, O LORD,
as we put our hope in you.

34

1 Of David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech,* so that the king drove him away.†

2 I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
3 My soul boasts in the LORD;
let the oppressed hear and rejoice.
4 Magnify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.

5 I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
6 Those who look to him are radiant with joy;
their faces shall never be ashamed.
7 This poor man called out, and the LORD heard him;
he saved him from all his troubles.
8 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

9 Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
10 Fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
11 Young lions go lacking and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
12 Come, children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

13 Who is the man who delights in life,
who desires to see good days?
14 Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from deceitful speech.
15 Turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.
16 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are inclined to their cry.‡
17 But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil,

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* **34:1 34:1** *Abimelech* is another name for *Achish*; see 1 Samuel 21–29 and 1 Kings 2:39. † **34:1 34:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. ‡ **34:16 34:16** LXX *to their prayer*

to wipe out all memory of them from the earth.

18 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
19 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted;
he saves the contrite in spirit.

20 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him from them all.
21 He protects all his bones;
not one of them will be broken.

22 Evil will slay the wicked,
and the haters of the righteous will be condemned.
23 The LORD redeems his servants,
and none who take refuge in him will be condemned.

35

1 Of David.

Contend with my opponents, O LORD;
fight against those who fight against me.
2 Take up your shield and buckler;
arise and come to my aid.
3 Draw the spear and javelin* against my pursuers;
say to my soul: “I am your deliverance.”

4 May those who seek my life
be disgraced and put to shame;
may those who plan to harm me
be driven back and confounded.
5 May they be like chaff in the wind,
as the angel of the LORD drives them away.
6 May their path be dark and slick,
as the angel of the LORD pursues.
7 For without cause they laid their net for me;
without reason they dug a pit for my life.
8 May ruin befall them by surprise;
may the net they hid ensnare them;
may they fall into the hazard they created.

9 Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD
and exult in his deliverance.
10 All my bones will exclaim,
“Who is like you, O LORD,
who delivers the afflicted from the aggressor,
the poor and needy from the robber?”

11 Hostile witnesses come forward;
they make charges I know nothing about.
12 They repay me evil for good,
to the bereavement of my soul.

* **35:3 35:3** Or *and close the way*

13 Yet when they were ill,
I put on sackcloth;
I humbled myself with fasting,
but my prayers returned unanswered.†
14 I paced about
as for my friend or brother;
I was bowed down with grief,
like one mourning for his mother.
15 But when I stumbled, they assembled in glee;
they gathered together against me.
Assailants I did not know
slandered me without ceasing.
16 Like a godless circle of mockers,‡
they gnashed their teeth at me.

17 How long, O Lord, will you look on?
Rescue my life from their ravages,
my precious life from these lions.
18 Then I will give you thanks in the great assembly;
I will praise you among many people.
19 Let not my enemies gloat over me without cause,
nor those who hate me without reason wink in malice.
20 For they do not speak peace,
but they devise deceitful schemes
against those who live quietly in the land.
21 They gape at me and say,
“Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen!”

22 O LORD, you have seen it; be not silent.
O Lord, be not far from me.
23 Awake and rise to my defense,
to my cause, my God and my Lord!
24 Vindicate me by your righteousness, O LORD my God,
and do not let them gloat over me.
25 Let them not say in their hearts,
“Aha, just what we wanted!”
Let them not say,
“We have swallowed him up!”

26 May those who gloat in my distress
be ashamed and confounded;
may those who exalt themselves over me
be clothed in shame and reproach.
27 May those who favor my vindication
shout for joy and gladness;
may they always say, “Exalted be the LORD
who delights in his servant’s well-being.”

28 Then my tongue will proclaim your righteousness
and your praises all day long.

† **35:13 35:13** Literally *returned to my bosom* ‡ **35:16 35:16** Or *Like godless jesters at a feast,*

36

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD.

2 An oracle is in my heart
regarding the transgression of the wicked man:
There is no fear of God
before his eyes.
3 For his eyes are too full of conceit
to detect or hate his own sin.
4 The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful;
he has ceased to be wise and well-doing.
5 Even on his bed he plots wickedness;
he sets himself on a path that is not good;
he fails to reject evil.

6 Your loving devotion, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
7 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains;
your judgments are like the deepest sea.
O LORD, you preserve man and beast.
8 How precious is your loving devotion, O God,
that the children of men take refuge
in the shadow of your wings!
9 They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from your river of delights.
10 For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

11 Extend your loving devotion to those who know you,
and your righteousness to the upright in heart.
12 Let not the foot of the proud come against me,
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.
13 There the evildoers lie fallen,
thrown down and unable to rise.

37

1 Of David.*
Do not fret over those who do evil;
do not envy those who do wrong.
2 For they wither quickly like grass
and wilt like tender plants.

3 Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.
4 Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will do it.
6 He will bring forth your righteousness like the dawn,
your justice like the noonday sun.

* **37:1 37:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each stanza beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

7 Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when men prosper in their ways,
when they carry out wicked schemes.

8 Refrain from anger and abandon wrath;
do not fret—it can only bring harm.
9 For the evildoers will be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

10 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.
11 But the meek will inherit the land†
and delight in abundant prosperity.

12 The wicked scheme against the righteous
and gnash their teeth at them,
13 but the Lord laughs,
seeing that their day is coming.

14 The wicked have drawn the sword
and bent the bow
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose ways are upright.
15 But their swords will pierce their own hearts,
and their bows will be broken.

16 Better is the little of the righteous
than the abundance of many who are wicked.
17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.

18 The LORD knows the days of the blameless,
and their inheritance will last forever.
19 In the time of evil they will not be ashamed,
and in the days of famine they will be satisfied.

20 But the wicked and enemies of the LORD
will perish like the glory of the fields.
They will vanish;
like smoke they will fade away.

21 The wicked borrow and do not repay,
but the righteous are gracious and giving.
22 Surely those he blesses will inherit the land,
but the cursed will be destroyed.

23 The steps of a man are ordered by the LORD
who takes delight in his journey.
24 Though he falls, he will not be overwhelmed,
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.‡

† **37:11 37:11** Or *the earth* ‡ **37:24 37:24** Or *is holding his hand*

25 I once was young and now am old,
yet never have I seen the righteous abandoned
or their children begging for bread.
26 They are ever generous and quick to lend,
and their children are a blessing.

27 Turn away from evil and do good,
so that you will abide forever.
28 For the LORD loves justice
and will not forsake his godly ones.
They are preserved forever,
but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off.
29 The righteous will inherit the land
and dwell in it forever.

30 The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks justice.
31 The law of his God is in his heart;
his steps do not falter.

32 Though the wicked lie in wait for the righteous,
and seek to slay them,
33 the LORD will not leave them in their power
or let them be condemned under judgment.

34 Wait for the LORD and keep his way,
and he will raise you up to inherit the land.
When the wicked are cut off,
you will see it.

35 I have seen a wicked, ruthless man
flourishing like a well-rooted native tree,
36 yet he passed away and was no more;
though I searched, he could not be found.

37 Consider the blameless and observe the upright,
for there is a future for the man of peace.§
38 But the transgressors will all be destroyed;
the future of the wicked will be cut off.

39 The deliverance of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
40 The LORD helps and delivers them;
he rescues and saves them from the wicked,
because they take refuge in him.

38

1 A Psalm of David, for remembrance.

2 O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.

§ **37:37 37:37** Or *for posterity awaits the man of peace*

3 For your arrows have pierced me deeply,
and your hand has pressed down on me.

4 There is no soundness in my body
because of your anger;
there is no rest in my bones
because of my sin.
5 For my iniquities have overwhelmed me;
they are a burden too heavy to bear.
6 My wounds are foul and festering
because of my sinful folly.
7 I am bent and brought low;
all day long I go about mourning.
8 For my loins are full of burning pain,
and no soundness remains in my body.
9 I am numb and badly crushed;
I groan in anguish of heart.

10 O Lord, my every desire is before you;
my groaning is not hidden from you.
11 My heart pounds, my strength fails,
and even the light of my eyes has faded.
12 My beloved and friends shun my disease,
and my kinsmen stand at a distance.
13 Those who seek my life lay snares;
those who wish me harm speak destruction,
plotting deceit all day long.

14 But like a deaf man, I do not hear;
and like a mute man, I do not open my mouth.
15 I am like a man who cannot hear,
whose mouth offers no reply.
16 I wait for you, O LORD;
you will answer, O Lord my God.
17 For I said, “Let them not gloat over me—
those who taunt me when my foot slips.”

18 For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever with me.
19 Yes, I confess my iniquity;
I am troubled by my sin.
20 My enemies are vigorous and strong,*
and many hate me without reason.
21 Those who repay my good with evil
attack me for pursuing the good.

22 Do not forsake me, O LORD;
be not far from me, O my God.
23 Come quickly to help me,
O Lord my Savior.

* **38:20 38:20** One DSS manuscript *Many are my enemies without cause*

39

1 For the choirmaster. For Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

2 I said, “I will watch my ways
so that I will not sin with my tongue;
I will guard my mouth with a muzzle
as long as the wicked are present.”
3 I was speechless and still;
I remained silent, even from speaking good,
and my sorrow was stirred.
4 My heart grew hot within me;
as I mused, the fire burned.

Then I spoke with my tongue:

5 “Show me, O LORD, my end
and the measure of my days.
Let me know how fleeting my life is.
6 You, indeed, have made my days as handbreadths,
and my lifetime as nothing before you.
Truly each man at his best
exists as but a breath.
Selah
7 Surely every man goes about like a phantom;
surely he bustles in vain;
he heaps up riches
not knowing who will haul them away.

8 And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.
9 Deliver me from all my transgressions;
do not make me the reproach of fools.
10 I have become mute;
I do not open my mouth
because of what you have done.
11 Remove your scourge from me;
I am perishing by the force of your hand.
12 You discipline and correct a man for his iniquity,
consuming like a moth what he holds dear;
surely each man is but a vapor.
Selah

13 Hear my prayer, O LORD,
and give ear to my cry for help;
do not be deaf to my weeping.
For I am a foreigner dwelling with you,
a stranger like all my fathers.
14 Turn your gaze away from me,
that I may again be cheered
before I depart and am no more.”

40

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
3 He lifted me up from the pit of despair,
out of the miry clay;
he set my feet upon a rock,
and made my footsteps firm.
4 He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the LORD.

5 Blessed is the man
who has made the LORD his trust,
who has not turned to the proud,
nor to those who lapse into falsehood.*
6 Many, O LORD my God,
are the wonders you have done,
and the plans you have for us—
none can compare to you—
if I proclaim and declare them,
they are more than I can count.

7 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but my ears you have opened.†
Burnt offerings and purification offerings
you did not require.
8 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—
it is written about me in the scroll:
9 I delight to do your will, O my God; your
law is within my heart."

10 I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly;
behold, I do not seal my lips,
as you, O LORD, do know.
11 I have not covered up your righteousness in my heart;
I have declared your faithfulness and deliverance;
I have not concealed your loving devotion and faithfulness
from the great assembly.

12 O LORD, do not withhold your mercy from me;
your loving devotion and faithfulness will always guard me.
13 For evils without number surround me;
my sins have overtaken me, so that I cannot see.
They are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart has failed within me.
14 Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me;
hurry, O LORD, to help me.

15 May those who seek my life
be ashamed and confounded;

* **40:5 40:5** Or *who turn aside to false gods* or *who run after lies* † **40:7 40:7** Some LXX manuscripts *but a body you prepared for me*

may those who wish me harm
be repelled and humiliated.
16 May those who say to me, “Aha, aha!”
be appalled at their own shame.
17 May all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your deliverance
always say, “The LORD be magnified!”

18 But I am poor and needy;
may the Lord think of me.
You are my helper and deliverer;
O my God, do not delay.

41

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 Blessed is the one who cares for the poor;
the LORD will deliver him in the day of trouble.
3 The LORD will protect and preserve him;
he will bless him in the land
and refuse to give him over
to the will of his foes.
4 The LORD will sustain him on his bed of illness
and restore him from his bed of sickness.

5 I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you.”
6 My enemies say with malice:
“When will he die and be forgotten?”
7 My visitor speaks falsehood;
he gathers slander in his heart;
he goes out and spreads it abroad.
8 All who hate me whisper against me;
they imagine the worst for me:
9 “A vile disease has been poured into him;
he will never get up from where he lies!”
10 Even my close friend whom I trusted,
the one who shared my bread,
has lifted up his heel against me.

11 But you, O LORD, be gracious to me and raise me up,
that I may repay them.
12 By this I know that you delight in me,
for my enemy does not triumph over me.
13 In my integrity you uphold me
and set me in your presence forever.

14 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen and Amen.

42

1 For the choirmaster. A Maskil of the sons of Korah.*

2 As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul longs after you, O God.
3 My soul thirsts for God, the living God.
When shall I come and appear in God's presence?†
4 My tears have been my food
both day and night,
while men ask me all day long,
"Where is your God?"
5 These things come to mind as I pour out my soul:
how I walked with the multitude,
leading the festive procession to the house of God
with shouts of joy and praise.

6 Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why the unease within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him
for the deliverance his presence brings.

7 O my God, my soul despairs within me.
Therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and the peaks of Hermon—
even from Mount Mizar.
8 Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your breakers and waves
have rolled over me.
9 The LORD decrees his loving devotion by day,
and at night his song is with me
as a prayer to the God of my life.

10 I say to God my Rock,
"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk in sorrow
because of the enemy's oppression?"
11 Like the crushing of my bones,
my enemies taunt me,
while they say to me all day long,
"Where is your God?"

12 Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why the unease within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

43

1 Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case

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* **42:1 42:1** In many Hebrew manuscripts Psalms 42 and 43 constitute one psalm. *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142. † **42:3 42:3** With different vowels *and see the face of God?*

against an ungodly nation;
deliver me from deceitful and unjust men.
2 For you are the God of my refuge.
Why have you rejected me?
Why must I walk in sorrow
because of the enemy's oppression?

3 Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain
and to the place where you dwell.
4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God, my greatest joy.
I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.

5 Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why the unease within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

44

1 For the choirmaster. A Maskil* of the sons of Korah.

2 We have heard with our ears, O God;
our fathers have told us
the work you did in their days,
in the days of old.
3 With your hand you drove out the nations
and planted our fathers there;
you crushed the peoples
and cast them out.
4 For it was not by their sword that they took the land;
their arm did not bring them victory.
It was by your right hand,
your arm, and the light of your face,
because you favored them.

5 You are my King, O God;
ordain victories for Jacob!†
6 Through you we repel our foes;
through your name we trample our enemies.
7 For I do not trust in my bow,
nor does my sword give me victory.‡
8 For you give us victory from our enemies;
you put those who hate us to shame.
9 In God we have boasted all day long,
and your name we will praise forever.

Selah

10 But you have rejected and humbled us;

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* **44:1 44:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142. † **44:5 44:5** LXX *who ordains* ‡ **44:7 44:7** Or *save me*; similarly in verse 8

you no longer go forth with our armies.
11 You have made us retreat from the foe,
and those who hate us have plundered us.
12 You have given us up as sheep to be devoured;
you have scattered us among the nations.
13 You sell your people for nothing;
no profit do you gain from their sale.

14 You have made us a reproach to our neighbors,
a mockery and derision to those around us.
15 You have made us a byword among the nations,
a laughingstock§ among the peoples.
16 All day long my disgrace is before me,
and shame has covered my face,
17 at the voice of the scorner and reviler,
because of the enemy, bent on revenge.

18 All this has come upon us,
though we have not forgotten you
or betrayed your covenant.
19 Our hearts have not turned back;
our steps have not strayed from your path.
20 But you have crushed us in the lair of dragons;*
you have covered us with deepest darkness.

21 If we had forgotten the name of our God
or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
22 would not God have discovered,
since he knows the secrets of the heart?
23 Yet for your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

24 Wake up, O Lord! Why are you sleeping?
Arise! Do not reject us forever.
25 Why do you hide your face
and forget our affliction and oppression?
26 For our soul has sunk to the dust;
our bodies cling to the earth.
27 Rise up; be our help!
Redeem us on account of your loving devotion.

45

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Lilies." A Maskil* of the sons of Korah. A love song.

2 My heart is stirred by a noble theme
as I recite my verses to the king;
my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.
3 You are the most handsome of men;

§ **44:15 44:15** Literally *a shaking of the head* * **44:20 44:20** Or *jackals* or *serpents* * **45:1 45:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142.

grace has anointed your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.
4 Strap your sword at your side, O mighty warrior;
appear in your majesty and splendor.
5 In your splendor ride forth in victory
on behalf of truth and humility and justice;
may your right hand show your awesome deeds.
6 Your arrows pierce the hearts of the king's foes;
the nations fall beneath your feet.

7 Your God-given throne endures forever and ever,†
and justice is the scepter of your kingdom.
8 You have loved righteousness
and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
above your companions with the oil of joy.

9 All your garments are fragrant
with myrrh and aloes and cassia;
from palaces of ivory the harps make you glad.
10 The daughters of kings are among your honored women;
the queen stands at your right hand,
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

11 Listen, O daughter! Consider and incline your ear:
Forget your people and your father's house,
12 and the king will desire your beauty;
bow to him, for he is your lord.
13 The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift;
men of wealth will seek your favor.

14 All glorious is the princess in her chamber;
her gown is embroidered with gold.
15 In colorful garments she is led to the king;
her virgin companions are brought before you.
16 They are led in with joy and gladness;
they enter the palace of the king.

17 Your sons will succeed your fathers;
you will make them princes throughout the land.
18 I will commemorate your name through all generations;
therefore the nations will praise you forever and ever.

46

1 For the choirmaster. Of the sons of Korah. According to Alamoth.* A song.

2 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in times of trouble.
3 Therefore we will not fear,

† **45:7 45:7** Or *your throne, O God, endures forever and ever*

* **46:1 46:1** *Alamoth* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in 1 Chronicles 15:20.

though the earth is transformed
and the mountains are toppled
into the depths of the seas,
4 though their waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake in the surge.

Selah

5 There is a river whose streams delight the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
6 God is within her; she will not be moved.
God will help her when morning dawns.
7 Nations rage, kingdoms crumble;
the earth melts when he lifts his voice.
8 The LORD of Hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Selah

9 Come, see the works of the LORD,
who brings devastation upon the earth.
10 He makes wars to cease throughout the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots† in the fire.

11 "Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted over the earth."

12 The LORD of Hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Selah

47

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

2 Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout unto God with a voice of triumph.

3 How awesome is the LORD Most High,
the great King over all the earth!
4 He subdues nations beneath us,
and peoples under our feet.
5 He chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.

Selah

6 God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the LORD with the sound of the horn.
7 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises!
8 For God is King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.*

9 God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
10 The nobles of the nations have assembled

† **46:10 46:10** Or *shields* * **47:8 47:8** Or *sing a Maskil of praise* or *sing praises with understanding*

as the people of the God of Abraham;
for the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.

48

1 A song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

2 Great is the LORD,
and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God,
his holy mountain.
3 Beautiful in loftiness,
the joy of all the earth,
like the peaks of Zaphon* is Mount Zion,
the city of the great King.
4 God is in her citadels;
he has shown himself to be a fortress.

5 For behold, the kings assembled;
they all advanced together.
6 They saw and were astounded;
they fled in terror.
7 Trembling seized them there,
anguish like a woman in labor.
8 With a wind from the east
you wrecked the ships of Tarshish.†

9 As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of the LORD of Hosts,
in the city of our God:
God will establish her forever.
Selah

10 Within your temple, O God,
we contemplate your loving devotion.
11 Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is full of righteousness.
12 Mount Zion is glad,
the villages‡ of Judah rejoice,
on account of your judgments.

13 March around Zion, encircle her,
count her towers,
14 consider her ramparts, tour her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation.
15 For this God is our God forever and ever;
he will be our guide even till death.§

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* **48:3 48:3** Or *in the far north*; the most sacred mountain of the Canaanites was *Zaphon* † **48:8 48:8** Or *a fleet of trading ships* ‡ **48:12 48:12** Or *the daughters* § **48:15 48:15** Or *he will guide us beyond death*; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX, reading one word, *he will guide us forevermore*

49

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

2 Hear this, all you peoples;
listen, all inhabitants of the world,
3 both low and high,
rich and poor alike.
4 My mouth will impart wisdom,
and the meditation of my heart will bring understanding.
5 I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will express my riddle with the harp:

6 Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when wicked usurpers surround me?
7 They trust in their wealth
and boast in their great riches.
8 No man can possibly redeem another*
or pay his ransom to God.
9 For the redemption of his life is costly,
and never can payment suffice,
10 that he should live on forever
and not see decay.

11 For it is clear that wise men die,
and the foolish and the senseless both perish
and leave their wealth to others.
12 Their inward thought is that their houses are eternal,†
their dwellings for endless generations—
even though their lands were their namesakes.
13 But a man, despite his wealth, cannot endure;
he is like the beasts that perish.

14 This is the fate of the foolish‡
and their followers who endorse their sayings.
Selah
15 Like sheep they are destined for Sheol.
Death will be their shepherd.
The upright will rule them in the morning,
and their form will decay in Sheol,
far from their lofty abode.
16 But God will redeem my life from Sheol,
for he will surely take me to himself.
Selah

17 Do not be afraid when a man grows rich,
when the splendor of his house increases.
18 For when he dies, he will carry nothing away;
his abundance will not follow him down.
19 Though in his lifetime he blesses himself—
and men praise you when you prosper—
20 he will join the generation of his fathers,

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* **49:8 49:8** Or *redeem his brother* † **49:12 49:12** LXX, Syriac, and Aramaic Targum *Their graves are their eternal homes* ‡ **49:14 49:14** Or *the way of the foolish*

who will never see the light of day.
21 A man who has riches without understanding
is like the beasts that perish.

50

1 A Psalm of Asaph.

The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from where the sun rises to where it sets.
2 From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth.
3 Our God approaches and will not be silent!
Consuming fire precedes him,
and a tempest rages around him.
4 He summons the heavens above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:
5 "Gather to me my godly ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."
6 And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,
for God himself is Judge.*

Selah

7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, and I will testify against you:
I am God, your God.
8 I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices,
and your burnt offerings are ever before me.
9 I have no need for a bull from your stall
or goats from your pens,
10 for every beast of the forest is mine—
the cattle on a thousand hills.
11 I know every bird in the mountains,
and the creatures of the field are mine.
12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.
13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls,
or drink the blood of goats?
14 Sacrifice a thank offering to God,
and fulfill your vows to the Most High.
15 Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

16 To the wicked, however, God says,
"What right have you to recite my statutes
and to bear my covenant on your lips?
17 For you hate my instruction
and cast my words behind you.
18 When you see a thief, you befriend him,
and throw in your lot with adulterers.
19 You unleash your mouth for evil
and harness your tongue to deceit.

* **50:6 50:6** Or *he is a God of justice*

20 You sit and malign your brother;
you slander your own mother's son.
21 You have done these things, and I kept silent;
you thought I was† just like you.
But now I rebuke you
and accuse you to your face.‡

22 Now consider this, you who forget God,
lest I tear you to pieces,
with no one to rescue you:
23 He who sacrifices a thank offering honors me,
and to him who rightly orders his way,
I will show the deliverance of God."

51

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.
2 When Nathan the prophet came to him after his adultery with Bathsheba.

3 Have mercy on me,* O God,
according to your loving devotion;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
4 Wash me clean of my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
5 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
6 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be proved right when you speak
and blameless when you judge.†
7 Surely I was brought forth in iniquity;
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

8 Surely you desire truth in the inmost being;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
9 Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
10 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
11 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

12 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
13 Cast me not away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.
14 Restore to me the joy of your deliverance,
and sustain me with a willing spirit.
15 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

† **50:21 50:21** Or *you thought the 'I AM' was* ‡ **50:21 50:21** Literally *and I set it in order before your eyes* * **51:3 51:3** Or *Be gracious to me* † **51:6 51:6** LXX *and victorious when you judge*

and sinners will return to you.

16 Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God,
the God of my deliverance,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
17 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
18 For you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you take no pleasure in burnt offerings.
19 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and a contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.

20 In your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
21 Then you will delight in righteous sacrifices,
in whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

52

1 For the choirmaster. A Maskil* of David.
2 After Doeg the Edomite went to Saul and told him, “David has gone to the house of Ahimelech.”

3 Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?
The loving devotion of God endures all day long.
4 Your tongue devises destruction
like a sharpened razor,
O worker of deceit.
5 You love evil more than good,
falsehood more than speaking truth.
Selah

6 You love every word that devours,
O deceitful tongue.
7 Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin;
he will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent;
he will uproot you from the land of the living.
Selah
8 The righteous will see and fear;
they will mock the evildoer, saying,
9 “Look at the man
who did not make God his refuge,
but trusted in the abundance of his wealth
and strengthened himself by destruction.”

10 But I am like an olive tree
flourishing in the house of God;
I trust in the loving devotion of God
forever and ever.
11 I will praise you forever,
because you have done it.

* **52:1 52:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142.

I will wait on your name—
for it is good—
in the presence of your godly ones.

53

1 For the choirmaster. According to Mahalath.* A Maskil† of David.

2 The fool says in his heart,
"There is no God."

They are corrupt; their ways are vile.
There is no one who does good.

3 God looks down from heaven
upon the sons of men
to see if any understand,
if any seek God.
4 All have turned away,
they have together become corrupt;‡
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

5 Will the workers of iniquity never learn?

They devour my people like bread;
they refuse to call upon God.
6 There they are, overwhelmed with dread,
where there was nothing to fear.
For God has scattered the bones
of those who besieged you.
You put them to shame,
for God has despised them.

7 Oh, that the deliverance of Israel would come from Zion!

When God restores the fortunes of his people,§
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad!

54

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Maskil* of David.
2 When the Ziphites went to Saul and said, "Is David not hiding among us?"

3 Save me, O God, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might!
4 Hear my prayer, O God;
listen to the words of my mouth.
5 For strangers rise up against me,
and ruthless men seek my life—

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* **53:1 53:1** *Mahalath* is probably a musical or liturgical term; see also Psalm 88:1. † **53:1 53:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142. ‡ **53:4 53:4** LXX *worthless* § **53:7 53:7** Or *his captive people* * **54:1 54:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142.

men with no regard for God.
Selah
6 Surely God is my helper;
the Lord is the sustainer of my life.
7 He will reward my enemies with evil.†
In your faithfulness, destroy them.
8 Freely I will sacrifice to you;
I will praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.
9 For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

55

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Maskil* of David.

2 Listen to my prayer, O God,
and do not ignore my plea.
3 Attend to me and answer me.
I am restless in my complaint,
and distraught
4 at the voice of the enemy,
at the pressure of the wicked.
For they bring down disaster upon me
and resent me in their anger.

5 My heart pounds within me,
and the terrors of death assail me.
6 Fear and trembling grip me,
and horror has overwhelmed me.
7 I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and find rest.
8 How far away I would flee!
In the wilderness I would remain.
Selah
9 I would hurry to my shelter,
far from this raging tempest.”

10 O Lord, confuse and confound their speech,
for I see violence and strife in the city.
11 Day and night they encircle the walls,
while malice and trouble lie within.
12 Destruction is within;
oppression and deceit never leave the streets.

13 For it is not an enemy who insults me;
that I could endure.
It is not a foe who rises against me;
from him I could hide.
14 But it is you, a man like myself,
my companion and close friend.
15 We shared sweet fellowship together;
we walked with the crowd into the house of God.

† **54:7 54:7** Qere; Ketiv *Evil will return upon my enemies* * **55:1 55:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142.

16 Let death seize them by surprise;†
let them go down to Sheol alive,
for evil is with them in their homes.
17 But I call to God,
and the LORD saves me.
18 Morning, noon, and night, I cry out in distress,
and he hears my voice.
19 He redeems my life in peace
from the battle waged against me,
even though many oppose me.
20 God will hear and humiliate them—
the One enthroned for the ages—
Selah
because they do not change
and they have no fear of God.

21 My companion attacks his friends;
he violates his covenant.
22 His speech is smooth as butter,
but war is in his heart.
His words are softer than oil,
yet they are swords unsheathed.

23 Cast your burden upon the LORD
and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous be shaken.
24 But you, O God, will bring them down
to the Pit of destruction;
men of bloodshed and deceit
will not live out half their days.

But I will trust in you.

56

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "A Dove on Distant Oaks." A Miktam* of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

2 Be merciful to me, O God,
for men are hounding me;
all day they press their attack.
3 My enemies pursue me all day long,
for many proudly assail me.

4 When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
5 In God, whose word I praise—
in God I trust.
I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?

6 All day long they twist my words;
all their thoughts are on my demise.

† **55:16 55:16** Qere; Ketiv *Desolations be upon them*

* **56:1 56:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60.

7 They conspire, they lurk,
they watch my steps
while they wait to take my life.
8 In spite of such sin, will they escape?†
In your anger, O God, cast down the nations.

9 You have taken account of my wanderings.‡
Put my tears in your bottle—
are they not in your book?
10 Then my enemies will retreat
on the day I cry for help.
By this I will know that God is on my side.

11 In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
12 in God I trust; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?

13 Your vows are upon me, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.
14 For you have delivered me from death,
and my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

57

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A Miktam* of David,
when he fled from Saul into the cave.

2 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy,
for in you my soul takes refuge.
In the shadow of your wings I will take shelter
until the danger has passed.
3 I cry out to God Most High,†
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
4 He reaches down from heaven and saves me;
he rebukes those who trample me.
Selah
God sends forth
his loving devotion and his truth.
5 My soul is among the lions;
I lie down with ravenous beasts—
with men whose teeth are spears and arrows,
whose tongues are sharp swords.

6 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
may your glory cover all the earth.

7 They spread a net for my feet;
my soul was despondent.

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† **56:8 56:8** Or *do not let them escape*; MT does not include *do not*. ‡ **56:9 56:9** Or *sorrows* * **57:1 57:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60. † **57:3 57:3** Hebrew *Elohim-Elyon*

They dug a pit before me,
but they themselves have fallen into it!
Selah

8 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast.
I will sing and make music.
9 Awake, my soul![‡]
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.

10 I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations;
I will sing your praises among the peoples.
11 For your loving devotion reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
12 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
may your glory cover all the earth.

58

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A Miktam* of David.

2 Do you indeed speak justly in silence?[†]
Do you judge uprightly, O sons of men?
3 No, in your hearts you devise injustice;
with your hands you mete out violence on the earth.

4 The wicked are estranged from the womb;
the liars go astray from birth.
5 Their venom is like the venom of a snake,
like a deaf cobra that shuts its ears,
6 refusing to hear the tune of the charmer
who skillfully weaves his spell.

7 O God, shatter their teeth in their mouths;
O LORD, tear out the fangs of the lions.
8 May they vanish
like water that runs off;
when he aims his arrows,
may they be cut down.[‡]
9 Like a slug that dissolves in its slime,
like a woman's stillborn child,
may they never see the sun.

10 Before your pots can feel the burning thorns—
whether green or dry—
he will sweep them away.
11 The righteous will rejoice
when they see they are avenged;
they will wash their feet
in the blood of the wicked.

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‡ **57:9 57:9** Or *Awake, my glory!* * **58:1 58:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60. † **58:2 58:2** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; a slight change in vocalization reads *Do you indeed speak justly, O rulers?* ‡ **58:8 58:8** Meaning of Hebrew uncertain; or *when they draw the bow, may their arrows be blunted*; or *when they are trodden down, may they wither like grass*

12 Then men will say,
“There is surely a reward for the righteous!
There is surely a God who judges the earth!”

59

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Miktam* of David,
when Saul sent men to watch David’s house in order to kill him.

2 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
protect me from those who rise against me.
3 Deliver me from workers of iniquity,
and save me from men of bloodshed.
4 See how they lie in wait for me.
Fierce men conspire against me
for no transgression or sin of my own, O LORD.
5 For no fault of my own,
they move swiftly to attack me.
Arise to help me, and take notice.
6 O LORD God of Hosts, the God of Israel,
rouse yourself to punish all the nations;
show no mercy to the wicked traitors.

Selah

7 They return in the evening, snarling like dogs
and prowling around the city.
8 See what they spew from their mouths—
sharp words from their lips:
“For who can hear us?”
9 But you, O LORD, laugh at them;
you scoff at all the nations.

10 Because of his strength I will keep watch for you,†
because you, O God, are my fortress.
11 My God of loving devotion‡ will come to meet me;
God will let me stare down my foes.

12 Do not kill them,
or my people will forget.
Scatter them by your power,
and bring them down,
O Lord, our shield.
13 By the sins of their mouths
and the words of their lips,
let them be trapped in their pride,
in the curses and lies they utter.
14 Consume them in wrath;
consume them till they are no more,
so it may be known to the ends of the earth
that God rules over Jacob.

Selah

15 They return in the evening,

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* **59:1** **59:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60. † **59:10** **59:10** Some Hebrew manuscripts and ancient versions (see also verse 18) *O my strength* ‡ **59:11** **59:11** Qere; Ketiv *The God of his loving devotion*

snarling like dogs
and prowling around the city.
16 They scavenge for food,
and growl if they are not satisfied.

17 But I will sing of your strength
and proclaim your loving devotion in the morning.
For you are my fortress,
my refuge in times of trouble.
18 To you, O my strength, I sing praises,
for you, O God, are my fortress,
my God of loving devotion.

60

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Lily of the Covenant." A Miktam* of David for instruction.
2 When he fought Aram-naharaim† and Aram-zobah,‡ and Joab returned and struck down 12,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

3 You have rejected us, O God;
you have broken us;
you have been angry;
restore us!
4 You have shaken the land
and torn it open.
Heal its fractures,
for it is quaking.
5 You have shown your people hardship;
we are staggered from the wine you made us drink.

6 You have raised a banner for those who fear you,
that it may be displayed because of truth.§
Selah
7 Save with your right hand and answer me,*
that your beloved may be delivered.

8 God has spoken from his sanctuary:†
"I will triumph!
I will parcel out Shechem
and apportion the Valley of Succoth.
9 Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet, Judah is my scepter.
10 Moab is my washbasin;
upon Edom I toss my sandal;
O Philistia, shout in triumph because of me!"‡

11 Who will bring me to the fortified city?

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* **60:1 60:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60. † **60:2 60:2** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia. ‡ **60:2 60:2** That is, the land northeast of Damascus § **60:6 60:6** Or *that they may flee the bow* * **60:7 60:7** Qere; Ketiv *answer us* † **60:8 60:8** Or *in his holiness* ‡ **60:10 60:10** Compare Psalm 108:10 *over Philistia I shout in triumph*

Who will lead me to Edom?
12 Have you not rejected us, O God?
Will you no longer march out, O God, with our armies?
13 Give us aid against the enemy,
for the help of man is worthless.
14 With God we will perform with valor,
and he will trample our enemies.

61

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. Of David.

2 Hear my cry, O God;
attend to my prayer.
3 From the ends of the earth I call out to you
whenever my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I.
4 For you have been my refuge,
a tower of strength against the enemy.
5 Let me dwell in your tent forever
and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.
Selah
6 For you have heard my vows, O God;
you have given me the inheritance
reserved for those who fear your name.

7 Increase the days of the king's life;
may his years span many generations.
8 May he sit enthroned in God's presence forever;
appoint your loving devotion
and your faithfulness to guard him.
9 Then I will ever sing praise to your name
and fulfill my vows day by day.

62

1 For the choirmaster. According to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

2 In God alone my soul finds rest;
my deliverance comes from him.
3 He alone is my rock and my deliverance.
He is my fortress;
I will never be shaken.

4 How long will you threaten a man?
Will all of you throw him down
like a leaning wall
or a tottering fence?
5 They fully intend to cast him down from his lofty perch;
they delight in lies;
with their mouths they bless,
but inwardly they curse.
Selah
6 Rest in God alone, O my soul,

for my hope comes from him.
7 He alone is my rock and my deliverance;
he is my fortress; I will not be shaken.
8 My deliverance and my honor rest on God, my strong rock;
my refuge is in God.
9 Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your hearts before him.
God is our refuge.

Selah

10 Lowborn men are but a vapor;
the exalted are but a lie.
Weighed on the scale, they go up;
together they are but a vapor.
11 Place no trust in extortion
or false hope in stolen goods.
If your riches increase,
do not set your heart upon them.

12 God has spoken once;
I have heard this twice:
that power belongs to God,
13 and loving devotion to you, O Lord.
For you will repay each man
according to his deeds.

63

1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

2 O God, you are my God.
Earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you.
My body yearns for you
in a dry and weary land without water.

3 So I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and glory.
4 Because your loving devotion is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
5 So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift my hands.

6 My soul is satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with joyful lips my mouth will praise you.
7 When I remember you on my bed,
I think of you through the watches of the night.
8 For you are my help;
I will sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.
9 My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

10 But those who seek my life to destroy it
will go into the depths of the earth.

11 They will fall to the power of the sword;
they will become a portion for foxes.
12 But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by him will exult,
for the mouths of liars will be shut.

64

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 Hear, O God, my voice of complaint;
preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
3 Hide me from the scheming of the wicked,
from the mob of workers of iniquity,
4 who sharpen their tongues like swords
and aim their bitter words like arrows,
5 ambushing the innocent in seclusion,
shooting suddenly, without fear.

6 They hold fast to their evil purpose;
they speak of hiding their snares.
"Who will see them?" they say.
7 They devise injustice and say,
"We have perfected a secret plan."
For the inner man and the heart are mysterious.

8 But God will shoot them with arrows;
suddenly they will be wounded.
9 They will be made to stumble,
their own tongues turned against them.
All who see will shake their heads.
10 Then all mankind will fear
and proclaim the work of God;
so they will ponder what he has done.

11 Let the righteous rejoice in the LORD
and take refuge in him;
let all the upright in heart exult.

65

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A song.

2 Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.
3 O you who listen to prayer,
all people will come to you.
4 When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.
5 Blessed is the one you choose
and bring near to dwell in your courts!
We are filled with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple.

6 With awesome deeds of righteousness you answer us,

O God of our deliverance,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.
7 You formed the mountains by your power,
having girded yourself with might.
8 You stilled the roaring of the seas,
the pounding of their waves,
and the tumult of the nations.
9 Those who live far away fear your wonders;
you make the dawn and sunset shout for joy.*

10 You attend to the earth and water it;†
with abundance you enrich it.
The streams of God are full of water,
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.‡
11 You soak its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its growth.
12 You crown the year with your bounty,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
13 The pastures of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are robed with joy.
14 The pastures are clothed with flocks,
and the valleys are decked with grain.
They shout in triumph;
indeed, they sing.

66

1 For the choirmaster. A song. A Psalm.

Make a joyful noise to God,
all the earth!
2 Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.
3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power
that your enemies cower before you.
4 All the earth bows down to you;
they sing praise to you;
they sing praise to your name.”

Selah

5 Come and see the works of God;
how awesome are his deeds toward mankind.
6 He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the waters on foot;
there we rejoiced in him.
7 He rules forever by his power;
his eyes watch the nations.
Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves.

Selah

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* **65:9 65:9** Or *where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.* † **65:10 65:10** Or *and make it overflow* ‡ **65:10 65:10** Or *for you prepare our grain by providing for the earth*

8 Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard.
9 He preserves our lives
and keeps our feet from slipping.

10 For you, O God, have tested us;
you have refined us like silver.
11 You led us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs.
12 You let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us into abundance.

13 I will enter your house with burnt offerings;
I will fulfill my vows to you—
14 the vows that my lips promised
and my mouth spoke in my distress.
15 I will offer you fatlings as burnt offerings,
with the fragrant smoke of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.
Selah

16 Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will declare what he has done for me.
17 I cried out to him with my mouth
and his praise was on my tongue.*
18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.
19 But God has surely heard;
he has attended to the sound of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld from me his loving devotion!

67

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Psalm. A song.

2 May God be gracious to us and bless us,
and cause his face to shine upon us,
Selah

3 that your ways may be known on earth,
your deliverance among all nations.

4 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
5 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples justly
and lead the nations of the earth.
Selah

6 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

* **66:17 66:17** Or *and praised him with my tongue*

7 The earth has yielded its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
8 God blesses us,
that all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

68

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A song.

2 God arises. His enemies are scattered,
and those who hate him flee his presence.
3 As smoke is blown away,
you will drive them out;
as wax melts before the fire,
the wicked will perish in the presence of God.
4 But the righteous will be glad
and rejoice before God;
they will celebrate with joy.

5 Sing to God!
Sing praises to his name.
Exalt him who rides on the clouds*—
his name is the LORD—
and rejoice before him.
6 A father of the fatherless
and a defender of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
7 God settles the lonely in families;
he leads the prisoners out to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a sun-scorched land.

8 O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wasteland,
Selah
9 the earth shook and the heavens poured down rain
before God, the One on Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.
10 You sent abundant rain, O God;
you refreshed your weary inheritance.
11 Your flock settled therein;
O God, from your bounty you provided for the poor.

12 The Lord gives the command;
a great company of women proclaim it:
13 "Kings and their armies flee in haste;
she who waits at home divides the plunder.
14 Though you lie down among the sheepfolds,
the wings of the dove are covered with silver,
and her feathers with shimmering gold."
15 When the Almighty† scattered the kings in the land,
it was like the snow falling on Zalmon.

16 A mountain of God is Mount Bashan;

* **68:5 68:5** Or *rides through the deserts* † **68:15 68:15** Hebrew *Shaddai*

a mountain of many peaks is Mount Bashan.
17 Why do you gaze in envy, O mountains of many peaks?
This is the mountain God chose for his dwelling,
where the LORD will surely dwell forever.

18 The chariots of God are tens of thousands—
thousands of thousands are they;
the Lord is in his sanctuary
as he was at Sinai.‡
19 You went up to the heights;§
you have led captives away.
You have received gifts from men,
even from the rebellious,
that the LORD God may dwell there.
20 Blessed be the Lord,
who daily bears our burden,
the God of our deliverance.
Selah
21 Our God is a God of deliverance;
the Lord GOD is our rescuer from death.
22 Surely God will crush the heads of his enemies,
the hairy crowns of those who persist in guilty ways.
23 The Lord said, "I will retrieve them from Bashan,
I will bring them up from the depths of the sea,
24 that your foot may be dipped
in the blood of your foes—
the tongues of your dogs in the same."

25 They have seen your procession, O God—
the march of my God and King into the sanctuary.
26 The singers lead the way,
the musicians follow after,
among the maidens playing tambourines.
27 Bless God in the great congregation;
bless the LORD* from the fountain of Israel.
28 There is Benjamin, the youngest, ruling them,
the princes of Judah in their company,
the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.

29 Your God has summoned your power;†
show your strength, O God,
which you have exerted on our behalf.
30 Because of your temple at Jerusalem
kings will bring you gifts.
31 Rebuke the beast in the reeds,
the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations,
until it submits, bringing bars of silver.
Scatter the nations who delight in war.
32 Envoys will arrive from Egypt;

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‡ **68:18 68:18** A proposed emendation reads *the Lord has come from Sinai in his holiness* § **68:19 68:19** Or *you have ascended on high* * **68:27 68:27** Leningrad Codex; Aleppo Codex *the Lord* (Adonai)
† **68:29 68:29** LXX and Syriac *Summon your power, O God*

Cush‡ will stretch out her hands to God.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord—

Selah

34 to him who rides upon the highest heavens of old;
behold, his mighty voice resounds.
35 Ascribe the power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel,
whose strength is in the skies.
36 O God, you are awesome in your sanctuary;
the God of Israel himself
gives strength and power to his people.

Blessed be God!

69

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "Lilies." Of David.

2 Save me, O God,
for the waters are up to my neck.
3 I have sunk into the miry depths,
where there is no footing;
I have drifted into deep waters,
where the flood engulfs me.
4 I am weary from my crying;
my throat is parched.
My eyes fail,
looking for my God.
5 Those who hate me without cause
outnumber the hairs of my head;
many are those who would destroy me—
my enemies for no reason.
Though I did not steal,
I must repay.

6 You know my folly, O God,
and my guilt is not hidden from you.
7 May those who hope in you not be ashamed through me,
O Lord GOD of Hosts;
may those who seek you not be dishonored through me,
O God of Israel.
8 For I have endured scorn for your sake,
and shame has covered my face.
9 I have become a stranger to my brothers
and a foreigner to my mother's sons,
10 because zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.
11 I wept and fasted,
but it brought me reproach.
12 I made sackcloth my clothing,
and I was sport to them.

‡ **68:32 68:32** That is, the upper Nile region

13 Those who sit at the gate mock me,
and I am the song of drunkards.

14 But my prayer to you, O LORD,
is for a time of favor.
In your abundant loving devotion, O God,
answer me with your sure deliverance.
15 Rescue me from the mire
and do not let me sink;
deliver me from my foes
and out of the deep waters.
16 Do not let the floods engulf me
or the depths swallow me up;
let not the Pit close its mouth over me.
17 Answer me, O LORD,
for your loving devotion is good;
turn to me in keeping with your great compassion.
18 Hide not your face from your servant,
for I am in distress.
Answer me quickly!
19 Draw near to me and redeem me;
ransom me because of my foes.

20 You know my reproach, my shame and disgrace.
All my adversaries are before you.
21 Insults have broken my heart,
and I am in despair.
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found no one.
22 They poisoned my food with gall
and gave me vinegar to quench my thirst.

23 May their table before them become a snare;
may their prosperity be a trap.*
24 May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,
and may their loins tremble continually.†
25 Pour out your wrath upon them,
and let your burning anger overtake them.
26 May their place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in their tents.
27 For they persecute the one you struck
and recount the pain of those you wounded.
28 Add iniquity to their iniquity;
let them not share in your righteousness.
29 May they be blotted out of the Book of Life
and not listed with the righteous.

30 But I am in pain and distress;
let your deliverance protect me, O God.
31 I will praise God's name in song

* **69:23 69:23** A slight revocalization of the Hebrew (see also LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate) reads *and a retribution and a trap* † **69:24 69:24** LXX *and their backs be bent forever*

and exalt him with thanksgiving.
32 And this will please the LORD more than an ox,
more than a bull with horns and hooves.
33 The humble will see and rejoice.
You who seek God, let your hearts be revived!
34 For the LORD listens to the needy
and does not despise his captive people.

35 Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and everything that moves in them.
36 For God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah,
that they may dwell there and possess it.
37 The descendants of his servants will inherit it,
and those who love his name will settle in it.

70

1 For the choirmaster. Of David. To bring remembrance.

2 Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
Hurry, O LORD, to help me!

3 May those who seek my life
be ashamed and confounded;
may those who wish me harm
be repelled and humiliated.
4 May those who say, “Aha, aha!”
retreat because of their shame.

5 May all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your deliverance always say,
“Let God be magnified!”
6 But I am poor and needy;
hurry to me, O God.
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay.

71

1 In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
2 In your justice, rescue and deliver me;
incline your ear and save me.
3 Be my rock of habitation,*
where I can always go.
Give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
4 Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and ruthless.

5 For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,

* **71:3 71:3** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *rock of refuge*; compare Psalm 31:3

my confidence from my youth.
6 I have leaned on you since birth;
you pulled me from my mother's womb.
My praise is always for you.
7 I have become a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
8 My mouth is filled with your praise
and with your splendor all day long.

9 Do not discard me in my old age;
do not forsake me when my strength fails.
10 For my enemies speak against me,
and those who lie in wait for my life conspire,
11 saying, "God has forsaken him;
pursue him and seize him,
for there is no one to rescue him."

12 Be not far from me, O God.
Hurry, O my God, to help me.
13 May my accusers
be ashamed and consumed;
may those who seek my harm
be covered with scorn and disgrace.

14 But I will always hope
and will praise you more and more.
15 My mouth will declare your righteousness
and your deliverance all day long,
though I cannot know their full measure.
16 I will come in the strength of the Lord GOD;
I will proclaim your righteousness—yours alone.

17 O God, you have taught me from my youth,
and to this day I proclaim your marvelous deeds.
18 Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, O God,
until I proclaim your power to the next generation,
your might to all who are to come.
19 Your righteousness reaches to the heavens, O God,
you who have done great things.
Who, O God, is like you?

20 Though you have shown me† many troubles and misfortunes,
you will revive me once again.
Even from the depths of the earth
you will bring me back up.
21 You will increase my honor
and comfort me once again.

22 So I will praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;

† **71:20 71:20** Qere; Ketiv *us* (also *revive us*)

I will sing praise to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.
23 When I sing praise to you
my lips will shout for joy,
along with my soul,
which you have redeemed.
24 My tongue will indeed proclaim
your righteousness all day long,
for those who seek my harm
are disgraced and confounded.

72

1 Of Solomon.

Endow the king with your justice, O God,
and the son of the king with your righteousness.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness
and your afflicted with justice.

3 May the mountains bring peace to the people,
and the hills bring righteousness.
4 May he vindicate the afflicted among the people;
may he save the children of the needy
and crush the oppressor.
5 May they fear you* as long as the sun shines,
as long as the moon remains,
through all generations.
6 May he be like rain that falls on freshly cut grass,
like spring showers that water the earth.
7 May the righteous flourish in his days
and prosperity abound
until the moon is no more.

8 May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the Euphrates† to the ends of the earth.
9 May the nomads bow before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.
10 May the kings of Tarshish and distant shores bring tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
11 May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.

12 For he will deliver the needy who cry out
and the afflicted who have no helper.
13 He will take pity on the poor and needy
and save the lives of the oppressed.
14 He will redeem them from oppression and violence,
for their blood is precious in his sight.

15 Long may he live!
May gold from Sheba be given him.

* **72:5 72:5** LXX *May he endure* † **72:8 72:8** Hebrew *the River*

May people ever pray for him;
may they bless him all day long.
16 May there be an abundance of grain in the land;
may it sway atop the hills.
May its fruit trees flourish like the forests of Lebanon,
the people of its cities like the grass of the field.
17 May his name endure forever;
may his name continue‡ as long as the sun shines.
In him may all nations be blessed;
may they call him blessed.

18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.
19 And blessed be his glorious name forever;
may all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and amen.
20 Thus conclude the prayers of David son of Jesse.

73

1 A Psalm of Asaph.

Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;
my steps had nearly slipped.
3 For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 They have no struggle in their death;
their bodies are well-fed.
5 They are free of the burdens others carry;
they are not afflicted like other men.
6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
a garment of violence covers them.
7 Their eyes bulge with fatness;*
the imaginations of their hearts run wild.
8 They mock and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.
9 They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongues strut across the earth.

10 So his people† return‡ to this place
and drink up waters in abundance.
11 The wicked say, “How can God know?
Does the Most High have knowledge?”
12 Behold, these are the wicked—
always carefree as they increase their wealth.

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‡ **72:17 72:17** Or *increase* * **73:7 73:7** LXX *From their prosperity proceeds iniquity*; Syriac *From their callous heart proceeds iniquity* † **73:10 73:10** Or *their people* ‡ **73:10 73:10** Qere; Ketiv *he brings back*

13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure;
in innocence I have washed my hands.
14 For I am afflicted all day long
and punished every morning.
15 If I had said, "I will speak this way,"
then I would have betrayed your children.
16 When I tried to understand all this,
it was troublesome in my sight
17 until I entered God's sanctuary;
then I discerned their end.

18 Surely you set them on slick ground;
you cast them down into ruin.
19 How suddenly they are laid waste,
completely swept away by terrors!
20 Like one waking from a dream,
so you, O Lord, awaken and despise their form.

21 When my heart was grieved
and I was pierced within,
22 I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.

23 Yet I am always with you;
you hold my right hand.
24 You guide me with your counsel,
and later receive me in glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And on earth I desire no one besides you.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength§ of my heart
and my portion forever.

27 Those far from you will surely perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
28 But as for me, it is good to draw near to God.
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
that I may proclaim all your works.

74

1 A Maskil* of Asaph.

Why have you rejected us forever, O God?
Why does your anger smolder
against the sheep of your pasture?
2 Remember your congregation,
which you purchased long ago
and redeemed as the tribe of your inheritance—
Mount Zion, where you dwell.

§ **73:26 73:26** Hebrew *rock* * **74:1 74:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142.

3 Turn your steps to the everlasting ruins,
to everything in the sanctuary the enemy has destroyed.

4 Your foes have roared within your meeting place;
they have unfurled their banners as signs,
5 like men wielding axes in a thicket of trees
6 and now† smashing all the carvings with hatchets and picks.
7 They have burned your sanctuary to the ground;
they have defiled the dwelling place of your Name.

8 They said in their hearts,
"We will crush them completely."
They burned down every place
where God met us in the land.
9 There are no signs for us to see.
There is no longer any prophet.
And none of us knows how long this will last.
10 How long, O God, will the enemy taunt you?
Will the foe revile your name forever?
11 Why do you withdraw your strong right hand?
Stretch it out to destroy them!‡§

12 Yet God is my King from ancient times,
working deliverance on the earth.
13 You divided the sea by your strength;
you smashed the heads of the dragons of the sea;
14 you crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you fed him to a people, the creatures of the desert.
15 You broke open the fountain and the flood;
you dried up the ever-flowing rivers.
16 The day is yours, and also the night;
you established the moon* and the sun.
17 You set all the boundaries of the earth;
you made the summer and winter.

18 Remember how the enemy has mocked you, O LORD,
how a foolish people has spurned your name.
19 Do not deliver the life of your dove to beasts;
do not forget the lives of your afflicted forever.
20 Consider your covenant,
for haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land.
21 Do not let the oppressed retreat in shame;
may the poor and needy praise your name.

22 Rise up, O God; defend your cause!
Remember how the fool mocks you all day long.
23 Do not disregard the clamor of your adversaries,
the uproar of your enemies that ascends continually.

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† **74:6 74:6** Qere; Ketiv *and at that time* ‡ **74:11 74:11** Qere; Ketiv *your statute* for *your bosom*
§ **74:11 74:11** Literally *From the midst of your bosom destroy them!* or *From the midst of your bosom remove it!* * **74:16 74:16** Literally *the light*

75

1 For the choirmaster: To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Psalm of Asaph. A song.

2 We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks, for your Name is near.
The people declare your wondrous works.

3 “When I choose a time,
I will judge fairly.
4 When the earth and all its dwellers quake,
it is I who bear up its pillars.
Selah
5 I say to the proud, ‘Do not boast,’
and to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up your horn.
6 Do not lift up your horn against heaven
or speak with an outstretched neck.’ ”

7 For exaltation comes neither from east nor west,
nor out of the desert,
8 but it is God who judges;
he brings down one and exalts another.
9 For a cup is in the hand of the LORD,
full of foaming wine mixed with spices.
He pours from his cup,
and all the wicked of the earth
drink it down to the dregs.

10 But I will proclaim him* forever;
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob.

11 “All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,
but the horns of the righteous will be exalted.”

76

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A song.

2 God is known in Judah;
his name is great in Israel.
3 His tent is in Salem,*
his dwelling place in Zion.
4 There he shattered the flaming arrows,
the shield and sword and weapons of war.
Selah
5 You are resplendent with light,
more majestic than mountains filled with game.
6 The valiant lie plundered; they sleep their last sleep.
No men of might could lift a hand.
7 At your rebuke, O God of Jacob,
both horse and rider lie stunned.

* **75:10 75:10** Or *proclaim it* * **76:3 76:3** That is, Jerusalem

8 You alone are to be feared.
    When you are angry, who can stand before you?
9 From heaven you pronounced judgment,
    and the earth feared and was still
10 when God rose up to judge,
    to save all the lowly of the earth.
Selah
11 Even the wrath of man shall praise you;
    with the survivors of wrath you will clothe yourself.†

12 Make and fulfill your vows to the LORD your God;
    let all the neighboring lands bring tribute
    to him who is to be feared.
13 He breaks the spirits of princes;
    he is feared by the kings of the earth.

77

1 For the choirmaster. According to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.

2 I cried out to God;
    I cried aloud to God to hear me.
3 In the day of trouble I sought the Lord;
    through the night my outstretched hands did not grow weary;
    my soul refused to be comforted.
4 I remembered you, O God, and I groaned;
    I mused and my spirit grew faint.
Selah
5 You have kept my eyes from closing;
    I am too troubled to speak.
6 I considered the days of old,
    the years long in the past.
7 At night I remembered my song;
    in my heart I mused, and my spirit pondered:

8 "Will the Lord spurn us forever
    and never show his favor again?
9 Is his loving devotion gone forever?
    Has his promise failed for all time?
10 Has God forgotten to be gracious?
    Has his anger shut off his compassion?"
Selah
11 So I said, "I am grieved
    that the right hand of the Most High has changed."*

12 I will call to mind the works of the LORD;†
    yes, I will remember your wonders of old.
13 I will reflect on all you have done
    and ponder your mighty deeds.
14 Your way, O God, is holy.

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† **76:11 76:11** Or *Surely your wrath against men brings you praise, and the survivors of your wrath will be restrained.* * **77:11 77:11** Or *"To this I will appeal: to the years of the right hand of the Most High."* † **77:12 77:12** Ketiv; Qere *I will remember*

What god is so great as God?‡
15 You are the God who works wonders;
you display your strength among the peoples.
16 With power you redeemed your people,
the sons of Jacob and Joseph.

Selah

17 The waters saw you, O God;
the waters saw you and swirled;
even the depths were shaken.
18 The clouds poured down water;
the skies resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.
19 Your thunder resounded in the whirlwind;
the lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.

20 Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
but your footprints were not to be found.§
21 You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

78

1 A Maskil* of Asaph.

Give ear, O my people, to my instruction;
listen to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in parables;
I will utter things hidden from ancient times,†
3 that we have heard and known
and our fathers have relayed to us.
4 We will not hide them from their children
but will declare to the next generation
the praises of the LORD and his might
and the wonders he has performed.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
6 that the coming generation would know them—
even children yet to be born—
to arise and tell their own children
7 that they should put their confidence in God,
not forgetting his works,
but keeping his commandments.
8 Then they will not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,

‡ **77:14 77:14** LXX *as our God* § **77:20 77:20** Or *were unknown* * **78:1 78:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142. † **78:2 78:2** Or *from the beginning*; see also LXX

whose heart was not loyal,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

9 The archers of Ephraim
turned back on the day of battle.
10 They failed to keep God's covenant
and refused to live by his law.
11 They forgot what he had done,
the wonders he had shown them.
12 He worked wonders before their fathers
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.
13 He split the sea and brought them through;
he set the waters upright like a wall.
14 He led them with a cloud by day
and with a light of fire all night.
15 He split the rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink as abundant as the seas.
16 He brought streams from the stone
and made water flow down like rivers.

17 But they continued to sin against him,
rebelling in the desert against the Most High.
18 They willfully tested God
by demanding the food they craved.
19 They spoke against God, saying,
"Can God really prepare a table in the wilderness?
20 When he struck the rock, water gushed out
and torrents raged.
But can he also give bread
or supply his people with meat?"

21 Therefore the LORD heard
and was filled with wrath;
so a fire was kindled against Jacob,
and his anger flared against Israel,
22 because they did not believe God
or rely on his deliverance.

23 Yet he commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of the heavens.
24 He rained down manna for them to eat;
he gave them grain from heaven.
25 Man ate the bread of angels;
he sent them food in abundance.
26 He stirred the east wind from the heavens
and drove the south wind by his might.
27 He rained meat on them like dust,
and winged birds like the sand of the sea.
28 He felled them in the midst of their camp,
all around their dwellings.
29 So they ate and were well filled,
for he gave them what they craved.

30 Yet before they had filled their desire,
with the food still in their mouths,
31 God's anger flared against them,
and he put to death their strongest
and subdued the young men of Israel.

32 In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;
despite his wonderful works, they did not believe.
33 So he ended their days in futility,‡
and their years in sudden terror.
34 When he slew them, they would seek him;
they repented and searched for God.
35 And they remembered that God was their Rock,
that God Most High§ was their Redeemer.

36 But they deceived him with their mouths,
and lied to him with their tongues.
37 Their hearts were disloyal to him,
and they were unfaithful to his covenant.

38 And yet he was compassionate;
he forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them.
He often restrained his anger
and did not unleash his full wrath.
39 He remembered that they were but flesh,
a passing breeze that does not return.

40 How often they disobeyed him in the wilderness
and grieved him in the desert!
41 Again and again they tested God
and provoked the Holy One of Israel.
42 They did not remember his power*—
the day he redeemed them from the adversary,
43 when he performed his signs in Egypt
and his wonders in the fields of Zoan.

44 He turned their rivers to blood,
and from their streams they could not drink.
45 He sent swarms of flies that devoured them,
and frogs that devastated them.
46 He gave their crops to the grasshopper,
the fruit of their labor to the locust.
47 He killed their vines with hailstones
and their sycamore-figs with frost.†
48 He abandoned their cattle to the hail
and their livestock to bolts of lightning.

49 He unleashed his fury against them,
wrath, indignation, and calamity—
a band of destroying angels.

‡ **78:33 78:33** Or *in vapor* § **78:35 78:35** Hebrew *El-Elyon* * **78:42 78:42** Or *his hand* † **78:47 78:47** Or *sleet* or *driving rain*

50 He cleared a path for his anger;
he did not spare them from death
but delivered their lives to the plague.
51 He struck all the firstborn of Egypt,
the virility in the tents of Ham.

52 He led out his people like sheep
and guided them like a flock in the wilderness.
53 He led them safely, so they did not fear,
but the sea engulfed their enemies.
54 He brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain his right hand had acquired.
55 He drove out nations before them
and apportioned their inheritance;
he settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

56 But they tested and disobeyed God Most High,
for they did not keep his decrees.
57 They turned back and were faithless like their fathers,
twisted like a faulty bow.
58 They enraged him with their high places
and provoked his jealousy with their idols.

59 On hearing it, God was furious
and rejected Israel completely.
60 He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh,
the tent he had pitched among men.
61 He delivered his strength to captivity,
and his splendor to the hand of the adversary.
62 He surrendered his people to the sword
because he was enraged by his heritage.
63 Fire consumed his young men,
and their maidens were left without wedding songs.
64 His priests fell by the sword,
but their widows could not lament.

65 Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
like a mighty warrior overcome by wine.
66 He beat back his foes;
he put them to everlasting shame.
67 He rejected the tent of Joseph
and refused the tribe of Ephraim.
68 But he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loved.
69 He built his sanctuary like the heights,
like the earth he has established forever.

70 He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;
71 from tending the ewes he brought him
to be shepherd of his people Jacob,
of Israel his inheritance.

72 So David shepherded them with integrity of heart
and guided them with skillful hands.

79

1 A Psalm of Asaph.

The nations, O God, have invaded your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple
and reduced Jerusalem to rubble.
2 They have given the corpses of your servants
as food to the birds of the air,
the flesh of your godly ones to the beasts of the earth.
3 They have poured out their blood like water
all around Jerusalem,
and there is no one to bury the dead.
4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors,
a scorn and derision to those around us.

5 How long, O LORD?
Will you be angry forever?
Will your jealousy burn like fire?
6 Pour out your wrath on the nations
that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms
that refuse to call on your name,
7 for they have devoured Jacob
and devastated his homeland.

8 Do not hold past sins against us;
let your compassion come quickly,
for we are brought low.
9 Help us, O God of our deliverance,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and atone for our sins,
for the sake of your name.
10 Why should the nations ask,
“Where is their God?”
Before our eyes, make known among the nations
your vengeance for the bloodshed of your servants.

11 May the groans of the captives reach you;
by the strength of your arm preserve those condemned to death.
12 Pay back into the laps of our neighbors
sevenfold the reproach they hurled at you, O Lord.
13 Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will thank you forever;
from generation to generation
we will declare your praise.

80

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of “The Lilies of the Covenant.” A Psalm of Asaph.

2 Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel,
who leads Joseph like a flock;
you who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth
3 before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.
Rally your mighty power
and come to save us.
4 Restore us, O God,
and cause your face to shine upon us,
that we may be saved.

5 O LORD God of Hosts,
how long will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?
6 You fed them with the bread of tears
and made them drink the full measure of their tears.
7 You make us contend with our neighbors;
our enemies mock among themselves.*
8 Restore us, O God of Hosts,
and cause your face to shine upon us,
that we may be saved.

9 You uprooted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and transplanted it.
10 You cleared the ground for it,
and it took root and filled the land.
11 The mountains were covered by its shade,
and the mighty cedars with its branches.
12 It sent out its branches to the Sea,†
and its shoots toward the River.‡

13 Why have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass by pick its fruit?
14 The boar from the forest ravages it,
and the creatures of the field feed upon it.
15 Return, O God of Hosts, we pray!
Look down from heaven and see!
Attend to this vine—
16 the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.

17 Your vine has been cut down and burned;
they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
on the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
19 Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.
20 Restore us, O LORD God of Hosts;
cause your face to shine upon us,
that we may be saved.

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* **80:7 80:7** LXX and Syriac *mock us* † **80:12 80:12** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea ‡ **80:12 80:12** That is, the Euphrates

81

1 For the choirmaster. According to Gittith.* Of Asaph.

2 Sing for joy to God our strength;
make a joyful noise to the God of Jacob.
3 Lift up a song, strike the tambourine,
play the sweet-sounding harp and lyre.
4 Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,
and at the full moon on the day of our Feast.
5 For this is a statute for Israel,
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.
6 He ordained it as a testimony for Joseph†
when he went out over the land of Egypt,
where I heard an unfamiliar language:

7 "I relieved his shoulder of the burden;
his hands were freed from the basket.
8 You called out in distress, and I rescued you;
I answered you from the cloud of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.‡
Selah
9 Hear, O my people, and I will warn you:
O Israel, if only you would listen to me!
10 There must be no strange god among you,
nor shall you bow to a foreign god.
11 I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth,
and I will fill it.

12 But my people would not listen to me,
and Israel would not obey me.
13 So I gave them up to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own devices.
14 If only my people would listen to me,
if Israel would follow my ways,
15 how soon I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!
16 Those who hate the LORD would feign obedience,
and their doom would last forever.
17 But he would feed him the finest wheat;§
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

82

1 A Psalm of Asaph.

God presides in the divine assembly;
he renders judgment among the gods:

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* **81:1 81:1** *Gittith* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalms 8 and 84. † **81:6 81:6** Or *in Joseph* ‡ **81:8 81:8** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7. § **81:17 81:17** Or, harmonizing with the second line, *I would feed you*

2 “How long will you judge unjustly*
and show partiality to the wicked?
Selah
3 Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;
uphold the rights of the afflicted and oppressed.
4 Rescue the weak and needy;
save them from the hand of the wicked.
5 They do not know or understand;
they wander in the darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
6 I have said, ‘You are gods;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
7 But like mortals you will die,
and like rulers you will fall.”

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.

83

1 A song. A Psalm of Asaph.

2 O God, be not silent; be not speechless;*
be not still, O God.
3 See how your enemies rage,
how your foes have reared their heads.
4 With cunning they scheme against your people
and conspire against those you cherish,
5 saying, “Come, let us erase them as a nation;
may the name of Israel be remembered no more.”

6 For with one mind they plot together;
they form an alliance against you—
7 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
of Moab and the Hagrites,
8 of Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek,
of Philistia with the people of Tyre.
9 Even Assyria has joined them,
lending strength to the sons of Lot.
Selah
10 Do to them as you did to Midian,
as to Sisera and Jabin at the River Kishon,
11 who perished at Endor
and became like dung on the ground.
12 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
and all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
13 who said, “Let us possess for ourselves
the pastures of God.”

14 Make them like tumbleweed, O my God,
like chaff before the wind.
15 As fire consumes a forest,

* **82:2 82:2** Or *How long will you defend the unjust* * **83:2 83:2** Or *deaf*

as a flame sets the mountains ablaze,
16 so pursue them with your tempest,
and terrify them with your storm.
17 Cover their faces with shame,
that they may seek your name, O LORD.

18 May they be ever ashamed and terrified;
may they perish in disgrace.
19 May they know that you alone,
whose name is the LORD,
are Most High over all the earth.

84

1 For the choirmaster. According to Gittith.* A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

2 How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of Hosts!
3 My soul longs, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

4 Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she places her young near your altars,
O LORD of Hosts, my King and my God.
5 How blessed are those who dwell in your house!
They are ever praising you.

Selah

6 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
7 As they pass through the Valley of Baca,†
they make it a place of springs;
even the autumn rain covers it with blessings.‡
8 They go from strength to strength,
until each appears before God in Zion.

9 O LORD God of Hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Selah

10 Take notice of our shield, O God,
and look with favor on the face of your anointed.
11 For better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
12 For the LORD God is a sun and a shield;
the LORD gives grace and glory;
he withholds no good thing
from those who walk with integrity.

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* **84:1 84:1** *Gittith* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalms 8 and 81. † **84:7 84:7** Or *Valley of Poplars* ‡ **84:7 84:7** Or *with pools*

13 O LORD of Hosts,
how blessed is the man who trusts in you!

85

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

2 You showed favor to your land, O LORD;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.*
3 You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.
Selah
4 You withheld all your fury;
you turned from your burning anger.

5 Restore us, O God of our deliverance,
and put away your displeasure toward us.
6 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you draw out your anger to all generations?
7 Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
8 Show us your loving devotion, O LORD,
and grant us your deliverance.

9 I will listen to what God the LORD will say;
for he will surely speak peace to his people and his godly ones;
he will not let them return to folly.
10 Surely his deliverance is near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

11 Loving devotion and faithfulness have joined together;
righteousness and peace have kissed.
12 Faithfulness sprouts from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
13 The LORD will indeed provide what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
14 Righteousness will go before him
to prepare the way for his steps.

86

1 A prayer of David.

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
2 Preserve my life, for I am godly.
You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you.
3 Be merciful to me, O Lord,
for I call to you all day long.
4 Bring joy to your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

5 For you, O Lord, are kind and forgiving,

* **85:2 85:2** Or *restored Jacob from captivity*

rich in loving devotion to all who call on you.
6 Hear my prayer, O LORD,
and attend to my plea for mercy.
7 In the day of my distress I call on you,
because you answer me.

8 O Lord, there is none like you among the gods,
nor any works like yours.
9 All the nations you have made
will come and bow before you, O Lord,
and they will glorify your name.
10 For you are great and perform wonders;
you alone are God.

11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth.
Give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.
12 I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.
13 For great is your loving devotion to me;
you have delivered me from the depths of Sheol.

14 The arrogant rise against me, O God;
a band of ruthless men seeks my life;
they have no regard for you.
15 But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion and faithfulness.

16 Turn to me and have mercy;
grant your strength to your servant;
save the son of your maidservant.
17 Show me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see and be ashamed;
for you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

87

1 A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A song.

He has founded his city
on the holy mountains.*
2 The LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
3 Glorious things are ascribed to you,
O city of God.

Selah

4 "I will mention Rahab† and Babylon
among those who know me—
along with Philistia, Tyre, and Cush‡—

* **87:1 87:1** Literally *his foundation is on the holy mountains* † **87:4 87:4** *Rahab* is a poetic name for Egypt. ‡ **87:4 87:4** That is, the upper Nile region

when I say, ‘This one was born in Zion.’ ”

5 And it will be said of Zion:
“This one and that one were born in her,
and the Most High himself will establish her.”

6 The LORD will record in the register of the peoples:
“This one was born in Zion.”
Selah

7 Singers and pipers will proclaim,
“All my springs of joy are in you.”

88

1 A song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. For the choirmaster. According to Mahalath Leannoth.* A Maskil† of Heman the Ezrahite.

2 O LORD, the God of my deliverance,
day and night I cry out before you.
3 May my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.
4 For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
5 I am counted among those descending to the Pit.
I am like a man without strength.

6 I am forsaken among the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.

7 You have laid me in the lowest Pit,
in the darkest of the depths.
8 Your wrath weighs heavily upon me;
all your waves have submerged me.
Selah

9 You have removed my friends from me;
you have made me repulsive to them;
I am confined and cannot escape.
10 My eyes grow dim with grief.
I call to you daily, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
11 Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do departed spirits rise up to praise you?
Selah

12 Can your loving devotion be proclaimed in the grave,
your faithfulness in Abaddon‡?
13 Will your wonders be known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in the land of oblivion?

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* **88:1 88:1** *Mahalath Leannoth* is probably a musical or liturgical term; see also Psalm 53:1. † **88:1 88:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142. ‡ **88:12 88:12** *Abaddon* means *Destruction.*

14 But to you, O LORD, I cry for help;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
15 Why, O LORD, do you reject me?
Why do you hide your face from me?

16 From my youth I was afflicted and near death.
I have borne your terrors; I am in despair.
17 Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.
18 All day long they engulf me like water;
they enclose me on every side.
19 You have removed my beloved and my friend;
darkness is my closest companion.

89

1 A Maskil* of Ethan the Ezrahite.

2 I will sing of the loving devotion of the LORD forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
3 For I have said, "Loving devotion is built up forever;
in the heavens you establish your faithfulness."

4 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
5 'I will establish your offspring forever
and build up your throne for all generations.' "

Selah

6 The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD—
your faithfulness as well—
in the assembly of the holy ones.
7 For who in the skies can compare with the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings† is like the LORD?
8 In the council of the holy ones, God is greatly feared,
and awesome above all who surround him.

9 O LORD God of Hosts, who is like you?
O mighty LORD, your faithfulness surrounds you.
10 You rule the raging sea;
when its waves mount up, you still them.
11 You crushed Rahab like a carcass;
you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.
12 The heavens are yours, and also the earth.
The earth and its fullness you founded.
13 North and south you created;
Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at your name.

14 Mighty is your arm; strong is your hand.
Your right hand is exalted.
15 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
loving devotion and faithfulness go before you.

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* **89:1 89:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142. † **89:7 89:7** Or *the sons of God* or *the sons of might*

16 Blessed are those who know the joyful sound,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.
17 They rejoice in your name all day long,
and in your righteousness they exult.
18 For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our horn is exalted.
19 Surely our shield belongs to the LORD,
and our king to the Holy One of Israel.

20 You once spoke in a vision;
to your godly ones you said,
"I have bestowed help on a warrior;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.
21 I have found my servant David;
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
22 My hand will sustain him;
surely my arm will strengthen him.

23 No enemy will exact tribute;
no wicked man will oppress him.
24 I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.
25 My faithfulness and loving devotion will be with him,
and through my name his horn will be exalted.
26 I will set his hand over the sea,
and his right hand upon the rivers.
27 He will call to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, the Rock of my deliverance.'

28 I will indeed appoint him as my firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.
29 I will forever preserve my loving devotion for him,
and my covenant with him will stand fast.
30 I will establish his line forever,
his throne as long as the heavens endure.

31 If his sons forsake my law
and do not walk in my judgments,
32 if they violate my statutes
and fail to keep my commandments,
33 I will attend to their transgression with the rod,
and to their iniquity with stripes.

34 But I will not withdraw my loving devotion from him,
nor ever betray my faithfulness.
35 I will not violate my covenant
or alter the utterance of my lips.
36 Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness—
I will not lie to David—
37 his offspring shall endure forever,
and his throne before me like the sun,
38 like the moon, established forever,

a faithful witness in the sky."

Selah

39 Now, however, you have spurned and rejected him;
you are enraged by your anointed one.
40 You have renounced the covenant with your servant
and sullied his crown in the dust.
41 You have broken down all his walls;
you have reduced his strongholds to rubble.
42 All who pass by plunder him;
he has become a reproach to his neighbors.

43 You have exalted the right hand of his foes;
you have made all his enemies rejoice.
44 You have bent the edge of his sword
and have not sustained him in battle.
45 You have ended his splendor
and cast his throne to the ground.
46 You have cut short the days of his youth;
you have covered him with shame.

Selah

47 How long, O LORD?
Will you hide yourself forever?
Will your wrath keep burning like fire?
48 Remember the briefness of my lifespan!
For what futility you have created all men!
49 What man can live and never see death?
Can he deliver himself from the power of Sheol?

Selah

50 Where, O Lord, is your loving devotion of old,
which you faithfully swore to David?
51 Remember, O Lord, the reproach of your servants,
which I bear in my heart from so many people—
52 how your enemies have taunted, O LORD,
and have mocked every step of your anointed one!

53 Blessed be the LORD forever!

Amen and amen.

90

1 A prayer of Moses the man of God.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
through all generations.
2 Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting
you are God.

3 You return man to dust,
saying, “Return, O sons of mortals.”
4 For in your sight a thousand years
are but a day that passes,

or a watch of the night.
5 You sweep them away in their sleep;
they are like the new grass of the morning—
6 in the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it fades and withers.

7 For we are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your wrath.
8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
9 For all our days decline in your fury;
we finish our years with a sigh.
10 The length of our days is seventy years—
or eighty if we are strong—
yet their pride is but labor and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

11 Who knows the power of your anger?
Your wrath matches the fear you are due.
12 So teach us to number our days,
that we may present a heart of wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.
14 Satisfy us in the morning with your loving devotion,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen evil.

16 May your work be shown to your servants,
and your splendor to their children.
17 May the favor* of the Lord our God rest upon us;
establish for us the work of our hands—
yes, establish the work of our hands!

91

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*
2 I will say to the LORD, “You are my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

3 Surely he will deliver you
from the snare of the fowler,
and from the deadly plague.
4 He will cover you with his feathers;
under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and rampart.
5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,

* **90:17 90:17** Or *beauty* * **91:1 91:1** Hebrew *Shaddai*

nor the calamity that destroys at noon.
7 Though a thousand may fall at your side,
and ten thousand at your right hand,
no harm will come near you.
8 You will only see it with your eyes
and witness the punishment of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling—
my refuge, the Most High—
10 no evil will befall you,
no plague will approach your tent.
11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
12 They will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
13 You will tread on the lion and cobra;
you will trample the young lion and serpent.

14 "Because he loves me, I will deliver him;
because he knows my name, I will protect him.
15 When he calls out to me,
I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble.
I will deliver him and honor him.
16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my deliverance."

92

1 A Psalm. A song for the Sabbath day.

2 It is good to praise the LORD,
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High,
3 to proclaim your loving devotion in the morning
and your faithfulness at night
4 with the ten-stringed harp
and the melody of the lyre.

5 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your deeds;
I sing for joy at the works of your hands.
6 How great are your works, O LORD,
how deep are your thoughts!
7 A senseless man does not know,
and a fool does not understand,
8 that though the wicked sprout like grass,
and all evildoers flourish,
they will be forever destroyed.

9 But you, O LORD, are exalted forever!

10 For surely your enemies, O LORD,
surely your enemies will perish;
all evildoers will be scattered.
11 But you have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox;

with fine oil I have been anointed.
12 My eyes see the downfall of my enemies;
my ears hear evildoers when they rise against me.*

13 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
14 Planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
15 In old age they will still bear fruit;
healthy and green they will remain,
16 to proclaim, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock,
and in him there is no unrighteousness."

93

1 The LORD reigns! He is robed in majesty;
the LORD has clothed and armed himself with strength.
The world indeed is firmly established;
it cannot be moved.
2 Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.

3 The floodwaters have risen, O LORD;
the rivers have raised their voice;
the seas lift up their pounding waves.
4 Above the roar of many waters—
the mighty breakers of the sea—
the LORD on high is majestic.

5 Your testimonies are fully confirmed;
holiness adorns your house, O LORD,
for all the days to come.

94

1 O LORD, God of vengeance,
O God of vengeance, shine forth.
2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth;
render a reward to the proud.
3 How long will the wicked, O LORD,
how long will the wicked exult?

4 They pour out arrogant words;
all workers of iniquity boast.
5 They crush your people, O LORD;
they oppress your heritage.
6 They kill the widow and the foreigner;
they murder the fatherless.
7 They say, "The LORD does not see;
the God of Jacob pays no heed."

8 Take notice, O senseless among the people!
O fools, when will you be wise?

* **92:12 92:12** Or *my ears hear the wailing of my wicked foes*

9 He who affixed the ear, can he not hear?
He who formed the eye, can he not see?
10 He who admonishes the nations, does he not discipline?
He who teaches man, does he lack knowledge?
11 The LORD knows the thoughts of man,
that they are futile.

12 Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD,
and teach from your law,
13 to grant him relief from days of trouble,
until a pit is dug for the wicked.
14 For the LORD will not forsake his people;
he will never abandon his heritage.
15 Surely judgment will again be righteous,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

16 Who will rise up for me against the wicked?
Who will stand for me against the workers of iniquity?
17 Unless the LORD had been my helper,
I would soon have dwelt in the abode of silence.
18 If I say, "My foot is slipping,"
your loving devotion, O LORD, supports me.
19 When anxiety overwhelms me,
your consolation delights my soul.

20 Can a corrupt throne be your ally—
one devising mischief by decree?
21 They band together against the righteous
and condemn the innocent to death.*
22 But the LORD has been my stronghold,
and my God is my rock of refuge.
23 He will bring upon them their own iniquity
and destroy them for their wickedness.
The LORD our God will destroy them.

95

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout to the Rock of our deliverance!
2 Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him in song.

3 For the LORD is a great God,
a great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6 O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
7 For he is our God,

* **94:21 94:21** Or *condemn innocent blood*

and we are the people of his pasture,
the sheep under his care.

Today, if you hear his voice,
8 do not harden your hearts
as you did at Meribah,*
in the day at Massah in the wilderness,†
9 where your fathers tested and tried me,
though they had seen my work.
10 For forty years I was angry with that generation,
and I said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray,‡
and they have not known my ways.”
11 So I swore on oath in my anger,
“They shall never enter my rest.”

96

1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
proclaim his deliverance day after day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
5 For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
6 Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and enter his courts.
9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

10 Declare among the nations: “The LORD reigns!”
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.

11 Let the heavens be glad
and the earth rejoice;
let the sea resound,
and all that fills it.
12 Let the fields exult,
and all that is in them.
Then all the trees of the forest
will sing for joy

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* **95:8 95:8** LXX *as you did in the rebellion*; *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7. † **95:8 95:8** LXX *in the day of testing in the wilderness*; *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7. ‡ **95:10 95:10** LXX *They always go astray in the heart*

13 before the LORD,
for he is coming—
he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

97

1 The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the distant shores be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are his throne's foundation.
3 Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
4 His lightning illuminates the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
5 The mountains melt like wax
at the presence of the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
all the peoples see his glory.

7 All worshipers of images are put to shame—
those who boast in idols.
Worship him, all you gods!
8 Zion hears and rejoices,
and the towns of Judah exult
because of your judgments, O LORD.
9 For you, O LORD, are Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

10 Hate evil, O you who love the LORD!
He preserves the lives of his godly ones;
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
11 Light is sown* on the righteous,
gladness on the upright in heart.
12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous ones,
and praise his holy name.

98

1 A Psalm.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wonders;
his right hand and holy arm
have gained him the victory.
2 The LORD has proclaimed his deliverance
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
3 He has remembered his love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth
have seen the deliverance of our God.

* **97:11 97:11** One Hebrew manuscript, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Light shines*

4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth—let your cry ring out, and sing praises!
5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
in melodious song with the harp.
6 With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

7 Let the sea resound, and all that fills it,
the world, and all who dwell in it.
8 Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy
9 before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

99

1 The LORD reigns;
let the nations tremble!
He is enthroned above the cherubim;
let the earth quake!
2 Great is the LORD in Zion;
he is exalted above all the peoples.
3 Let them praise your great and awesome name—
he is holy!*

4 The mighty King loves justice.†
You have established equity;
you have exercised justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
5 Exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at his footstool;
he is holy!

6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests;
Samuel was among those who called on his name.
They called to the LORD and he answered.
7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees and the statutes he gave them.
8 O LORD our God, you answered them.
You were a forgiving God to them,
yet an avenger of their misdeeds.

9 Exalt the LORD our God
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy.

100

1 A Psalm of thanksgiving.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD,

* **99:3 99:3** Or *it is holy!* † **99:4 99:4** Or *The might of the King loves justice.*

all the earth.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with joyful songs.
3 Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;*
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good,
and his loving devotion endures forever;
his faithfulness continues to all generations.

101

1 A Psalm of David.
I will sing of your loving devotion and justice;
to you, O LORD, I will sing praises.

2 I will ponder the way that is blameless—
when will you come to me?
I will walk in my house
with integrity of heart.
3 I will set no worthless thing
before my eyes.
I hate the work of those who fall away;
it shall not cling to me.
4 A perverse heart shall depart from me;
I will know nothing of evil.

5 Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret,
I will put to silence;
the one with haughty eyes and a proud heart,
I will not endure.
6 My eyes favor the faithful of the land,
that they may dwell with me;
he who walks in the way of integrity
shall minister to me.

7 No one who practices deceit
shall dwell in my house;
no one who tells lies
shall stand in my presence.
8 Every morning I will remove all the wicked of the land,
that I may cut off every evildoer from the city of the LORD.

102

1 A prayer of one who is afflicted, when he grows faint and pours out his lament before the LORD.

2 Hear my prayer, O LORD;

* **100:3 100:3** Qere; Ketiv *and not we ourselves*

let my cry for help come before you.
3 Do not hide your face from me
in my day of distress.
Incline your ear to me;
answer me quickly when I call.

4 For my days vanish like smoke,
and my bones burn like glowing embers.
5 My heart is afflicted, and withered like grass;
I even forget to eat my bread.
6 Through my loud groaning
my skin hangs on my bones.
7 I am like a desert owl,
like an owl among the ruins.
8 I lie awake;
I am like a lone bird on a housetop.

9 All day long my enemies taunt me;
they ridicule me and curse me.
10 For I have eaten ashes like bread
and mixed my drink with tears
11 because of your indignation and wrath,
for you have picked me up and cast me aside.
12 My days are like lengthening shadows,
and I wither away like grass.

13 But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever;
your renown endures to all generations.
14 You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to show her favor—
the appointed time has come.
15 For your servants delight in her stones
and take pity on her dust.

16 So the nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.
17 For the LORD will rebuild Zion;
he has appeared in his glory.
18 He will turn toward the prayer of the destitute;
he will not despise their prayer.

19 Let this be written for the generation to come,
so that a people not yet created may praise the LORD.
20 For he looked down from the heights of his sanctuary;
the LORD gazed out from heaven to earth
21 to hear a prisoner's groaning,
to release those condemned to death,
22 that they may proclaim the name of the LORD in Zion
and praise him in Jerusalem,
23 when peoples and kingdoms assemble
to serve the LORD.

24 He has broken my strength* on the way;
he has cut short my days.
25 I say: “O my God, do not take me in the midst of my days!
Your years go on through all generations.
26 In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
27 They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
Like clothing you will change them,
and they will be passed on.
28 But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.
29 The children of your servants will dwell securely,
and their descendants will be established before you.”

103

1 Of David.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his kind deeds—
3 he who forgives all your iniquities
and heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the Pit
and crowns you with loving devotion and compassion,
5 who satisfies you with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

6 The LORD executes righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel.
8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion.
9 He will not always accuse us,
nor harbor his anger forever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins
or repaid us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his loving devotion for those who fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
13 As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.
14 For he knows our frame;
he is mindful that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are like grass—
he blooms like a flower of the field;

* **102:24 102:24** Qere; Ketiv *his strength*

16 when the wind passes over, it vanishes,
and its place remembers it no more.
17 But from everlasting to everlasting
the loving devotion of the LORD
extends to those who fear him,
and his righteousness to their children's children—
18 to those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the LORD, you his angels mighty in strength
who carry out his word,
who hearken to the voice of his command.
21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts,
you servants who do his will.
22 Bless the LORD, all his works
in all places of his dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

104

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.
2 He wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent,
3 laying the beams of his chambers
in the waters above,
making the clouds his chariot,
walking on the wings of the wind.
4 He makes the winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.*

5 He set the earth on its foundations,
never to be moved.
6 You covered it with the deep like a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
7 At your rebuke the waters fled;
at the sound of your thunder they hurried away—
8 the mountains rose and the valleys sank
to the place you assigned for them—
9 you set a boundary they cannot cross,
that they may never again cover the earth.

10 He sends forth springs in the valleys;
they flow between the mountains.
11 They give drink to every beast of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
12 The birds of the air nest beside the springs;

* **104:4 104:4** LXX *he makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.*

they sing among the branches.
13 He waters the mountains from his chambers;
the earth is satisfied by the fruit of your works.

14 He makes the grass grow for the livestock
and provides crops for man to cultivate,
bringing forth food from the earth:
15 wine that gladdens the heart of man,
oil that makes his face to shine,
and bread that sustains his heart.
16 The trees of the LORD have their fill,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted,
17 where the birds build their nests;
the stork makes her home in the junipers.†
18 The high mountains are for the wild goats,
the cliffs a refuge for the rock badgers.‡

19 He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows when to set.
20 You bring darkness, and it becomes night,
when all the beasts of the forest prowl.
21 The young lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.
22 The sun rises, and they withdraw;
they lie down in their dens.
23 Man goes forth to his work
and to his labor until evening.

24 How many are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
25 Here is the sea, vast and wide,
teeming with creatures beyond number,
living things both great and small.
26 There the ships pass,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

27 All creatures look to you
to give them their food in due season.
28 When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
29 When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to dust.
30 When you send your breath,
they are created,
and you renew
the face of the earth.

† **104:17 104:17** Or *cypresses* or *pines* or *firs* ‡ **104:18 104:18** Or *the coneys* or *the hyraxes*

31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works.
32 He looks on the earth,
and it trembles;
he touches the mountains,
and they smolder.
33 I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
35 May sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Hallelujah!§

105

1 Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the nations.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonders.
3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
4 Seek out the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.
5 Remember the wonders he has done,
his marvels, and the judgments he has pronounced,
6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,
O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones.

7 He is the LORD our God;
his judgments carry throughout the earth.
8 He remembers his covenant forever,
the word he ordained for a thousand generations—
9 the covenant he made with Abraham,
and the oath he swore to Isaac.
10 He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
11 "I will give you the land of Canaan
as the portion of your inheritance."

12 When they were few in number,
few indeed, and strangers in the land,
13 they wandered from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another.
14 He let no man oppress them;
he rebuked kings on their behalf:
15 "Do not touch my anointed ones!
Do no harm to my prophets!"

§ **104:35 104:35** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*

16 He called down famine on the land
and cut off all their supplies* of food.
17 He sent a man before them—
Joseph, sold as a slave.
18 They bruised his feet† with shackles
and placed his neck in irons,
19 until his prediction came true
and the word of the LORD proved him right.
20 The king sent and released him;
the ruler of peoples set him free.
21 He made him master of his household,
ruler over all his substance,
22 to bind‡ his princes as he pleased
and teach his elders wisdom.

23 Then Israel entered Egypt;
Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.
24 And the LORD made his people very fruitful,
more numerous than their foes,
25 whose hearts he turned to hate his people,
to conspire against his servants.
26 He sent Moses his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
27 They performed his miraculous signs among them,
and wonders in the land of Ham.
28 He sent darkness, and it became dark—
and they did not defy his word.§

29 He turned their waters to blood
and caused their fish to die.
30 Their land teemed with frogs,
even in their royal chambers.
31 He spoke, and insects swarmed—
gnats throughout their country.
32 He gave them hail for rain,
with lightning throughout their land.
33 He struck their vines and fig trees
and shattered the trees of their country.
34 He spoke, and the locusts came—
young locusts without number.
35 They devoured every plant in their land
and consumed the produce of their soil.
36 Then he struck all the firstborn in their land,
the firstfruits of all their vigor.

37 He brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and none among his tribes stumbled.
38 Egypt was glad when they departed,
for the dread of Israel had fallen on them.
39 He spread a cloud as a covering

* **105:16 105:16** Hebrew *staff* † **105:18 105:18** Ketiv; Qere *his foot* ‡ **105:22 105:22** LXX and Syriac *to instruct* § **105:28 105:28** MT (Qere; Ketiv *his words*); LXX and Syriac *yet they defied his words*

and a fire to light up the night.
40 They asked, and he brought quail
and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.
41 He opened a rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed like a river in the desert.
42 For he remembered his holy promise
to Abraham his servant.
43 He brought forth his people with rejoicing,
his chosen with shouts of joy.
44 He gave them the lands of the nations,
that they might inherit the fruit of others' labor,
45 that they might keep his statutes
and obey his laws.

Hallelujah!*

106

1 Hallelujah!*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his loving devotion endures forever.
2 Who can describe the mighty acts of the LORD
or fully proclaim his praise?
3 Blessed are those who uphold justice,
who practice righteousness at all times.

4 Remember me, O LORD, in your favor to your people;
visit me with your deliverance,
5 that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
and rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
and give glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned like our fathers;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.
7 Our fathers in Egypt did not grasp your wonders
or remember your abundant kindness;
but they rebelled by the sea,
there at the Sea of Reeds.†
8 Yet he saved them for the sake of his name,
to make his power known.
9 He rebuked the Sea of Reeds, and it dried up;
he led them through the depths as through a desert.
10 He saved them from the hand that hated them;
he redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.
11 The waters covered their foes;
not one of them remained.
12 Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.

13 Yet they soon forgot his works

* **105:45 105:45** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD* * **106:1 106:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 48 † **106:7 106:7** Or *the Red Sea*; also in verses 9 and 22

and failed to wait for his counsel.
14 They craved intensely in the wilderness
and tested God in the desert.
15 So he granted their request,
but sent a wasting disease upon them.

16 In the camp they envied Moses,
as well as Aaron, the holy one of the LORD.
17 The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan;
it covered the assembly of Abiram.
18 Then fire blazed through their company;
flames consumed the wicked.

19 At Horeb‡ they made a calf
and worshiped a molten image.
20 They exchanged their Glory§
for the image of a grass-eating ox.
21 They forgot God their Savior,
who did great things in Egypt,
22 wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Sea of Reeds.
23 So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses his chosen one
stood before him in the breach
to divert his wrath from destroying them.

24 They despised the pleasant land;
they did not believe his promise.
25 They grumbled in their tents
and did not listen to the voice of the LORD.
26 So he raised his hand and swore
to cast them down in the wilderness,
27 to disperse* their offspring among the nations
and scatter them throughout the lands.

28 They yoked themselves to Baal of Peor
and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods.
29 So they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.
30 But Phinehas stood and intervened,
and the plague was restrained.
31 It was credited to him as righteousness
for endless generations to come.

32 At the waters of Meribah† they angered the LORD,
and trouble came to Moses because of them.
33 For they rebelled against his spirit,‡
and Moses spoke rashly with his lips.

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‡ **106:19 106:19** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai
§ **106:20 106:20** Or *their glorious God* * **106:27 106:27** Or *cast down* or *cause to fall* † **106:32 106:32** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7. ‡ **106:33 106:33** Or *they provoked his spirit*

34 They did not destroy the peoples
as the LORD had commanded them,
35 but they mingled with the nations
and adopted their customs.
36 They worshiped their idols,
which became a snare to them.
37 They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to demons.
38 They shed innocent blood—
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was polluted with blood.
39 They defiled themselves by their actions
and prostituted themselves by their deeds.

40 So the anger of the LORD burned against his people,
and he abhorred his own inheritance.
41 He delivered them into the hand of the nations,
and those who hated them ruled over them.
42 Their enemies oppressed them
and subdued them under their hand.
43 Many times he rescued them,
but they were bent on rebellion
and sank down in their iniquity.

44 Nevertheless he heard their cry;
he took note of their distress.
45 And he remembered his covenant with them,
and relented by the abundance of his loving devotion.
46 He made them objects of compassion
to all who held them captive.

47 Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name,
that we may glory in your praise.

48 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Let all the people say, “Amen!”

Hallelujah!

107

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his loving devotion endures forever.
2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy
3 and gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.*

* **107:3 107:3** Hebrew *north and the sea*

4 Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no path to a city in which to dwell.
5 They were hungry and thirsty;
their soul fainted within them.
6 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
7 He led them on a straight path
to reach a city where they could live.
8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his loving devotion
and his wonders to the sons of men.
9 For he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

10 Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
prisoners in affliction and chains,
11 because they rebelled against the words of God
and despised the counsel of the Most High.
12 He humbled their hearts with hard labor;
they stumbled, and there was no one to help.
13 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death
and broke away their chains.
15 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his loving devotion
and his wonders to the sons of men.
16 For he has broken down the gates of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron.

17 Fools, in their rebellious ways,
and through their iniquities, suffered affliction.
18 They loathed all food
and drew near to the gates of death.
19 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
20 He sent forth his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the Pit.
21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his loving devotion
and his wonders to the sons of men.
22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and declare his works with rejoicing.

23 Others went out to sea in ships,
conducting trade on the mighty waters.
24 They saw the works of the LORD,
and his wonders in the deep.
25 For he spoke and raised a tempest
that lifted the waves of the sea.
26 They mounted up to the heavens, then sunk to the depths;
their courage melted in their anguish.
27 They reeled and staggered like drunkards,
and all their skill was useless.†

† **107:27 107:27** Or *and all their wisdom was swallowed up* or *and they were at their wits' end*

28 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
29 He calmed the storm to a whisper,
and their waves‡ were hushed.
30 They rejoiced in the silence,
and he guided them to the harbor they desired.
31 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his loving devotion
and his wonders to the sons of men.
32 Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.

33 He turns rivers into deserts,
springs of water into thirsty ground,
34 and fruitful land into fields of salt,
because of the wickedness of its dwellers.
35 He turns a desert into pools of water
and a dry land into flowing springs.
36 He causes the hungry to settle there,
that they may establish a city in which to dwell.
37 They sow fields and plant vineyards
that yield a fruitful harvest.
38 He blesses them, and they multiply greatly;
he does not let their herds diminish.

39 When they are decreased and humbled
by oppression, evil, and sorrow,
40 he pours out contempt on the nobles
and makes them wander in a trackless wasteland.
41 But he lifts the needy from affliction
and increases their families like flocks.
42 The upright see and rejoice,
and all iniquity shuts its mouth.

43 Let him who is wise pay heed to these things
and consider the loving devotion of the LORD.

108

1 A song. A Psalm of David.

2 My heart is steadfast, O God;
I will sing and make music with all my being.*
3 Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.
4 I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations;
I will sing your praises among the peoples.
5 For your loving devotion extends beyond the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
6 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
may your glory cover all the earth.
7 Save with your right hand and answer me,†
that your beloved may be delivered.

‡ **107:29 107:29** DSS *the waves of the sea* * **108:2 108:2** Or *with my glory* † **108:7 108:7** Compare Psalm 60:7 (Ketiv) *answer us*

8 God has spoken from his sanctuary:‡
“I will triumph!
I will parcel out Shechem
and apportion the Valley of Succoth.
9 Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet, Judah is my scepter.
10 Moab is my washbasin;
upon Edom I toss my sandal;
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”

11 Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?
12 Have you not rejected us, O God?
Will you no longer march out, O God, with our armies?
13 Give us aid against the enemy,
for the help of man is worthless.
14 With God we will perform with valor,
and he will trample our enemies.

109

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

O God of my praise,
be not silent.
2 For wicked and deceitful mouths open against me;
they speak against me with lying tongues.
3 They surround me with hateful words
and attack me without cause.
4 In return for my love they accuse me,
but I am a man of prayer.
5 They repay me evil for good,
and hatred for my love.

6 Set over him a wicked man;
let an accuser stand at his right hand.
7 When he is tried, let him be found guilty,
and may his prayer be regarded as sin.
8 May his days be few;
may another take his position.
9 May his children be fatherless
and his wife a widow.
10 May his children wander as beggars,
seeking sustenance* far from their ruined homes.
11 May the creditor seize all he owns,
and strangers plunder the fruits of his labor.
12 May there be no one to extend kindness to him,
and no one to favor his fatherless children.
13 May his descendants be cut off;
may their name be blotted out from the next generation.
14 May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD,
and the sin of his mother never be blotted out.

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‡ **108:8 108:8** Or *in his holiness* * **109:10 109:10** LXX *may they be driven*

15 May their sins always remain before the LORD,
that he may cut off their memory from the earth.

16 For he never thought to show kindness,
but pursued the poor and needy and brokenhearted,
even to their death.
17 The cursing that he loved
came upon him;
the blessing in which he refused to delight
was far from him.†
18 The cursing that he wore like a coat
soaked into his body like water,‡
and into his bones like oil.
19 May it be like a robe wrapped about him,
like a belt tied forever around him.
20 May this be the LORD's reward to my accusers,
to those who speak evil against me.

21 But you, O GOD, the Lord,
deal kindly with me for the sake of your name;
deliver me by the goodness of your loving devotion.
22 For I am poor and needy;
my heart is wounded within me.
23 I am fading away like a lengthening shadow;
I am shaken off like a locust.
24 My knees are weak from fasting,
and my body grows lean and gaunt.
25 I am an object of scorn to my accusers;
when they see me, they shake their heads.

26 Help me, O LORD my God;
save me according to your loving devotion.
27 Let them know that this is your hand,
that you, O LORD, have done it.
28 Though they curse, you will bless.
When they rise up, they will be put to shame,
but your servant will rejoice.
29 May my accusers be clothed with disgrace;
may they wear their shame like a robe.
30 With my mouth I will thank the LORD profusely;
I will praise him in the presence of many.
31 For he stands at the right hand of the needy one,
to save him from those who would condemn him.

110

1 A Psalm of David.

The LORD said to my lord:*
"Sit at my right hand

† **109:17 109:17** Or, with a different vocalization, *may it fall on him … may it be far from him* ‡ **109:18 109:18** Or, with a different vocalization, *may it soak into his body like water* * **110:1 110:1** Hebrew *adoni*, a title for a human master or king; some translations *my Lord*

until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

2 The LORD extends your mighty scepter from Zion:
"Rule in the midst of your enemies."
3 Your people shall be willing
on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy splendor, from the womb of the dawn,
to you belongs the dew of your youth.

4 The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind:
"You are a priest forever
in the order of Melchizedek."†

5 The Lord is at your right hand;
he will crush kings in the day of his wrath.
6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead;
he will crush the leaders far and wide.
7 He will drink from the brook by the road;
therefore he will lift up his head.

111

1 Hallelujah!*

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

2 Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.
3 Splendid and majestic is his work;
his righteousness endures forever.
4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.
5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works
by giving them the inheritance of the nations.
7 The works of his hands are truth and justice;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
8 They are upheld forever and ever,
enacted in truth and uprightness.
9 He has sent redemption to his people;
he has ordained his covenant forever;
holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts gain rich understanding.

† **110:4 110:4** Or *a priest forever, on my account a king of righteousness*; Hebrew *al divrati malki-tsedeq*

* **111:1 111:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*. This psalm is an acrostic poem, each line beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

His praise endures forever!

112

1 Hallelujah!*

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commandments.
2 His descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3 Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.
4 Light dawns in the darkness for the upright—
for the gracious, compassionate, and righteous.

5 It is well with the man who is generous and lends freely,
whose affairs are guided by justice.
6 Surely he will never be shaken;
the righteous man will be remembered forever.
7 He does not fear bad news;
his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
8 His heart is assured; he does not fear,
until he looks in triumph on his foes.
9 He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn will be lifted high in honor.

10 The wicked man will see and be grieved;
he will gnash his teeth and waste away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

113

1 Hallelujah!*

Give praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.
2 Blessed be the name of the LORD
both now and forevermore.
3 From where the sun rises to where it sets,
the name of the LORD is praised.

4 The LORD is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.
5 Who is like the LORD our God,
the One enthroned on high?
6 He humbles himself to behold
the heavens and the earth.

7 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the dump
8 to seat them with nobles,

* **112:1 112:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*. This psalm is an acrostic poem, each line beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. * **113:1 113:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 9

with the princes of his people.
9 He settles the barren woman in her home
as a joyful mother to her children.

Hallelujah!

114

1 When Israel departed from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,
2 Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.

3 The sea observed and fled;
the Jordan turned back;
4 the mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.
5 Why was it, O sea, that you fled,
O Jordan, that you turned back,
6 O mountains, that you skipped like rams,
O hills, like lambs?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
8 who turned the rock into a pool,
the flint into a fountain of water!

115

1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us,
but to your name be the glory,
because of your loving devotion,
because of your faithfulness.

2 Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"

3 Our God is in heaven;
he does as he pleases.

4 Their idols are silver and gold,
made by the hands of men.
5 They have mouths, but cannot speak;
they have eyes, but cannot see;
6 they have ears, but cannot hear;
they have noses, but cannot smell;
7 they have hands, but cannot feel;
they have feet, but cannot walk;
they cannot even clear their throats.*
8 Those who make them become like them,
as do all who trust in them.

9 O Israel,† trust in the LORD!

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* **115:7 115:7** Literally *they cannot utter with their throat* † **115:9 115:9** Many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac *O house of Israel*

He is their help and shield.
10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and shield.
11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and shield.
12 The LORD is mindful of us;
he will bless us.
He will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
13 he will bless those who fear the LORD—
small and great alike.

14 May the LORD give you increase,
both you and your children.
15 May you be blessed by the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

16 The highest heavens belong to the LORD,
but the earth he has given to mankind.
17 It is not the dead who praise the LORD,
nor any who descend into silence.
18 But it is we who will bless the LORD,
both now and forevermore.

Hallelujah![‡]

116

1 I love the LORD, for he has heard my voice—
my appeal for mercy.
2 Because he has inclined his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.

3 The ropes of death entangled me;
the anguish of Sheol overcame me;
I was confronted by trouble and sorrow.
4 Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, deliver my life!”

5 The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
6 The LORD preserves the simplehearted;
I was helpless, and he saved me.
7 Return to your rest, O my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.
8 For you have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

9 I will walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
10 I believed, therefore I said,[*]
“I am greatly afflicted.”

[‡] **115:18 115:18** Or *Hallelu YAH,* meaning *Praise the LORD* [*] **116:10 116:10** LXX *therefore I have spoken*

11 In my alarm I said,
“All men are liars!”

12 How can I repay the LORD
for all his goodness to me?
13 I will lift the cup of deliverance
and call on the name of the LORD.
14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

15 Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his godly ones.
16 Truly, O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant;
you have broken my bonds.

17 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.
18 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
19 in the courts of the LORD’s house,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah![†]

117

1 Praise the LORD, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples!
2 For great is his loving devotion toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Hallelujah![*]

118

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his loving devotion endures forever.
2 Let Israel[*] say,
“His loving devotion endures forever.”
3 Let the house of Aaron say,
“His loving devotion endures forever.”
4 Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His loving devotion endures forever.”

5 In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered and set me free.
6 The LORD is on my side;[†] I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
7 The LORD is on my side; he is my helper.
Therefore I will look in triumph on those who hate me.
8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD

[†] **116:19 116:19** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD* [*] **117:2 117:2** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD* [*] **118:2 118:2** LXX *the house of Israel* [†] **118:6 118:6** Or *The LORD is with me*; also in verse 7; LXX *The Lord is my helper*

than to trust in man.
9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.

10 All the nations surrounded me,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.
11 They surrounded me on every side,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.
12 They swarmed around me like bees,
but they were extinguished like burning thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off.
13 I was pushed so hard I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
14 The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my deliverance.

15 Shouts of joy and deliverance resound in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD performs with valor!
16 The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD performs with valor!"
17 I will not die, but I will live
and proclaim what the LORD has done.
18 The LORD disciplined me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter and give thanks to the LORD.
20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
21 I will give you thanks, for you have answered me,
and you have become my deliverance.
22 The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.‡
23 This is from the LORD,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
24 This is the day that the LORD has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 O LORD, save us, we pray.§
We beseech you, O LORD, cause us to prosper!

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless you.
27 The LORD is God;
he has made his light to shine upon us.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords
to the horns of the altar.*
28 You are my God, and I will give you thanks.
You are my God, and I will exalt you.
29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

‡ **118:22 118:22** Hebrew *the head of the corner* § **118:25 118:25** Hebrew *hosia-na*, meaning *save, we pray* or *save now* * **118:27 118:27** Or *Join in the festal procession with boughs in hand, up to the horns of the altar.*

his loving devotion endures forever.

119

1 Blessed* are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the Teaching of the LORD.
2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies
and seek him with all their heart.
3 They do no iniquity;
they walk in his ways.
4 You have ordained your precepts,
that we should keep them diligently.
5 Oh, that my ways were committed
to keeping your statutes!
6 Then I would not be ashamed
when I consider all your commandments.
7 I will praise you with an upright heart
when I learn your righteous judgments.
8 I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

9 How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
10 With all my heart I have sought you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.
11 I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.
13 With my lips I proclaim
all the judgments of your mouth.
14 I rejoice in the way of your testimonies
as much as in all riches.
15 I will meditate on your precepts
and regard your ways.
16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

17 Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
18 Open my eyes that I may see
wondrous things from your law.
19 I am a stranger on the earth;
do not hide your commandments from me.
20 My soul is consumed with longing
for your judgments at all times.
21 You rebuke the arrogant—
the cursed who stray from your commandments.
22 Remove my scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your testimonies.

* **119:1 119:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem of twenty-two stanzas, following the letters of the Hebrew alphabet; within a stanza, each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter.

23 Though rulers sit and slander me,
your servant meditates on your statutes.
24 Your testimonies are indeed my delight;
they are my counselors.

25 My soul cleaves to the dust;
revive me according to your word.
26 I recounted my ways, and you answered me;
teach me your statutes.
27 Make clear to me the way of your precepts;
then I will meditate on your wonders.
28 My soul melts with sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word.
29 Remove me from the path of deceit
and graciously grant me your law.
30 I have chosen the way of truth;
I have set your ordinances before me.
31 I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;
let me not be put to shame.
32 I run in the path of your commandments,
for you will enlarge my heart.

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will keep them to the end.†
34 Give me understanding that I may obey your law,
and follow it with all my heart.
35 Direct me in the path of your commandments,
for there I find delight.
36 Turn my heart to your testimonies
and not to covetous gain.
37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
revive me in your ways.‡
38 Establish your word to your servant,
to produce reverence for you.
39 Turn away the disgrace I dread,
for your judgments are good.
40 How I long for your precepts!
Revive me in your righteousness.

41 May your loving devotion come to me, O LORD,
your deliverance, according to your promise.
42 Then I can answer him who taunts,
for I trust in your word.
43 Never take your word of truth from my mouth,
for I hope in your judgments.
44 I will always obey your law,
forever and ever.
45 And I will walk in freedom,
for I have sought your precepts.

† **119:33 119:33** Or *keep them as my reward* ‡ **119:37 119:37** Aleppo and Leningrad codices; two MT manuscripts and DSS *with your word*

46 I will speak of your testimonies before kings,
and I will not be ashamed.
47 I delight in your commandments
because I love them.
48 I lift up my hands to your commandments, which I love,
and I meditate on your statutes.

49 Remember your word to your servant,
upon which you have given me hope.
50 This is my comfort in affliction,
that your promise has given me life.
51 The arrogant utterly deride me,
but I do not turn from your law.
52 I remember your judgments of old, O LORD,
and in them I find comfort.
53 Rage has taken hold of me
because of the wicked who reject your law.
54 Your statutes are songs to me
in the house of my pilgrimage.
55 In the night, O LORD, I remember your name,
that I may keep your law.
56 This is my practice,
for I obey your precepts.
57 The LORD is my portion;
I have promised to keep your words.
58 I have sought your face with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.
59 I considered my ways
and turned my steps to your testimonies.
60 I hurried without hesitating
to keep your commandments.
61 Though the ropes of the wicked bind me,
I do not forget your law.
62 At midnight I rise to give you thanks
for your righteous judgments.
63 I am a friend to all who fear you,
and to those who keep your precepts.
64 The earth is filled with your loving devotion, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.

65 You are good to your servant, O LORD,
according to your word.
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.
67 Before I was afflicted, I went astray;
but now I keep your word.
68 You are good, and you do what is good;
teach me your statutes.
69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,
I keep your precepts with all my heart.

70 Their hearts are dull like fat,§
but I delight in your law.
71 It was good for me to be afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes.
72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me
than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me;
give me understanding to learn your commandments.
74 May those who fear you see me and rejoice,
for I have hoped in your word.
75 I know, O LORD, that your judgments are righteous,
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.
76 May your loving devotion comfort me, I pray,
according to your promise to your servant.
77 May your compassion come to me, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.
78 May the arrogant be put to shame for subverting me with a lie;
I will meditate on your precepts.
79 May those who fear you turn to me,
those who know your testimonies.
80 May my heart be blameless in your statutes,
that I may not be put to shame.
81 My soul faints for your deliverance;
I wait for your word.
82 My eyes fail, looking for your promise;
I ask, “When will you comfort me?”
83 Though I am like a wineskin dried up by smoke,
I do not forget your statutes.
84 How many are the days of your servant?*
When will you execute judgment on my persecutors?
85 The arrogant have dug pits for me
in violation of your law.
86 All your commandments are faithful;
I am persecuted without cause—help me!
87 They almost wiped me from the earth,
but I have not forsaken your precepts.
88 Revive me according to your loving devotion,
that I may obey the testimony of your mouth.
89 Your word, O LORD, is everlasting;
it is firmly fixed in the heavens.
90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations;
you established the earth, and it endures.
91 They stand this day according to your ordinances,†
for all things are servants to you.
92 If your law had not been my delight,
then I would have perished in my affliction.
93 I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have revived me.

§ **119:70 119:70** Or *callous and insensitive* * **119:84 119:84** Or *How many days must your servant wait?* † **119:91 119:91** Or *your ordinances stand to this day*

94 I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.
95 The wicked wait to destroy me,
but I will ponder your testimonies.
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection,
but your commandment is without limit.

97 Oh, how I love your law!
All day long it is my meditation.
98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,
for they are always with me.
99 I have more insight than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.
100 I discern more than the elders,
for I obey your precepts.
101 I have kept my feet from every evil path,
that I may keep your word.
102 I have not departed from your ordinances,
for you yourself have taught me.
103 How sweet are your words to my taste—
sweeter than honey in my mouth!
104 I gain understanding from your precepts;
therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
106 I have sworn and confirmed
that I will keep your righteous judgments.
107 I am severely afflicted, O LORD;
revive me through your word.
108 Accept the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD,
and teach me your judgments.
109 I constantly take my life in my hands,
yet I do not forget your law.
110 The wicked have set a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your precepts.
111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever,
for they are the joy of my heart.
112 I have inclined my heart to perform your statutes,
even to the very end.

113 The double-minded I despise,
but your law I love.
114 You are my hiding place and my shield;
I put my hope in your word.
115 Depart from me, you evildoers,
that I may obey the commandments of my God.
116 Sustain me as you promised, that I may live;
let me not be ashamed of my hope.
117 Uphold me, and I will be saved,
that I may always regard your statutes.

118 You reject all who stray from your statutes,
for their deceitfulness is in vain.
119 All the wicked on earth you discard like dross;
therefore I love your testimonies.
120 My flesh trembles in awe of you;
I stand in fear of your judgments.

121 I have done what is just and right;
do not leave me to my oppressors.
122 Ensure your servant's well-being;
do not let the arrogant oppress me.
123 My eyes fail, looking for your deliverance,
and for your righteous promise.
124 Deal with your servant according to your loving devotion,
and teach me your statutes.
125 I am your servant; give me understanding,
that I may know your testimonies.
126 It is time for the LORD to act,
for they have broken your law.
127 Therefore I love your commandments more than gold,
even the purest gold.
128 Therefore I admire all your precepts
and hate every false way.

129 Wonderful are your testimonies;
therefore I obey them.
130 The unfolding of your words gives light;
it informs the simple.
131 I open my mouth and pant,
longing for your commandments.
132 Turn to me and show me mercy,
as you do to those who love your name.
133 Order my steps in your word;
let no sin rule over me.
134 Redeem me from the oppression of man,
that I may keep your precepts.
135 Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
136 My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not obeyed.

137 Righteous are you, O LORD,
and upright are your judgments.
138 The testimonies you have laid down are righteous
and altogether faithful.
139 My zeal has consumed me
because my foes forget your words.
140 Your promise is completely pure;
therefore your servant loves it.
141 I am lowly and despised,
but I do not forget your precepts.

142 Your righteousness is everlasting
and your law is true.
143 Trouble and distress have found me,
but your commandments are my delight.
144 Your testimonies are righteous forever.
Give me understanding, that I may live.

145 I call with all my heart; answer me, O LORD!
I will obey your statutes.
146 I call to you; save me,
that I may keep your testimonies.
147 I rise before dawn and cry for help;
in your word I have put my hope.
148 My eyes anticipate the watches of night,
that I may meditate on your word.
149 Hear my voice, O LORD, according to your loving devotion;
give me life according to your justice.
150 Those who follow after wickedness draw near;
they are far from your law.
151 You are near, O LORD,
and all your commandments are true.
152 Long ago I learned from your testimonies
that you have established them forever.

153 Look upon my affliction and rescue me,
for I have not forgotten your law.
154 Defend my cause and redeem me;
revive me according to your word.
155 Deliverance is far from the wicked
because they do not seek your statutes.
156 Great are your mercies, O LORD;
revive me according to your ordinances.
157 Though my persecutors and foes are many,
I have not turned from your testimonies.
158 I look on the faithless with loathing
because they do not keep your word.
159 Consider how I love your precepts, O LORD;
give me life according to your loving devotion.
160 The entirety of your word is truth,
and all your righteous judgments endure forever.

161 Rulers persecute me without cause,
but my heart fears only your word.
162 I rejoice in your promise
like one who finds great spoil.
163 I hate and abhor falsehood,
but your law I love.
164 Seven times a day I praise you
for your righteous judgments.
165 Abundant peace belongs to those who love your law;
nothing can make them stumble.
166 I wait for your deliverance, O LORD,

and I carry out your commandments.
167 I obey your testimonies
and love them greatly.
168 I obey your precepts and your testimonies,
for all my ways are before you.

169 May my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word.
170 May my plea come before you;
rescue me according to your promise.
171 My lips pour forth praise,
for you teach me your statutes.
172 My tongue sings of your word,
for all your commandments are righteous.
173 May your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.
174 I long for your deliverance, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.
175 Let me live to praise you;
may your judgments sustain me.
176 I have strayed like a lost sheep;
seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commandments.

120

1 A song of ascents.

In my distress I cried to the LORD,
and he answered me.
2 Deliver me, O LORD,
from lying lips and a deceitful tongue.

3 What will he do to you,
and what will be added to you,
O deceitful tongue?
4 Sharp arrows will come from the warrior,
with burning coals of the broom tree!

5 Woe to me that I dwell in Meshech,
that I live among the tents of Kedar!
6 Too long have I dwelt
among those who hate peace.
7 I am in favor of peace;
but when I speak, they want war.

121

1 A song of ascents.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
2 My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not allow your foot to slip;
your Protector will not slumber.
4 Behold, the Protector of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is the shade on your right hand.
6 The sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will guard you from all evil;
he will preserve your life.
8 The LORD will watch over your coming and going,
both now and forevermore.

122

1 A song of ascents. Of David.

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
2 Our feet are standing in your gates,
O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built up
as a city united together,
4 where the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as a testimony for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
5 For there the thrones of judgment stand,
the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be secure.*
7 May there be peace within your walls,
and prosperity† inside your fortresses."
8 For the sake of my brothers and friends,
I will say, "Peace be within you."
9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your prosperity.

123

1 A song of ascents.

I lift up my eyes to you,
the One enthroned in heaven.
2 As the eyes of slaves
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a slave woman
look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the LORD our God

* **122:6 122:6** Or *prosper* † **122:7 122:7** Or *security*

until he shows us mercy.

3 Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have endured much contempt.
4 We have endured much scorn from the arrogant,
much contempt from the proud.

124

1 A song of ascents. Of David.

If the LORD had not been on our side—
let Israel now declare—
2 if the LORD had not been on our side
when men attacked us,
3 when their anger flared against us,
then they would have swallowed us alive,
4 then the floods would have engulfed us,
then the torrent would have overwhelmed us,
5 then the raging waters
would have swept us away.

6 Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the net is torn, and we have slipped away.
8 Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

125

1 A song of ascents.

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion.
It cannot be moved; it abides forever.
2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
both now and forevermore.

3 For the scepter of the wicked will not rest
upon the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous will not put forth
their hands to injustice.

4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to the upright in heart.
5 But those who turn to crooked ways
the LORD will banish with the evildoers.

Peace be upon Israel.

126

1 A song of ascents.

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,*
we were like dreamers.†
2 Then our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with shouts of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
3 The LORD has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

4 Restore our fortunes,‡ O LORD,
like streams in the Negev.
5 Those who sow in tears
will reap with shouts of joy.
6 He who goes out weeping,
bearing a trail of seed,
will surely return with shouts of joy,
carrying sheaves of grain.

127

1 A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders labor in vain;
unless the LORD protects the city,
its watchmen stand guard in vain.
2 In vain you rise early
and stay up late,
toiling for bread to eat—
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

3 Children are indeed a heritage from the LORD,
and the fruit of the womb is his reward.
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
so are children born in one's youth.
5 Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.
He will not be put to shame
when he confronts the enemies at the gate.

128

1 A song of ascents.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
who walk in his ways!
2 For when you eat the fruit of your labor,
blessings and prosperity will be yours.
3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
flourishing within your house,
your sons like olive shoots
sitting around your table.
4 In this way indeed shall blessing come

* **126:1 126:1** Or *restored the captives of Zion* or *brought back the captives to Zion* † **126:1 126:1** Or *like those restored to health* ‡ **126:4 126:4** Or *Restore our captives*

to the man who fears the LORD.

5 May the LORD bless you from Zion,
that you may see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life,
6 that you may see
your children's children.

Peace be upon Israel!

129

1 A song of ascents.

Many a time they have persecuted me from my youth—
let Israel now declare—
2 many a time they have persecuted me from my youth,
but they have not prevailed against me.
3 The plowmen plowed over my back;
they made their furrows long.
4 The LORD is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.

5 May all who hate Zion
be turned back in shame.
6 May they be like grass on the rooftops,
which withers before it can grow,
7 unable to fill the hands of the reaper,
or the arms of the binder of sheaves.
8 May none who pass by say to them,
"The blessing of the LORD be on you;
we bless you in the name of the LORD."

130

1 A song of ascents.

Out of the depths
I cry to you, O LORD!
2 O Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

3 If you, O LORD, kept track of iniquities,
then who, O Lord, could stand?
4 But with you there is forgiveness,
so that you may be feared.

5 I wait for the LORD; my soul does wait,
and in his word I put my hope.
6 My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning—
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is loving devotion,

and with him is redemption in abundance.
8 And he will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

131

1 A song of ascents. Of David.

My heart is not proud, O LORD,
my eyes are not haughty.
I do not aspire to great things
or matters too lofty for me.
2 Surely I have stilled and quieted my soul;
like a weaned child with his mother,
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

3 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
both now and forevermore.

132

1 A song of ascents.

O LORD, remember on behalf of David
all the hardships he endured,
2 how he swore an oath to the LORD,
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:
3 "I will not enter my house
or get into my bed,
4 I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
5 until I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.*"

6 We heard that the ark was in Ephrathah;†
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
7 Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool.
8 Arise, O LORD, to your resting place,
you and the ark of your strength.
9 May your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and your godly ones shout for joy.
10 For the sake of your servant David,
do not reject your anointed one.

11 The LORD swore an oath to David,
a promise he will not revoke:
"One of your descendants
I will place on your throne.‡
12 If your sons keep my covenant
and the testimony I will teach them,
then their sons will also sit on your throne

* **132:5 132:5** LXX *for the God of Jacob* † **132:6 132:6** Literally *Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah*
‡ **132:11 132:11** Literally *"From the fruit of your body I will set (one) on your throne.*

forever and ever."

13 For the LORD has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his home:
14 "This is my resting place forever and ever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired this home.
15 I will bless her with abundant provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.
16 I will clothe her priests with victory,
and her godly ones will sing out in joy.
17 There I will make a horn grow for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one.
18 I will clothe his enemies with shame,
but the crown upon him will gleam."

133

1 A song of ascents. Of David.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in harmony!
2 It is like fine oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down Aaron's beard
over the collar of his robes.
3 It is like the dew of Hermon
falling on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD has bestowed the blessing
of life forevermore.

134

1 A song of ascents.

Come, bless the LORD,
all you servants of the LORD
who serve by night
in the house of the LORD!
2 Lift up your hands to the sanctuary
and bless the LORD!

3 May the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

135

1 Hallelujah!*

Praise the name of the LORD.
Give praise, O servants of the LORD,
2 who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God.
3 Hallelujah, for the LORD is good;
sing praises to his name, for it is lovely.
4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob as his own,

* **135:1 135:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verses 3 and 21

Israel as his treasured possession.

5 For I know that the LORD is great;
our Lord is above all gods.
6 The LORD does all that pleases him
in the heavens and on the earth,
in the seas and in all their depths.
7 He causes the clouds to rise
from the ends of the earth.
He generates the lightning with the rain
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

8 He struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
of both man and beast.
9 He sent signs and wonders into your midst, O Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.
10 He struck down many nations
and slaughtered mighty kings:
11 Sihon king of the Amorites,
Og king of Bashan,
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.
12 He gave their land as an inheritance,
as a heritage to his people Israel.

13 Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD, through all generations.
14 For the LORD will vindicate his people†
and will have compassion on his servants.

15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
made by the hands of men.
16 They have mouths, but cannot speak;
they have eyes, but cannot see;
17 they have ears, but cannot hear;
nor is there breath in their mouths.
18 Those who make them become like them,
as do all who trust in them.

19 O house of Israel, bless the LORD;
O house of Aaron, bless the LORD;
20 O house of Levi, bless the LORD;
you who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!
21 Blessed be the LORD from Zion—
he who dwells in Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

136

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His loving devotion endures forever.
2 Give thanks to the God of gods.
His loving devotion endures forever.

† **135:14 135:14** Or *will judge his people*; see also LXX.

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords.
His loving devotion endures forever.
4 He alone does great wonders.
His loving devotion endures forever.
5 By his insight he made the heavens.
His loving devotion endures forever.
6 He spread out the earth upon the waters.
His loving devotion endures forever.
7 He made the great lights—
his loving devotion endures forever.
8 the sun to rule the day,
his loving devotion endures forever.
9 the moon and stars to govern the night.
His loving devotion endures forever.
10 He struck down the firstborn of Egypt
his loving devotion endures forever.
11 and brought Israel out from among them
his loving devotion endures forever.
12 with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.
His loving devotion endures forever.
13 He divided the Sea of Reeds* in two
his loving devotion endures forever.
14 and led Israel through the midst,
his loving devotion endures forever.
15 but swept† Pharaoh and his army into the Sea of Reeds.
His loving devotion endures forever.
16 He led his people through the wilderness.
His loving devotion endures forever.
17 He struck down great kings
his loving devotion endures forever.
18 and slaughtered mighty kings—
his loving devotion endures forever.
19 Sihon king of the Amorites
his loving devotion endures forever.
20 and Og king of Bashan—
his loving devotion endures forever.
21 and he gave their land as an inheritance,
his loving devotion endures forever.
22 a heritage to his servant Israel.
His loving devotion endures forever.
23 He remembered us in our low estate
his loving devotion endures forever.
24 and freed us from our enemies.
His loving devotion endures forever.
25 He gives food to every creature.
His loving devotion endures forever.
26 Give thanks to the God of heaven!
His loving devotion endures forever.

* **136:13 136:13** Or *the Red Sea*; also in verse 15 † **136:15 136:15** Hebrew *shook off*

137

1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.
2 There on the poplars*
we hung our harps,
3 for there our captors requested a song;
our tormentors demanded songs of joy:

"Sing us a song of Zion."

4 How can we sing a song of the LORD
in a foreign land?
5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
may my right hand cease to function.
6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not exalt Jerusalem
as my greatest joy!

7 Remember, O LORD,
the sons of Edom on the day Jerusalem fell:
"Destroy it," they said,
"tear it down to its foundations!"

8 O Daughter of Babylon,
doomed to destruction,
blessed is he who repays you
as you have done to us.
9 Blessed is he who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks.

138

1 Of David.

I give you thanks with all my heart;
before the gods I sing your praises.
2 I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name
for your loving devotion and your faithfulness;
you have exalted your word
above all your name.*
3 On the day I called, you answered me;
you emboldened me with strength in my soul.†

4 All the kings of the earth will give you thanks, O LORD,
when they hear the words of your mouth.
5 They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
for the glory of the LORD is great.
6 Though the LORD is on high,

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* **137:2 137:2** Or *willows* * **138:2 138:2** Or, with a slight emendation, *you have exalted your name and your word above all things* † **138:3 138:3** Or *you emboldened me and strengthened my soul*

he attends to the lowly;
but the proud he knows from afar.

7 If I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me from the anger of my foes;
you extend your hand,
and your right hand saves me.
8 The LORD will fulfill
his purpose for me.

O LORD, your loving devotion endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.

139

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

O LORD, you have searched me
and known me.
2 You know when I sit and when I rise;
you understand my thoughts from afar.
3 You search out my path and my lying down;
you are aware of all my ways.
4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
you know all about it, O LORD.
5 You hem me in behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go to escape your spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle by the farthest sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me;
your right hand will hold me fast.
11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me,
and the light become night around me”—
12 even the darkness is not dark to you,
but the night shines like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

13 For you formed my inmost being;*
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
14 I praise you,
for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Marvelous are your works,
and I know this very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in secret,

* **139:13 139:13** Hebrew *my kidneys*

when I was woven together
in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all my days were written in your book
and ordained for me,
every one of them.†

17 How precious to me are your thoughts,‡ O God,
how vast is their sum!
18 If I were to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand;
and when I awake,
I am still with you.

19 O God, that you would slay the wicked—
away from me, you bloodthirsty men—
20 who speak of you deceitfully;
your enemies take your name in vain.§
21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD,
and detest those who rise against you?
22 I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them as my enemies.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my concerns.
24 See if there is any offensive way in me;
lead me in the way everlasting.

140

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

2 Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men.
Protect me from men of violence,
3 who devise evil in their hearts
and stir up war all day long.
4 They sharpen their tongues like snakes;
the venom of vipers is on their lips.
Selah

5 Guard me, O LORD,
from the hands of the wicked.
Keep me safe from men of violence
who scheme to make me stumble.
6 The proud hide a snare for me;
the cords of their net are spread along the path,
and lures are set out for me.
Selah

7 I say to the LORD, “You are my God.”
Hear, O LORD, my cry for help.
8 O GOD the Lord, the strength of my deliverance,
you shield my head in the day of battle.

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† **139:16 139:16** Qere; the meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain. Ketiv (see 1917 JPS) *before one of them came to be* ‡ **139:17 139:17** Or *How amazing are your thoughts concerning me* § **139:20 139:20** Hebrew *your enemies take in vain* or *your enemies bear up in vain*; LXX *your enemies take your cities in vain*

9 Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;
do not promote their evil plans,
lest they be exalted.

Selah

10 May the heads of those who surround me
be covered in the trouble their lips have caused.
11 May burning coals fall on them;
may they be thrown into the fire,
into the miry pits, never to rise again.
12 May no slanderer be established in the land;
may calamity hunt down the man of violence.

13 I know* that the LORD upholds justice for the poor
and defends the cause of the needy.
14 Surely the righteous will praise your name;
the upright will dwell in your presence.

141

1 A Psalm of David.

I call upon you, O LORD; come quickly to me.
Hear my voice when I call to you.
2 May my prayer be set before you like incense;
my uplifted hands, like the evening offering.

3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
keep watch at the door of my lips.
4 Do not let my heart be drawn to any evil thing
or take part in works of wickedness
with men who do iniquity;
let me not feast on their delicacies.

5 Let the righteous man strike me;
let his rebuke be an act of loving devotion.
It is oil for my head; let me not refuse it.
For my prayer is ever against the deeds of the wicked.
6 When their rulers are thrown down from the cliffs,
the people will listen to my words,
for they are pleasant.
7 As when one plows and breaks up the soil,
so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

8 But my eyes are fixed on you,
O GOD the Lord.
In you I seek refuge;
do not give me over to death.*
9 Keep me from the snares they have laid for me,
and from the lures of evildoers.
10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
while I pass by in safety.

* **140:13 140:13** Qere; Ketiv *you know* * **141:8 141:8** Or *do not leave my soul defenseless* or *do not pour out my life*

142

1 A Maskil* of David, when he was in the cave. A prayer.

2 I cry aloud to the LORD;
I lift my voice to the LORD for mercy.
3 I pour out my complaint before him;
I reveal my trouble to him.

4 Although my spirit grows faint within me,
you know my way.
Along the path I travel
they have hidden a snare for me.
5 Look to my right and see;
no one attends to me.
There is no refuge for me;
no one cares for my life.

6 I cry to you, O LORD: “You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.”

7 Listen to my cry,
for I am brought quite low.
Rescue me from my pursuers,
for they are too strong for me.
8 Free me from prison,
that I may praise your name.
The righteous will gather around me
because of your goodness to me.

143

1 A Psalm of David.

O LORD, hear my prayer.
In your faithfulness, give ear to my plea;
in your righteousness, answer me.
2 Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one alive is righteous before you.

3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me dwell in darkness
like those long since dead.
4 My spirit grows faint within me;
my heart is dismayed inside me.

5 I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all your works;
I consider the work of your hands.
6 I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

* **142:1 142:1** *Maskil* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142.

Selah

7 Answer me quickly, O LORD;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
or I will be like those who descend to the Pit.
8 Let me hear your loving devotion in the morning,
for I have put my trust in you.
Teach me the way I should walk,
for to you I lift up my soul.
9 Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD;
in you I take cover.*
10 Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
May your good spirit lead me
on level ground.

11 For the sake of your name, O LORD,
revive me.
In your righteousness,
bring me out of trouble.
12 And in your loving devotion,
cut off my enemies.
Destroy all who afflict me,
for I am your servant.

144

1 Of David.

Blessed be the LORD, my Rock,
who trains my hands for war,
my fingers for battle.
2 He is my steadfast love and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer.
He is my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues my people* under me.

3 O LORD, what is man, that you regard him,
the son of man that you think of him?
4 Man is like a breath;
his days are like a passing shadow.

5 Part your heavens, O LORD, and come down;
touch the mountains, that they may smoke.
6 Flash forth your lightning and scatter them;
shoot your arrows and rout them.
7 Reach down from on high;
set me free and rescue me
from the deep waters,
from the grasp of foreigners,

* **143:9 143:9** LXX and one Hebrew manuscript *I flee to you for refuge* * **144:2 144:2** Aleppo and Leningrad codices and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, DSS, Syriac *subdues peoples*

8 whose mouths speak falsehood,
whose right hands are deceitful.

9 I will sing to you a new song, O God;
on a harp of ten strings I will make music to you—
10 to him who gives victory to kings,
who frees his servant David from the deadly sword.
11 Set me free and rescue me
from the grasp of foreigners,
whose mouths speak falsehood,
whose right hands are deceitful.

12 Then our sons will be like plants
nurtured in their youth,
our daughters like corner pillars
carved to adorn a palace.
13 Our storehouses will be full,
supplying all manner of produce;
our flocks will bring forth thousands,
tens of thousands in our fields.
14 Our oxen will bear great loads.†
There will be no breach in the walls,
no going into captivity,
and no cry of lament in our streets.

15 Blessed are the people of whom this is so;
blessed are the people whose God is the LORD.

145

1 A Psalm of praise. Of David.*

I will exalt you, my God and King;
I will bless your name forever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
4 One generation will commend your works to the next,
and will proclaim your mighty acts—
5 the glorious splendor of your majesty.
And I will meditate on your wondrous works.
6 They will proclaim the power of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.†
7 They will extol the fame of your abundant goodness
and sing joyfully of your righteousness.

8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in loving devotion.

† **144:14 144:14** Or *our chieftains will be firmly established* * **145:1 145:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. † **145:6 145:6** Qere; Ketiv *your great deeds*

9 The LORD is good to all;
his compassion rests on all he has made.
10 All you have made will give you thanks, O LORD,
and your godly ones will bless you.
11 They will tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
12 to make known to men his mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of his kingdom.‡
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.§

14 The LORD upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in season.
16 You open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his deeds.
18 The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call out to him in truth.
19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
20 The LORD preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
21 My mouth will declare the praise of the LORD;
let every creature bless his holy name
forever and ever.

146

1 Hallelujah!*

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

2 I will praise the LORD all my life;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

3 Put not your trust in princes,
in mortal man, who cannot save.
4 When his spirit departs, he returns to the ground;
on that very day his plans perish.

5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
6 the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them.
He remains faithful forever.
7 He executes justice for the oppressed

‡ **145:12 145:12** LXX and Syriac *your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom*
§ **145:13 145:13** One MT manuscript, LXX, Syriac, and DSS add *The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his actions.*
* **146:1 146:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 10

and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free,
8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD lifts those who are weighed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.
9 The LORD protects foreigners;
he sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but the ways of the wicked he frustrates.

10 The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Hallelujah!

147

1 Hallelujah!*

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and lovely to praise him!

2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
3 He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
4 He determines the number of the stars;
he calls them each by name.
5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.
6 The LORD sustains the humble,
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music on the harp to our God,
8 who covers the sky with clouds,
who prepares rain for the earth,
who makes grass to grow on the hills.
9 He provides food for the animals,
and for the young ravens when they call.

10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse;
he takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.
11 The LORD is pleased with those who fear him,
who hope in his loving devotion.

12 Exalt the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion!
13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates
and blesses the children within you.
14 He makes peace at your borders;
he fills you with the finest wheat.

* **147:1 147:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 20

15 He sends forth his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.
16 He spreads the snow like wool;
he scatters the frost like ashes;
17 he casts forth his hail like crumbs.†
Who can withstand his icy blast?
18 He sends forth his word and melts them;
he unleashes his winds, and the waters flow.

19 He declares his words‡ to Jacob,
his statutes and judgments to Israel.
20 He has done this for no other nation;
they do not know his judgments.§

Hallelujah!

148

1 Hallelujah!*

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the highest places.
2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
3 Praise him, O sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
4 Praise him, O highest heavens,
and you waters above the skies.
5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he gave the command and they were created.
6 He established them forever and ever;
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth,
all great sea creatures and ocean depths,
8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
powerful wind fulfilling his word,
9 mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
10 wild animals and all cattle,
crawling creatures and flying birds,
11 kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth,
12 young men and maidens,
old and young together.

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
14 He has raised up a horn for his people,

† **147:17 147:17** Or *like pebbles* or *like morsels* ‡ **147:19 147:19** Qere; Ketiv *his word* § **147:20 147:20** DSS and LXX *he has not made known to them his judgments* * **148:1 148:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 14

the praise of all his godly ones,
of Israel, a people near to him.

Hallelujah!

149

1 Hallelujah!*

Sing to the LORD a new song—
his praise in the assembly of the godly.
2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.
3 Let them praise his name with dancing,
and make music to him with tambourine and harp.
4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the afflicted with victory.
5 Let the godly ones exult in glory;
let them shout for joy upon their beds.

6 May the high praises of God be in their mouths,
and a double-edged sword in their hands,
7 to inflict vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
8 to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with shackles of iron,
9 to execute the judgment written against them.
This honor is for all his godly ones.

Hallelujah!

150

1 Hallelujah!*

Praise God in his sanctuary.
Praise him in the expanse of his might.†
2 Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him for his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the sound of the horn;
praise him with the harp and lyre.
4 Praise him with tambourine and dancing;
praise him with strings and flute.
5 Praise him with clashing cymbals;
praise him with resounding cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Hallelujah!

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* **149:1 149:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 9 * **150:1 150:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 6 † **150:1 150:1** Or *in his mighty heavens* or *in the firmament of his might*; see also Genesis 1:6–8.

Proverbs

1

1 These are the proverbs of Solomon son of David,
king of Israel,
2 for gaining wisdom and discipline,
for comprehending words of insight,
3 and for receiving instruction in wise living
and in righteousness, justice, and equity.
4 To impart prudence to the simple*
and knowledge and discretion to the young,
5 let the wise listen and gain instruction,
and the discerning acquire wise counsel
6 by understanding the proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools† despise wisdom and discipline.
8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction,
and do not forsake the teaching of your mother.
9 For they are a garland of grace on your head
and a pendant around your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you,
do not yield to them.
11 If they say, "Come along, let us lie in wait for blood,
let us ambush the innocent without cause,
12 let us swallow them alive like Sheol,
and whole like those descending into the Pit.
13 We will find all manner of precious goods;
we will fill our houses with plunder.
14 Throw in your lot with us;
let us all share one purse"—
15 my son, do not walk the road with them
or set foot upon their path.
16 For their feet run to evil,
and they are swift to shed blood.
17 How futile it is to spread the net
where any bird can see it!
18 But they lie in wait for their own blood;
they ambush their own lives.
19 Such is the fate of all who are greedy,
whose unjust gain takes the lives of its possessors.
20 Wisdom calls out in the street,
she lifts her voice in the square;
21 in the main concourse‡ she cries aloud,

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* **1:4 1:4** The Hebrew word rendered *simple* in Proverbs refers to one who is naive, without moral direction, or inclined to evil. † **1:7 1:7** The Hebrew words rendered as *fool* in Proverbs denote one who is morally deficient. ‡ **1:21 1:21** Or *from the top of the wall*

at the city gates she makes her speech:

22 “How long, O simple ones, will you love your simple ways?
How long will scoffers delight in their scorn
and fools hate knowledge?
23 If you had repented at my rebuke,
then surely I would have poured out my spirit on you;
I would have made my words known to you.
24 Because you refused my call,
and no one took my outstretched hand,
25 because you neglected all my counsel,
and wanted none of my correction,
26 in turn I will mock your calamity;
I will sneer when terror strikes you,
27 when your dread comes like a storm,
and your destruction like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish overwhelm you.

28 Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;
they will earnestly seek me, but will not find me.
29 For they hated knowledge
and chose not to fear the LORD.
30 They accepted none of my counsel;
they despised all my reproof.
31 So they will eat the fruit of their own way,
and be filled with their own devices.
32 For the waywardness of the simple will slay them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them.
33 But whoever listens to me will dwell in safety,
secure from the fear of evil.”

2

1 My son, if you accept my words
and hide my commandments within you,
2 if you incline your ear to wisdom
and direct your heart to understanding,
3 if you truly call out to insight
and lift your voice to understanding,
4 if you seek it like silver
and search it out like hidden treasure,
5 then you will discern the fear of the LORD
and discover the knowledge of God.

6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk with integrity,
8 to guard the paths of justice
and protect the way of his godly ones.*

9 Then you will discern righteousness

* **2:8 2:8** Qere; Ketiv *his godly one*

and justice and equity—every good path.
10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will delight your soul.
11 Discretion will watch over you,
and understanding will guard you,
12 to deliver you from the way of evil,
from the man who speaks perversity,
13 from those who leave the straight paths
to walk in the ways of darkness,
14 from those who enjoy doing evil
and rejoice in the twistedness of evil,
15 whose paths are crooked
and whose ways are devious.

16 It will rescue you from the forbidden woman,†
from the stranger‡ with seductive words
17 who abandons the partner of her youth
and forgets the covenant of her God.
18 For her house sinks down to death,
and her tracks to the departed spirits.§
19 None who go to her return
or negotiate the paths of life.

20 So you will follow in the ways of the good,
and keep to the paths of the righteous.
21 For the upright will inhabit the land,
and the blameless will remain in it;
22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the unfaithful will be uprooted.

3

1 My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
2 for they will add length to your days,
years and peace to your life.
3 Never let loving devotion* or faithfulness leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 Then you will find favor and high regard
in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.
7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

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† **2:16 2:16** Or *wayward wife* ‡ **2:16 2:16** Or *adulteress* § **2:18 2:18** Hebrew *to the Rephaim* * **3:3 3:3** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

8 This will bring healing to your body†
and refreshment‡ to your bones.

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will overflow with new wine.

11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD,
and do not loathe his rebuke;§
12 for the LORD disciplines the one he loves,
as does a father the son in whom he delights.*
13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who acquires understanding,
14 for she is more profitable than silver,
and her gain is better than fine gold.
15 She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire compares with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 All her ways are pleasant,
and all her paths are peaceful.
18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her,
and those who lay hold of her are blessed.

19 The LORD founded the earth by wisdom
and established the heavens by understanding.
20 By his knowledge the watery depths were broken open,
and the clouds dripped with dew.

21 My son, do not lose sight of this:
Preserve sound judgment and discernment.
22 They will be life to your soul
and adornment to your neck.
23 Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble.
24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you rest, your sleep will be sweet.
25 Do not fear sudden danger
or the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
26 for the LORD will be your confidence
and will keep your foot from the snare.

27 Do not withhold good from the deserving†
when it is within your power to act.
28 Do not tell your neighbor,‡
“Come back tomorrow and I will provide”—
when you already have the means.

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† **3:8 3:8** Hebrew *navel* ‡ **3:8 3:8** Or *medicine* § **3:11 3:11** LXX *and do not lose heart when he rebukes* * **3:12 3:12** LXX *and he flogs every son he receives* † **3:27 3:27** Or *from its owners* ‡ **3:28 3:28** Qere; Ketiv *your neighbors*

29 Do not devise evil against your neighbor,
for he trustfully dwells beside you.
30 Do not accuse a man without cause,
when he has done you no harm.

31 Do not envy a violent man
or choose any of his ways;
32 for the LORD detests the perverse,
but he is a friend to the upright.
33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the home of the righteous.
34 He mocks the mockers,
but gives grace to the humble.§*
35 The wise will inherit honor,
but fools are held up to shame.

4

1 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding.
2 For I give you sound teaching;
do not abandon my directive.
3 When I was a son to my father,
tender and the only child of my mother,
4 he taught me and said,
"Let your heart lay hold of my words;
keep my commands and you will live.
5 Get wisdom, get understanding;
do not forget my words or turn from them.
6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will preserve you;
love her, and she will guard you.
7 Wisdom is supreme; so acquire wisdom.
And whatever you may acquire,* gain understanding.
8 Prize her, and she will exalt you;
if you embrace her, she will honor you.
9 She will set a garland of grace on your head;
she will present you with a crown of beauty."

10 Listen, my son, and receive my words,
and the years of your life will be many.
11 I will guide you in the way of wisdom;
I will lead you on straight paths.
12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded;
when you run, you will not stumble.
13 Hold on to instruction; do not let go.
Guard it, for it is your life.
14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked
or walk in the way of evildoers.
15 Avoid it; do not travel on it.
Turn from it and pass on by.

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§ **3:34 3:34** Qere; Ketiv *the afflicted* * **3:34 3:34** LXX *The Lord opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble* * **4:7 4:7** Or *And whatever else you acquire*

16 For they cannot sleep
unless they do evil;
they are deprived of slumber
until they make someone fall.
17 For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
18 The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn,
shining brighter and brighter until midday.
19 But the way of the wicked is like the darkest gloom;
they do not know what makes them stumble.

20 My son, pay attention to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.
21 Do not lose sight of them;
keep them within your heart.
22 For they are life to those who find them,
and health to the whole body.
23 Guard your heart with all diligence,
for from it flow springs of life.
24 Put away deception from your mouth;
keep your lips from perverse speech.
25 Let your eyes look forward;
fix your gaze straight ahead.
26 Ponder the path for your feet,†
and all your ways will be sure.
27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left;
turn your feet away from evil.

5

1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
incline your ear to my insight,
2 that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.
3 Though the lips of the forbidden woman* drip honey
and her speech† is smoother than oil,
4 in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a double-edged sword.
5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps lay hold of Sheol.‡
6 She does not consider the path of life;
she does not know that her ways are unstable.

7 So now, my sons, listen to me,
and do not turn aside from the words of my mouth.
8 Keep your path far from her;
do not go near the door of her house,
9 lest you concede your vigor to others,
and your years to one who is cruel;
10 lest strangers feast on your wealth,

† **4:26 4:26** Or *Make a level path for your feet*; LXX *Make straight paths for your feet* * **5:3 5:3** Or *the adulteress* † **5:3 5:3** Or *her palate* ‡ **5:5 5:5** Or *lead straight to Sheol*

and your labors enrich the house of a foreigner.
11 At the end of your life you will groan
when your flesh and your body are spent,
12 and you will say, “How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!
13 I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
or incline my ear to my mentors.
14 I am on the brink of utter ruin
in the midst of the whole assembly.”

15 Drink water from your own cistern,
and running water from your own well.
16 Why should your springs flow in the streets,
your streams of water in the public squares?
17 Let them be yours alone,
never to be shared with strangers.
18 May your fountain be blessed,
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth:
19 A loving doe, a graceful fawn—
may her breasts satisfy you always;
may you be captivated§ by her love forever.
20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress,
or embrace the bosom of a foreign woman?*
21 For a man’s ways are before the eyes of the LORD,
and the LORD examines† all his paths.
22 The iniquities of a wicked man entrap him;
the cords of his sin entangle him.
23 He dies for lack of discipline,
led astray by his own great folly.

6

1 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,
if you have struck hands in pledge with a stranger,
2 if you have been trapped by the words of your lips,
ensnared by the words of your mouth,
3 then do this, my son, to free yourself,
for you have fallen into your neighbor’s hands:
Go, humble yourself,*
and press your plea with your neighbor.
4 Allow no sleep to your eyes
or slumber to your eyelids.
5 Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand,†
like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

6 Go to the ant, O slacker;
observe its ways and become wise.
7 Without a commander,
without an overseer or ruler,
8 it prepares its provisions in summer;

§ **5:19 5:19** Or *be led astray*; also in verse 20 * **5:20 5:20** Or *a stranger* or *another man's wife*
† **5:21 5:21** Or *ponders* or *makes level* * **6:3 6:3** Or *hasten* † **6:5 6:5** That is, the hunter's hand

it gathers its food at harvest.
9 How long will you lie there, O slacker?
When will you get up from your sleep?
10 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,
11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and need like a bandit.

12 A worthless person, a wicked man,
walks with a perverse mouth,
13 winking his eyes, speaking with his feet,
and pointing with his fingers.
14 With deceit in his heart he devises evil;
he continually sows discord.
15 Therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly;
in an instant he will be shattered beyond recovery.
16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:
17 haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that run swiftly to evil,
19 a false witness who gives false testimony,
and one who stirs up discord among brothers.
20 My son, keep your father's commandment,
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
21 Bind them always upon your heart;
tie them around your neck.
22 When you walk, they will guide you;
when you lie down, they will watch over you;
when you awake, they will speak to you.
23 For this commandment is a lamp, this teaching is a light,
and the reproofs of discipline are the way to life,
24 to keep you from the evil woman,
from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.‡

25 Do not lust in your heart for her beauty
or let her captivate you with her eyes.§
26 For the levy of the prostitute is a crust of bread,*
and the adulteress preys upon your very life.
27 Can a man embrace fire
and his clothes not be burned?
28 Can a man walk on hot coals
without scorching his feet?
29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife;
no one who touches her will go unpunished.

30 Men do not despise the thief
if he steals to satisfy his hunger.

‡ **6:24 6:24** Or *the stranger* § **6:25 6:25** Or *eyelids* or *eyelashes* * **6:26 6:26** Or *poverty*

31 Yet if caught, he must pay sevenfold;
he must give up all the wealth of his house.
32 He who commits adultery lacks judgment;
whoever does so destroys himself.
33 Wounds and dishonor will befall him,
and his reproach will never be wiped away.
34 For jealousy enrages a husband,
and he will show no mercy in the day of vengeance.
35 He will not be appeased by any ransom,
or persuaded by lavish gifts.

7

1 My son, keep my words
and treasure my commandments within you.
2 Keep my commandments and live;
guard my teachings as the apple* of your eye.
3 Tie them to your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,”
and call understanding your kinsman,
5 that they may keep you from the adulteress,
from the stranger with seductive words.

6 For at the window of my house
I looked through the lattice.
7 I saw among the simple,
I noticed among the youths,
a young man lacking judgment,
8 crossing the street near her corner,
strolling down the road to her house,
9 at twilight, as the day was fading
into the dark of the night.

10 Then a woman came out to meet him,
with the attire of a harlot and cunning of heart.
11 She is loud and defiant;
her feet do not remain at home.
12 Now in the street, now in the squares,
she lurks at every corner.
13 She seizes him and kisses him;
she brazenly says to him:

14 “I have made my peace offerings;
today I have paid my vows.
15 So I came out to meet you;
I sought you, and I have found you.
16 I have decked my bed with coverings,
with colored linen from Egypt.
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,
with aloes, and with cinnamon.
18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning.

* **7:2 7:2** Literally *the pupil*

Let us delight in loving caresses!
19 For my husband is not at home;
he has gone on a long journey.
20 He took with him a bag of money
and will not return till the moon is full."

21 With her great persuasion she entices him;
with her flattering lips she lures him.
22 He follows her on impulse,
like an ox going to the slaughter,
like fetters to discipline a fool,†
23 until an arrow pierces his liver,
like a bird darting into a snare—
not knowing it will cost him his life.

24 Now, my sons, listen to me,
and attend to the words of my mouth.
25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways;
do not stray into her paths.
26 For she has brought many down to death;
her slain are many in number.
27 Her house is the road to Sheol,
descending to the chambers of death.

8

1 Does not wisdom call out,
and understanding raise her voice?
2 On the heights overlooking the road,
at the crossroads she takes her stand.
3 Beside the gates to the city,
at the entrances she cries out:

4 "To you, O men, I call out,
and my cry is to the sons of men.
5 O simple ones, learn to be shrewd;
O fools, instruct your minds.*
6 Listen, for I speak of noble things,
and the opening of my lips will reveal right.

7 For my mouth will speak the truth,
and wickedness is detestable to my lips.
8 All the words of my mouth are righteous;
none are crooked or perverse.
9 They are all plain to the discerning,
and upright to those who find knowledge.
10 Receive my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than pure gold.
11 For wisdom is more precious than rubies,
and nothing you desire compares with her.

† **7:22 7:22** A probable emendation (see LXX, Vulgate, Syriac) reads *like a deer bounding into a trap*
* **8:5 8:5** Or *gain understanding*

12 I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence,
and I find knowledge and discretion.
13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil;
I hate arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech.
14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine;
I have insight and strength.
15 By me kings reign,
and rulers enact just laws;
16 By me princes rule,
and all nobles who govern justly.†

17 I love those who love me,‡
and those who seek me early shall find me.
18 With me are riches and honor,
enduring wealth and righteousness.
19 My fruit is better than gold, pure gold,
and my harvest surpasses choice silver.
20 I walk in the way of righteousness,
along the paths of justice,
21 bestowing wealth on those who love me
and making their treasuries full.

22 The LORD created me as his first course,§
before his works of old.
23 From everlasting I was established,
from the beginning, before the earth began.
24 When there were no watery depths, I was brought forth,
when no springs were overflowing with water.
25 Before the mountains were settled,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
26 before he made the land or fields,
or any of the dust of the earth.

27 I was there when he established the heavens,
when he inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,
28 when he established the clouds above,
when the fountains of the deep gushed forth,
29 when he set a boundary for the sea,
so that the waters would not surpass his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth.
30 Then I was a skilled craftsman at his side,
and his delight* day by day,
rejoicing always in his presence.
31 I was rejoicing in his whole world,
delighting together in the sons of men.

32 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me,
for blessed are those who keep my ways.
33 Listen to instruction and be wise;

† **8:16 8:16** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *who govern the earth* ‡ **8:17 8:17** Qere; Ketiv *those who love her* § **8:22 8:22** Or *The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his way* * **8:30 8:30** Or *filled with his delight*

do not ignore it.
34 Blessed is the man who listens to me,
watching daily at my doors,
waiting at the posts of my doorway.
35 For whoever finds me finds life†
and obtains the favor of the LORD.
36 But he who fails to find me harms himself;
all who hate me love death."

9

1 Wisdom has built her house;
she has carved out* her seven pillars.
2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.
3 She has sent out her maidservants;
she calls out from the heights of the city.
4 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
she says to him who lacks judgment.
5 "Come, eat my bread
and drink the wine I have mixed.
6 Leave your folly behind, and you will live;
walk in the way of understanding."

7 He who corrects a mocker brings shame on himself;
he who rebukes a wicked man taints himself.
8 Do not rebuke a mocker, or he will hate you;
rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.
9 Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still;
teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
11 For through me† your days will be multiplied,
and years will be added to your life.
12 If you are wise, you are wise to your own advantage;
but if you scoff, you alone will bear the consequences.
13 The woman named Folly is loud;
she is naive and knows nothing.
14 She sits at the door of her house,
on a seat in the heights of the city,
15 calling out to those who pass by,
who make their paths straight.
16 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
she says to him who lacks judgment.
17 "Stolen water is sweet,
and bread eaten in secret is tasty!"
18 But they do not know that the dead‡ are there,
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

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† **8:35 8:35** Qere; Ketiv *those who find me find life* * **9:1 9:1** LXX, Syriac, and Aramaic Targum *has set up* † **9:11 9:11** LXX, Syriac, and Aramaic Targum *through wisdom* ‡ **9:18 9:18** Hebrew *the Rephaim*

10

1 The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son brings joy to his father,
but a foolish son grief to his mother.

2 Ill-gotten treasures profit nothing,
but righteousness brings deliverance from death.

3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry,
but he denies the craving of the wicked.

4 Idle hands make one poor,
but diligent hands bring wealth.

5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son,
but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.*

7 The memory of the righteous is a blessing,
but the name of the wicked will rot.

8 A wise heart will receive commandments,
but foolish lips will come to ruin.

9 He who walks in integrity walks securely,
but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

10 He who winks the eye causes grief,
and foolish lips will come to ruin.†

11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

12 Hatred stirs up dissension,
but love covers all transgressions.

13 Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning,
but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment.

14 The wise store up knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool invites destruction.

15 The wealth of the rich man is his fortified city,
but poverty is the ruin of the poor.

16 The labor of the righteous leads to life,
but the gain of the wicked brings punishment.

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* **10:6 10:6** Or *but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence*; also in verse 11 † **10:10 10:10** Or *babbling fools will fall*

17 Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life,
but he who ignores reproof goes astray.

18 The one who conceals hatred has lying lips,
and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

19 When words are many, sin is unavoidable,
but he who restrains his lips is wise.

20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver,
but the heart of the wicked has little worth.

21 The lips of the righteous feed many,
but fools die for lack of judgment.

22 The blessing of the LORD enriches,
and he adds no sorrow to it.

23 The fool delights in shameful conduct,
but a man of understanding has wisdom.

24 What the wicked man dreads will overtake him,
but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

25 When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are no more,
but the righteous are secure forever.

26 Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
so is the slacker to those who send him.

27 The fear of the LORD prolongs life,
but the years of the wicked will be cut short.

28 The hope of the righteous is joy,
but the expectations of the wicked will perish.

29 The way of the LORD is a refuge to the upright,
but destruction awaits those who do evil.

30 The righteous will never be shaken,
but the wicked will not inhabit the land.

31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,
but a perverse tongue will be cut out.

32 The lips of the righteous know what is fitting,
but the mouth of the wicked is perverse.

11

1 Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD,
but an accurate weight is his delight.

2 When pride comes, disgrace follows,

but with humility comes wisdom.

3 The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the perversity of the faithless destroys them.

4 Riches are worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness brings deliverance from death.

5 The righteousness of the blameless directs their path,
but the wicked fall by their own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them,
but the faithless are trapped by their own desires.

7 When the wicked man dies, his hope perishes,
and the hope of his strength vanishes.

8 The righteous man is delivered from trouble;
in his place the wicked man goes in.

9 With his mouth the ungodly man destroys his neighbor,
but through knowledge the righteous are rescued.

10 When the righteous thrive, the city rejoices,
and when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.

11 By the blessing of the upright a city is built up,
but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.

12 Whoever shows contempt for his neighbor lacks judgment,
but a man of understanding remains silent.

13 A gossip reveals a secret,
but a trustworthy person keeps a confidence.

14 For lack of guidance, a nation falls,
but with many counselors comes deliverance.

15 He who puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer,
but the one who hates indebtedness is secure.

16 A gracious woman attains honor,
but ruthless men gain only wealth.

17 A kind man benefits himself,
but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.

18 The wicked man earns an empty wage,
but he who sows righteousness reaps a true reward.

19 Genuine righteousness leads to life,
but the pursuit of evil brings death.

20 The perverse in heart are an abomination to the LORD,
but the blameless in their walk are his delight.

21 Be assured that the wicked will not go unpunished,
but the offspring of the righteous will escape.

22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout
is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.

23 The desire of the righteous leads only to good,
but the hope of the wicked brings wrath.

24 One gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds what is right, only to become poor.

25 A generous person will prosper,
and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

26 The people will curse the hoarder of grain,
but blessing will crown the one who sells it.

27 He who searches out good finds favor,
but evil will come to him who seeks it.

28 He who trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will thrive like foliage.

29 He who brings trouble on his house will inherit the wind,
and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and he who wins people is wise.

31 If the righteous receive their due on earth,
how much more the ungodly and the sinner!*

12

1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
but he who hates correction is stupid.

2 The good man obtains favor from the LORD,
but the LORD condemns a man who devises evil.

3 A man cannot be established through wickedness,
but the righteous cannot be uprooted.

4 A wife of noble character is her husband's crown,
but she who causes shame is like decay in his bones.

5 The plans of the righteous are just,
but the counsel of the wicked leads to deceit.

* **11:31 11:31** LXX *If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?*

6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,
but the speech of the upright rescues them.

7 The wicked are overthrown and perish,
but the house of the righteous will stand.

8 A man is praised according to his wisdom,
but a twisted mind is despised.

9 Better to be lightly esteemed yet have a servant,
than to be self-important but lack food.

10 A righteous man regards the life of his animal,
but the tender mercies of the wicked are only cruelty.

11 The one who works his land will have plenty of food,
but whoever chases fantasies lacks judgment.

12 The wicked desire the plunder of evil men,
but the root of the righteous flourishes.

13 An evil man is trapped by his rebellious speech,
but a righteous man escapes from trouble.

14 By fruitful speech a man is filled with good things,
and the work of his hands returns to him.

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but a wise man listens to counsel.

16 A fool's anger is known at once,
but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

17 He who speaks the truth declares what is right,
but a false witness speaks deceit.

18 Speaking rashly is like a piercing sword,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

19 Truthful lips endure forever,
but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

20 Deceit is in the hearts of those who devise evil,
but the counselors of peace have joy.

21 No harm befalls the righteous,
but the wicked are filled with trouble.

22 Lying lips are detestable to the LORD,
but those who deal faithfully are his delight.

23 A shrewd man keeps his knowledge to himself,

but a foolish heart proclaims its folly.

24 The hand of the diligent will rule,
but laziness ends in forced labor.

25 Anxiety weighs down the heart of a man,
but a good word cheers it up.

26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship,
but the ways of the wicked lead them astray.

27 A lazy man does not roast his game,
but a diligent man prizes his possession.

28 There is life in the path of righteousness,
and along its path is no death.*

13

1 A wise son heeds his father's discipline,
but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

2 From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things,
but the desire of the faithless is violence.

3 He who guards his mouth protects his life,
but the one who opens his lips invites his own ruin.

4 The slacker craves yet has nothing,
but the diligent are fully satisfied.

5 The righteous hate falsehood,
but the wicked bring shame and disgrace.

6 Righteousness guards the man of integrity,
but wickedness undermines the sinner.

7 One pretends to be rich, but has nothing;
another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

8 Riches may ransom a man's life,
but a poor man hears no threat.

9 The light of the righteous shines brightly,
but the lamp of the wicked is extinguished.

10 Arrogance leads only to strife,
but wisdom is with the well-advised.

11 Dishonest wealth will dwindle,
but what is earned through hard work will be multiplied.

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* **12:28 12:28** Or, with a different vocalization (see LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate), *but another path leads to death*

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

13 He who despises instruction will pay the penalty,
but the one who respects a command will be rewarded.

14 The teaching* of the wise is a fountain of life,
turning one from the snares of death.

15 Good understanding wins favor,
but the way of the faithless is difficult.

16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge,
but a fool displays his folly.

17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble,
but a faithful envoy brings healing.

18 Poverty and shame come to him who ignores discipline,
but whoever heeds correction is honored.

19 Desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul,
but turning from evil is detestable to fools.

20 He who walks with the wise will become wise,
but the companion of fools will be destroyed.

21 Disaster pursues sinners,
but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.

22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children,
but the sinner's wealth is passed to the righteous.

23 Abundant food is in the fallow ground of the poor,
but without justice it is swept away.

24 He who spares the rod hates his son,
but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

25 A righteous man eats to his heart's content,
but the stomach of the wicked is empty.

14

1 Every wise woman builds her house,
but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands.

2 He who walks in uprightness fears the LORD,
but the one who is devious in his ways despises him.

3 The proud speech of a fool brings a rod to his back,
but the lips of the wise protect them.

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* **13:14 13:14** Or *law*

4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty,
but an abundant harvest comes through the strength of the ox.

5 An honest witness does not deceive,
but a dishonest witness pours forth lies.

6 A mocker seeks wisdom and finds none,
but knowledge comes easily to the discerning.

7 Stay away from a foolish man;
you will gain no knowledge from his speech.

8 The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way,
but the folly of fools deceives them.

9 Fools mock the making of amends,
but goodwill is found among the upright.

10 The heart knows its own bitterness,
and no stranger shares in its joy.

11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed,
but the tent of the upright will flourish.

12 There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way of death.

13 Even in laughter the heart may ache,
and joy may end in sorrow.

14 The backslider in heart receives the fill of his own ways,
but a good man is rewarded for his ways.

15 The simple man believes every word,
but the prudent man watches his steps.

16 A wise man fears* and turns from evil,
but a fool is careless and reckless.

17 A quick-tempered man acts foolishly,
and a devious man is hated.

18 The simple inherit folly,
but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

19 The evil bow before the good,
and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

20 The poor man is hated even by his neighbor,
but many are those who love the rich.

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* **14:16 14:16** Or *fears the LORD*

21 He who despises his neighbor sins,
but blessed is he who shows kindness to the poor.

22 Do not those who contrive evil go astray?
But those who plan goodness find† loving devotion and faithfulness.

23 There is profit in all labor,
but mere talk leads only to poverty.

24 The crown of the wise is their wealth,
but the folly of fools is folly.

25 A truthful witness saves lives,
but one who utters lies is deceitful.

26 He who fears the LORD is secure in confidence,
and his children shall have a place of refuge.

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
turning a man from the snares of death.

28 A large population is a king's splendor,
but a lack of subjects is a prince's ruin.

29 A patient man has great understanding,
but a quick-tempered man promotes folly.

30 A tranquil heart is life to the body,
but envy rots the bones.

31 Whoever oppresses the poor taunts their Maker,
but whoever is kind to the needy honors him.

32 The wicked man is thrown down by his own sin,
but the righteous man has a refuge even in death.

33 Wisdom rests in the heart of the discerning;
even among fools she is known.‡

34 Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a disgrace to any people.

35 A king delights in a wise servant,
but his anger falls on the shameful.

15

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool spouts folly.

† **14:22 14:22** Or *show* ‡ **14:33 14:33** LXX and Syriac *but among fools she is not known*

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
observing the evil and the good.

4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life,
but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

5 A fool rejects his father's discipline,
but whoever heeds correction is prudent.

6 The house of the righteous has great treasure,
but the income of the wicked is trouble.

7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge,
but not so the hearts of fools.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD,
but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked,
but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

10 Discipline is harsh for him who leaves the path;
he who hates correction will die.

11 Sheol and Abaddon* lie open before the LORD—
how much more the hearts of men!

12 A mocker does not love to be reproved,
nor will he consult the wise.

13 A joyful heart makes a cheerful countenance,
but sorrow of the heart crushes the spirit.

14 A discerning heart seeks knowledge,
but the mouth† of a fool feeds on folly.

15 All the days of the oppressed are bad,
but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.

16 Better a little with the fear of the LORD
than great treasure with turmoil.

17 Better a dish of vegetables where there is love
than a fattened ox with hatred.

18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife,
but he who is slow to anger calms dispute.

19 The way of the slacker is like a hedge of thorns,
but the path of the upright is a highway.

20 A wise son brings joy to his father,

* **15:11 15:11** Or *Death and Destruction* † **15:14 15:14** Qere; Ketiv *the face*

but a foolish man despises his mother.

21 Folly is joy to one who lacks judgment,
but a man of understanding walks a straight path.

22 Plans fail for lack of counsel,
but with many advisers they succeed.

23 A man takes joy in a fitting reply—
and how good is a timely word!

24 The path of life leads upward for the wise,
that he may avoid going down to Sheol.

25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud,
but he protects the boundaries of the widow.

26 The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked,
but the words of the pure are pleasant to him.

27 He who is greedy for unjust gain brings trouble on his household,
but he who hates bribes will live.

28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer,
but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil.

29 The LORD is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

30 The light of the eyes cheers the heart,
and good news nourishes the bones.

31 He who listens to life-giving reproof
will dwell among the wise.

32 He who ignores discipline despises himself,
but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom,
and humility comes before honor.

16

1 The plans of the heart belong to man,
but the reply of the tongue is from the LORD.

2 All a man's ways are pure in his own eyes,
but his motives are weighed out by the LORD.

3 Commit your works to the LORD
and your plans will be achieved.

4 The LORD has made everything for his purpose—

even the wicked for the day of disaster.

5 Everyone who is proud in heart is detestable to the LORD;
be assured that he will not go unpunished.

6 By loving devotion and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,
and by the fear of the LORD one turns aside from evil.

7 When a man's ways please the LORD,
he makes even the man's enemies live at peace with him.

8 Better a little with righteousness
than great gain with injustice.

9 A man's heart plans his course,
but the LORD determines his steps.

10 A divine verdict is on the lips of a king;
his mouth must not betray justice.

11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD;
all the weights in the bag are his concern.

12 Wicked behavior is detestable for kings,
for a throne is established through righteousness.

13 Righteous lips are a king's delight,
and he who speaks honestly is beloved.

14 The wrath of a king is a messenger of death,
but a wise man will pacify it.

15 When a king's face brightens, there is life;
his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.

16 How much better to acquire wisdom than gold!
To gain understanding is more desirable than silver.

17 The highway of the upright leads away from evil;
he who guards his way protects his life.

18 Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 It is better to be lowly in spirit among the humble
than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 Whoever heeds instruction will find success,*
and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

* **16:20 16:20** Or *Whoever speaks prudently will find what is good*

21 The wise in heart are called discerning,
and pleasant speech promotes instruction.

22 Understanding is a fountain of life to its possessor,
but the discipline of fools is folly.

23 The heart of the wise man instructs his mouth
and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

25 There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way of death.

26 A worker's appetite works for him
because his hunger drives him onward.

27 A worthless man digs up evil,
and what is on his lips† is like a scorching fire.

28 A perverse man spreads dissension,
and a gossip divides close friends.

29 A violent man entices his neighbor
and leads him down a path that is not good.

30 He who winks his eye devises perversity;
he who purses his lips is bent on evil.

31 Gray hair is a crown of glory;
it is attained along the path of righteousness.

32 He who is slow to anger is better than a warrior,
and he who controls his temper is greater than one who captures a city.

33 The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.

17

1 Better a dry morsel in quietness
than a house full of feasting* with strife.

2 A wise slave will rule over a disgraceful son
and share his inheritance as one of the brothers.

3 A crucible for silver and a furnace for gold,
but the LORD is the tester of hearts.

4 A wicked man listens to evil lips;

† **16:27 16:27** Or *and his speech* * **17:1 17:1** Or *sacrifices*

a liar gives ear to a destructive tongue.

5 He who mocks the poor insults their Maker;
whoever gloats over calamity will not go unpunished.

6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,
and the glory of a son is his father.

7 Eloquent words are unfit for a fool;
how much worse are lying lips to a ruler!

8 A bribe is a charm to its giver;
wherever he turns, he succeeds.

9 Whoever conceals an offense promotes love,
but he who brings it up separates friends.

10 A rebuke cuts into a man of discernment
deeper than a hundred lashes cut into a fool.

11 An evil man seeks only rebellion;
a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

12 It is better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs
than a fool in his folly.

13 If anyone returns evil for good,
evil will never leave his house.

14 To start a quarrel is to release a flood;
so abandon the dispute before it breaks out.

15 Acquitting the guilty and condemning the righteous—
both are detestable to the LORD.

16 Why should the fool have money in his hand
with no intention of buying wisdom?

17 A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for adversity.

18 A man lacking judgment strikes hands in pledge
and puts up security for his neighbor.

19 He who loves transgression loves strife;
he who builds his gate high invites destruction.

20 The one with a perverse heart finds no good,
and he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble.

21 A man fathers a fool to his own grief;
the father of a fool has no joy.

22 A joyful heart is good medicine,
but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

23 A wicked man takes a covert bribe†
to subvert the course of justice.

24 Wisdom is the focus of the discerning,
but the eyes of a fool wander to the ends of the earth.

25 A foolish son brings grief to his father
and bitterness to her who bore him.

26 It is surely not good to punish the innocent
or to flog a noble for his honesty.

27 A man of knowledge restrains his words,
and a man of understanding is restrained in spirit.‡

28 Even a fool is considered wise if he keeps silent,
and discerning when he holds his tongue.

18

1 He who isolates himself pursues selfish desires;
he rebels against all sound judgment.

2 A fool does not delight in understanding,
but only in airing his opinions.

3 With a wicked man comes contempt as well,
and shame is accompanied by disgrace.

4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;
the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

5 Showing partiality* to the wicked is not good,
nor is depriving the innocent of justice.

6 A fool's lips bring him strife,
and his mouth invites a beating.

7 A fool's mouth is his ruin,
and his lips are a snare to his life.

8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels
that go down into the inmost being.

9 Whoever is slothful in his work
is brother to him who destroys.

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;

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† **17:23 17:23** Hebrew *a bribe from the bosom* ‡ **17:27 17:27** Qere; Ketiv *is cool in spirit* * **18:5 18:5** Hebrew *Lifting the face*

the righteous run to it† and are safe.

11 A rich man's wealth is his fortified city;
it is like a high wall in his imagination.

12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud,
but humility comes before honor.

13 He who answers a matter before he hears it—
this is folly and disgrace to him.

14 The spirit of a man can endure his sickness,
but who can survive a broken spirit?

15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks it out.

16 A man's gift opens doors for him,
and brings him before great men.

17 The first to state his case seems right
until another comes and cross-examines him.

18 Casting the lot ends quarrels
and separates strong opponents.

19 An offended brother is harder to win than a fortified city,
and disputes are like the bars of a castle.

20 From the fruit of his mouth a man's belly is filled;
with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied.

21 Life and death are in the power of the tongue,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing
and obtains favor from the LORD.

23 The poor man pleads for mercy,
but the rich man answers harshly.

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin,
but there is a friend who stays closer than a brother.

19

1 Better a poor man who walks with integrity
than a fool whose lips are perverse.

2 Even zeal is no good without knowledge,
and he who hurries his footsteps misses the mark.

3 A man's own folly subverts his way,

† **18:10 18:10** Or *to him*

yet his heart rages against the LORD.

4 Wealth attracts many friends,
but a poor man is deserted by his friend.

5 A false witness will not go unpunished,
and one who utters lies will not escape.

6 Many seek the favor of the prince,
and everyone is a friend of the gift giver.

7 All the brothers of a poor man hate him—
how much more do his friends avoid him!
He may pursue them with pleading,
but they are nowhere to be found.*

8 He who acquires wisdom loves himself;
one who safeguards understanding will find success.

9 A false witness will not go unpunished,
and one who pours out lies will perish.

10 Luxury is unseemly for a fool—
how much worse for a slave to rule over princes!

11 A man's insight gives him patience,
and his virtue is to overlook an offense.

12 A king's rage is like the roar of a lion,
but his favor is like dew on the grass.

13 A foolish son is his father's ruin,
and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.

14 Houses and wealth are inherited from fathers,
but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

15 Laziness brings on deep sleep,
and an idle person will suffer hunger.

16 He who keeps a commandment preserves his life,
but he who is careless in his ways will die.

17 Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD,
and he will repay the lender.

18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope;
do not be party to his death.

19 A man of great† anger must pay the penalty;
if you rescue him, you will have to do so again.

* **19:7 19:7** Ketiv; Qere *they are his* † **19:19 19:19** Qere; Ketiv *harsh*

20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline,
that you may be wise the rest of your days.

21 Many plans are in a man's heart,
but the purpose of the LORD will prevail.

22 The desire of a man is loving devotion;
better to be poor than a liar.

23 The fear of the LORD leads to life,
that one may rest content, without visitation from harm.

24 The slacker buries his hand in the dish;
he will not even bring it back to his mouth.

25 Strike a mocker, and the simple will beware;
rebuke the discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.

26 He who assaults his father or evicts his mother
is a son who brings shame and disgrace.

27 If you cease to hear instruction, my son,
you will stray from the words of knowledge.

28 A corrupt witness mocks justice,
and a wicked mouth swallows iniquity.

29 Judgments are prepared for mockers,
and beatings for the backs of fools.

20

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler,
and whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

2 The terror of a king is like the roar of a lion;
whoever provokes him forfeits his own life.*

3 It is honorable for a man to resolve a dispute,
but any fool will quarrel.

4 The slacker does not plow in season;
at harvest time he looks, but nothing is there.

5 The intentions of a man's heart are deep waters,
but a man of understanding draws them out.

6 Many a man proclaims his loving devotion,
but who can find a trustworthy man?

7 The righteous man walks with integrity;
blessed are his children after him.

* **20:2 20:2** Literally *sins against his own soul*

8 A king who sits on a throne to judge
sifts out all evil with his eyes.

9 Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure;
I am cleansed from my sin”?

10 Differing weights and unequal measures†—
both are detestable to the LORD.

11 Even a young man is known by his actions—
whether his conduct is pure and upright.

12 Ears that hear and eyes that see—
the LORD has made them both.

13 Do not love sleep, or you will grow poor;
open your eyes, and you will have plenty of food.

14 “Worthless, worthless!” says the buyer,
but on the way out, he gloats.

15 There is an abundance of gold and rubies,
but lips of knowledge are a rare treasure.

16 Take the garment of the one who posts security for a stranger;
get collateral if it is for a wayward woman.‡

17 Food gained by fraud is sweet to a man,
but later his mouth is full of gravel.

18 Set plans by consultation,
and wage war under sound guidance.

19 He who reveals secrets is a constant gossip;
avoid the one who babbles§ with his lips.

20 Whoever curses his father or mother,
his lamp will be extinguished in deepest darkness.

21 An inheritance gained quickly*
will not be blessed in the end.

22 Do not say, “I will avenge this evil!”
Wait on the LORD, and he will save you.

23 Unequal weights are detestable to the LORD,
and dishonest scales are no good.

24 A man’s steps are from the LORD,

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† **20:10 20:10** Hebrew *A stone and a stone, an ephah and an ephah* ‡ **20:16 20:16** Qere; Ketiv *foreigners* § **20:19 20:19** Or *the one who is simple* * **20:21 20:21** Qere; Ketiv *gained greedily*

so how can anyone understand his own way?

25 It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly,
only later to reconsider his vows.

26 A wise king separates out the wicked
and drives the threshing wheel over them.

27 The breath† of a man is the lamp of the LORD,
searching out his inmost being.

28 Loving devotion and faithfulness preserve a king;
by these he maintains his throne.

29 The glory of young men is their strength,
and gray hair is the splendor of the old.

30 Lashes and wounds scour evil,
and beatings cleanse the inmost parts.

21

1 The king's heart is a waterway in the hand of the LORD;
he directs it where he pleases.

2 All a man's ways seem right to him,
but the LORD weighs the heart.

3 To do righteousness and justice
is more desirable to the LORD than sacrifice.

4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart—
the guides of the wicked—are sin.

5 The plans of the diligent bring plenty,
as surely as haste leads to poverty.

6 Making a fortune by a lying tongue
is a vanishing mist, a deadly pursuit.

7 The violence of the wicked will sweep them away
because they refuse to do what is just.

8 The way of a guilty man is crooked,
but the conduct of the innocent is upright.

9 Better to live on a corner of the roof
than to share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

10 The soul of the wicked man craves evil;
his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

† **20:27 20:27** Or *spirit* or *speech*

11 When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom;
and when a wise man is instructed, he acquires knowledge.

12 The Righteous One* considers the house of the wicked
and brings the wicked to ruin.

13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor,
he too shall cry out and receive no answer.

14 A gift in secret soothes anger,
and a covert bribe† pacifies great wrath.

15 Justice executed is a joy to the righteous,
but a terror to the workers of iniquity.

16 The man who strays from the path of understanding
will rest in the assembly of the dead.

17 He who loves pleasure will become poor;
the one who loves wine and oil will never be rich.

18 The wicked become a ransom for the righteous,
and the faithless for the upright.

19 Better to live in the desert
than with a contentious and ill-tempered wife.

20 Precious treasures and oil are in the dwelling of the wise,
but a foolish man consumes them.

21 He who pursues righteousness and loving devotion
finds life, righteousness, and honor.

22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty
and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.

23 He who guards his mouth and tongue
keeps himself from distress.

24 Mocker is the name of the proud and arrogant man—
of him who acts with excessive pride.

25 The craving of the slacker kills him
because his hands refuse to work.
26 All day long he covets more,
but the righteous give without restraint.

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable—
how much more so when brought with ill intent!

28 A lying witness will perish,

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* **21:12 21:12** Or *The righteous one* † **21:14 21:14** Hebrew *a bribe in the bosom*

but the man who listens will speak forever.

29 A wicked man hardens his face,‡
but the upright man considers§ his way.*

30 There is no wisdom, no understanding, no counsel
that can prevail against the LORD.

31 A horse is prepared for the day of battle,
but victory is of the LORD.

22

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches;
favor is better than silver and gold.

2 The rich and the poor have this in common:
The LORD is Maker of them all.

3 The prudent see danger and take cover,
but the simple keep going and suffer the consequences.

4 The rewards of humility and the fear of the LORD
are wealth and honor and life.

5 Thorns and snares lie on the path of the perverse;
he who guards his life stays far from them.

6 Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it.

7 The rich rule over the poor,
and the borrower is slave to the lender.

8 He who sows injustice will reap disaster,
and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.*

9 A generous man† will be blessed,
for he shares his bread with the poor.

10 Drive out the mocker, and conflict will depart;
even quarreling and insults will cease.

11 He who loves a pure heart and gracious lips
will have the king for a friend.

12 The LORD's eyes keep watch over knowledge,
but he frustrates the words of the faithless.

13 The slacker says, "There is a lion outside!

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‡ **21:29 21:29** Or *puts up a bold front* § **21:29 21:29** Qere; Ketiv *establishes* * **21:29 21:29** Qere; Ketiv *his ways* * **22:8 22:8** LXX includes *God blesses a cheerful and generous man, but foolish works will come to an end* † **22:9 22:9** Literally *he whose eye is good*

I will be slain in the streets!"

14 The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit;
he who is under the wrath of the LORD will fall into it.

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child,
but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

16 Oppressing the poor to enrich oneself or giving gifts to the rich
will surely lead to poverty.
17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise—
apply your mind to my knowledge—
18 for it is pleasing when you keep them within you
and they are constantly on your lips.
19 So that your trust may be in the LORD,
I instruct you today—yes, you.
20 Have I not written for you excellent sayings‡
about counsel and knowledge,
21 to show you true and reliable words,
that you may soundly answer those who sent you?
22 Do not rob a poor man because he is poor,
and do not crush the afflicted at the gate,
23 for the LORD will take up their case
and will plunder those who rob them.
24 Do not make friends with an angry man,
and do not associate with a hot-tempered man,
25 or you may learn his ways
and entangle yourself in a snare.
26 Do not be one who gives pledges,
who puts up security for debts.
27 If you have nothing with which to pay,
why should your bed be taken from under you?
28 Do not move an ancient boundary stone
which your fathers have placed.
29 Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will be stationed in the presence of kings;
he will not stand before obscure men.

23

1 When you sit down to dine with a ruler,
consider carefully who is before you,*
2 and put a knife to your throat
if you possess a great appetite.
3 Do not crave his delicacies,
for that food is deceptive.
4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich;
be wise enough to restrain yourself.
5 When you glance at wealth, it disappears,
for it makes wings for itself
and flies like an eagle to the sky.

‡ **22:20 22:20** Qere; Ketiv *written for you previously*; a proposed emendation reads *thirty sayings*
* **23:1 23:1** Or *what is set before you*

6 Do not eat the bread of a stingy man,†
and do not crave his delicacies;
7 for he is keeping track,
inwardly counting the cost.‡
"Eat and drink," he says to you,
but his heart is not with you.
8 You will vomit up what little you have eaten
and waste your pleasant words.
9 Do not speak to a fool,
for he will despise the wisdom of your words.
10 Do not move an ancient boundary stone
or encroach on the fields of the fatherless,
11 for their Redeemer is strong;
he will take up their case against you.
12 Apply your heart to instruction
and your ears to words of knowledge.
13 Do not withhold discipline from a child;
although you strike him with a rod, he will not die.
14 Strike him with a rod,
and you will deliver him from Sheol.
15 My son, if your heart is wise,
my own heart will indeed rejoice.
16 My inmost being§ will rejoice
when your lips speak what is right.
17 Do not let your heart envy sinners,
but always continue in the fear of the LORD.
18 For surely there is a future,
and your hope will not be cut off.
19 Listen, my son, and be wise,
and guide your heart on the right course.
20 Do not join those who drink too much wine
or gorge themselves on meat.
21 For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty,
and drowsiness will clothe them in rags.
22 Listen to your father who gave you life,
and do not despise your mother when she is old.
23 Invest in truth and never sell it—
in wisdom and instruction and understanding.
24 The father of a righteous man will greatly rejoice,
and he who fathers a wise son will delight in him.
25 May your father and mother be glad,
and may she who gave you birth rejoice!
26 My son, give me your heart,
and let your eyes observe* my ways.
27 For a prostitute is a deep pit,
and an adulteress† is a narrow well.
28 Like a robber she lies in wait
and multiplies the faithless among men.
29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow?

† **23:6 23:6** Literally *of him whose eye is evil* ‡ **23:7 23:7** Or *for as he calculates in his soul, so is he*
§ **23:16 23:16** Hebrew *my kidneys* * **23:26 23:26** Qere; Ketiv *delight in* † **23:27 23:27** Or *a foreign woman* or *a wayward wife*

Who has contentions? Who has complaints?
Who has needless wounds? Who has bloodshot eyes?
30 Those who linger over wine,
who go to taste mixed drinks.
31 Do not gaze at wine while it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup
and goes down smoothly.
32 In the end it bites like a snake
and stings like a viper.
33 Your eyes will see strange things,
and your mind will utter perversities.
34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas
or lying on the top of a mast:
35 "They struck me, but I feel no pain!
They beat me, but I did not know it!
When can I wake up
to search for another drink?"

24

1 Do not envy wicked men
or desire their company;
2 for their hearts devise violence,
and their lips declare trouble.
3 By wisdom a house is built
and by understanding it is established;
4 through knowledge its rooms are filled
with every precious and beautiful treasure.
5 A wise man is strong,*
and a man of knowledge enhances his strength.
6 Only with sound guidance should you wage war,
and victory lies in a multitude of counselors.
7 Wisdom is too high for a fool;
he does not open his mouth in the meeting place.
8 He who plots evil
will be called a schemer.
9 A foolish scheme is sin,
and a mocker is detestable to men.
10 If you faint in the day of distress,
how small is your strength!
11 Rescue those being led away to death,
and restrain those stumbling toward the slaughter.
12 If you say, "Behold, we did not know about this,"
does not he who weighs hearts consider it?
Does not the One who guards your life know?
Will he not repay a man according to his deeds?
13 Eat honey, my son, for it is good,
and the honeycomb is sweet to your taste.
14 Know therefore that wisdom is sweet to your soul.
If you find it, there is a future for you,
and your hope will never be cut off.
15 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, near the dwelling of the righteous;

* **24:5 24:5** LXX *The wise are mightier than the strong*

do not destroy his resting place.
16 For though a righteous man may fall seven times, he still gets up;
but the wicked stumble in bad times.
17 Do not gloat when your enemy† falls,
and do not let your heart rejoice when he stumbles,
18 or the LORD will see and disapprove,
and turn his wrath away from him.
19 Do not fret over evildoers,
and do not be envious of the wicked.
20 For the evil man has no future;
the lamp of the wicked will be extinguished.
21 My son, fear the LORD and the king,
and do not associate with the rebellious.
22 For they will bring sudden destruction.
Who knows what ruin they can bring?
23 These also are sayings of the wise:
To show partiality in judgment
is not good.
24 Whoever tells the guilty, "You are innocent"—
peoples will curse him, and nations will denounce him;
25 but it will go well with those who convict the guilty,
and rich blessing will come upon them.

26 An honest answer given
is like a kiss on the lips.

27 Complete your outdoor work and prepare your field;
after that, you may build your house.

28 Do not testify against your neighbor without cause,
and do not deceive with your lips.
29 Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me;
I will repay the man according to his work."

30 I went past the field of a slacker
and by the vineyard of a man lacking judgment.
31 Thorns had grown up everywhere,
thistles had covered the ground,
and the stone wall was broken down.
32 I observed and took it to heart;
I looked and received instruction:
33 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,
34 and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and need like a bandit.

25

1 These are additional proverbs of Solomon, which were copied by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:

2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter
and the glory of kings to search it out.

† **24:17 24:17** Qere; Ketiv *your enemies*

3 As the heavens are high and the earth is deep,
so the hearts of kings cannot be searched.

4 Remove the dross from the silver,
and a vessel for a silversmith will come forth.
5 Remove the wicked from the king's presence,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.

6 Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king,
and do not stand in the place of great men;
7 for it is better to be told, "Come up here!"
than to be demoted in the presence of the prince.

Even what* you have seen with your own eyes,
8 do not bring hastily to court.
Otherwise, what will you do in the end
when your neighbor puts you to shame?

9 Argue your case with your neighbor
without betraying another's confidence,
10 lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your infamy never go away.

11 A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
12 Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold
is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

13 Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest
is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him;
he refreshes the soul of his masters.

14 Like clouds and wind without rain
is the man who boasts of gifts never given.

15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded,
and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

16 If you find honey, eat just what you need,
lest you have too much and vomit it up.

17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house,
lest he grow weary and hate you.

18 Like a club or sword or sharp arrow
is a man who bears false witness against his neighbor.

19 Like a broken tooth or a foot out of joint
is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble.

20 Like one who removes a garment on a cold day

* **25:7 25:7** Or *Even the one*

or vinegar poured on soda†
is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat,
and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.
22 For you will heap burning coals on his head,‡
and the LORD will reward you.

23 As the north wind brings forth rain,
so a backbiting tongue brings angry looks.

24 Better to live on a corner of the roof
than to share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

25 Like cold water to a weary soul
is good news from a distant land.

26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted well
is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.

27 It is not good to eat too much honey,
and to search out their glory is glory.§

28 Like a city whose walls are broken down
is a man who does not control his temper.

26

1 Like snow in summer and rain at harvest,
honor does not befit a fool.
2 Like a fluttering sparrow or darting swallow,
an undeserved curse comes back on him.*
3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,
and a rod for the backs of fools!
4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
or you yourself will be like him.
5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he become wise in his own eyes.
6 Like cutting off one's own feet or drinking violence
is the sending of a message by the hand of a fool.
7 Like lame legs hanging limp
is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.
8 Like binding a stone into a sling
is the giving of honor to a fool.
9 Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard
is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.
10 Like an archer who wounds at random
is he who hires a fool or passerby.
11 As a dog returns to its vomit,
so a fool repeats his folly.

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† **25:20 25:20** Or *on a wound* ‡ **25:22 25:22** LXX *For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head* § **25:27 25:27** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; an emendation reads *or to search out one's own glory* * **26:2 26:2** Qere; Ketiv *does not come to rest*

12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

13 The slacker says, “A lion is in the road!
A fierce lion roams the public square!”
14 As a door turns on its hinges,
so the slacker turns on his bed.
15 The slacker buries his hand in the dish;
it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.
16 The slacker is wiser in his own eyes
than seven men who answer discreetly.

17 Like one who grabs a dog by the ears
is a passerby who meddles in a quarrel not his own.
18 Like a madman shooting firebrands
and deadly arrows,
19 so is the man who deceives his neighbor
and says, “I was only joking!”

20 Without wood, a fire goes out;
without gossip, a conflict ceases.
21 Like charcoal for embers and wood for fire,
so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.
22 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels
that go down into the inmost being.

23 Like silver dross† covering an earthen vessel
are burning‡ lips and a wicked heart.
24 A hateful man disguises himself with his speech,
but he lays up deceit in his heart.
25 When he speaks graciously, do not believe him,
for seven abominations fill his heart.
26 Though his hatred is concealed by deception,
his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.
27 He who digs a pit will fall into it,
and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.
28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes,
and a flattering mouth causes ruin.

27

1 Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring.

2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth—
a stranger, and not your own lips.

3 A stone is heavy and sand is a burden,
but aggravation from a fool outweighs them both.

4 Wrath is cruel and anger is like a flood,
but who can withstand jealousy?

† **26:23 26:23** Or, with a different word division, *glaze* ‡ **26:23 26:23** LXX *smooth*

5 Better an open rebuke
than love that is concealed.

6 The wounds of a friend are faithful,
but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

7 One who is full loathes honey,
but to one who is hungry, any bitter thing is sweet.

8 Like a bird that strays from its nest
is a man who wanders from his home.

9 Oil and incense bring joy to the heart,
and the counsel of a friend is sweetness to the soul.

10 Do not forsake your friend or your father's friend,
and do not go to your brother's house
in the day of your calamity;
better a neighbor nearby
than a brother far away.

11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart,
so that I can answer him who taunts me.

12 The prudent see danger and take cover,
but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

13 Take the garment of him who posts security for a stranger;
get collateral if it is for a wayward woman.*

14 If one blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning,
it will be counted to him as a curse.

15 A constant dripping on a rainy day
and a contentious woman are alike—
16 restraining her is like holding back the wind
or grasping oil with one's right hand.

17 As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another.†

18 Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,
and he who looks after his master will be honored.

19 As water reflects the face,
so the heart reflects the true man.

20 Sheol and Abaddon‡ are never satisfied;
so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

21 A crucible for silver and a furnace for gold,

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* **27:13 27:13** Or *a foreigner* † **27:17 27:17** Hebrew *sharpens the face of another* or *sharpens the countenance of a friend* ‡ **27:20 27:20** Or *Death and Destruction*

but a man is tested by the praise accorded him.

22 Though you grind a fool like grain with mortar and a pestle,
yet his folly will not depart from him.

23 Be sure to know the state of your flocks,
and pay close attention to your herds;
24 for riches are not forever,
nor does a crown endure to every generation.
25 When hay is removed and new growth appears
and the grass from the hills is gathered,
26 the lambs will provide you with clothing,
and the goats with the price of a field.
27 You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed you—
food for your household
and nourishment for your maidservants.

28

1 The wicked flee when no one pursues,
but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

2 A land in rebellion has many rulers,
but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.

3 A destitute man* who oppresses the poor
is like a driving rain that leaves no food.

4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,
but those who keep the law resist them.

5 Evil men do not understand justice,
but those who seek the LORD comprehend fully.

6 Better a poor man who walks with integrity
than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

7 A discerning son keeps the law,
but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.

8 He who increases his wealth by interest and usury
lays it up for one who is kind to the poor.

9 Whoever turns his ear away from hearing the law,
even his prayer is detestable.

10 He who leads the upright along the path of evil will fall into his own pit,
but the blameless will inherit what is good.

11 A rich man is wise in his own eyes,
but a poor man with discernment sees through him.

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* **28:3 28:3** A slight emendation reads *A ruler*

12 When the righteous triumph, there is great glory,
but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.

13 He who conceals his sins will not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.

14 Blessed is the man who is always reverent,†
but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

15 Like a roaring lion or a charging bear
is a wicked ruler over a helpless people.

16 A leader who lacks judgment is also a great oppressor,
but he who hates‡ dishonest profit will prolong his days.

17 A man burdened by bloodguilt will flee into the Pit;§
let no one support him.

18 He who walks with integrity will be kept safe,
but whoever is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.

19 The one who works his land will have plenty of food,
but whoever chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

20 A faithful man will abound with blessings,
but one eager to be rich will not go unpunished.

21 To show partiality is not good,
yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread.

22 A stingy man* hastens after wealth
and does not know that poverty awaits him.

23 He who rebukes a man will later find more favor
than one who flatters with his tongue.

24 He who robs his father or mother, saying, “It is not wrong,”
is a companion to the man who destroys.

25 A greedy man stirs up strife,
but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

26 He who trusts in himself is a fool,
but one who walks in wisdom will be safe.

27 Whoever gives to the poor will not be in need,
but he who hides his eyes will receive many curses.

28 When the wicked come to power, people hide themselves;

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† **28:14 28:14** Or *always fears the LORD*; Hebrew does not include *the LORD.* ‡ **28:16 28:16** Qere; Ketiv *those who hate* § **28:17 28:17** Or *will be a fugitive until death* * **28:22 28:22** Hebrew *A man whose eye is evil*

but when they perish, the righteous flourish.

29

1 A man who remains stiff-necked after much reproof
will suddenly be shattered beyond recovery.

2 When the righteous flourish, the people rejoice,
but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

3 A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father,
but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

4 By justice a king brings stability to the land,
but a man who exacts tribute* demolishes it.

5 A man who flatters his neighbor
spreads a net for his feet.

6 An evil man is caught by his own sin,
but a righteous one sings and rejoices.

7 The righteous consider the cause of the poor,
but the wicked have no regard for such concerns.

8 Mockers inflame a city,
but the wise turn away anger.

9 If a wise man goes to court with a fool,
there will be raving and laughing with no resolution.

10 Men of bloodshed hate a blameless man,
but the upright seek his soul.†

11 A fool vents all his anger,
but a wise man holds it back.

12 If a ruler listens to lies,
all his officials will be wicked.

13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common:
The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

14 A king who judges the poor with fairness—
his throne will be established forever.

15 A rod of correction imparts wisdom,
but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

16 When the wicked thrive, rebellion increases;
but the righteous will see their downfall.

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* **29:4 29:4** Or *who taxes heavily* or *who takes bribes* † **29:10 29:10** Or *but the upright care for his life*

17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest;
he will bring delight to your soul.

18 Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint;
but blessed is he who keeps the Teaching.

19 A slave cannot be corrected by words alone;
though he understands, he will not respond.

20 Do you see a man who speaks in haste?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

21 A slave pampered from his youth
will bring grief in the end.

22 An angry man stirs up dissension,
and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.

23 A man's pride will bring him low,
but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

24 A partner to a thief hates his own life;
he receives the oath but does not testify.

25 The fear of man is a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is set securely on high.

26 Many seek the ruler's favor,
but a man receives justice from the LORD.

27 An unjust man is detestable to the righteous,
and one whose way is upright is detestable to the wicked.

30

1 These are the words of Agur son of Jakeh—the burden that this man declared to Ithiel—to Ithiel and Ucal:*
2 Surely I am the most ignorant of men,
and I lack the understanding of a man.
3 I have not learned wisdom,
and I have no knowledge of the Holy One.
4 Who has ascended to heaven and come down?
Who has gathered the wind in his hands?
Who has bound up the waters in his cloak?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is his name, and what is the name of his son—
surely you know!
5 Every word of God is flawless;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
6 Do not add to his words,
lest he rebuke you and prove you a liar.

* **30:1 30:1** With revised vowels *declared to Ithiel: "I am weary, O God, and worn out* or *declared to Ithiel: "I am weary, O God, but I can prevail*

7 Two things I ask of you—
do not refuse me before I die:
8 Keep falsehood and deceitful words far from me.
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the bread that is my portion.
9 Otherwise, I may have too much
and deny you, saying, 'Who is the LORD?'
Or I may become poor and steal,
profaning the name of my God.

10 Do not slander a slave to his master,
or he will curse you, and you will bear the guilt.

11 There is a generation of those who curse their fathers
and do not bless their mothers.
12 There is a generation of those who are pure in their own eyes
and yet unwashed of their filth.
13 There is a generation—how haughty are their eyes
and pretentious are their glances—
14 there is a generation whose teeth are swords
and whose jaws are knives,
devouring the oppressed from the earth
and the needy from among men.

15 The leech has two daughters:
Give and Give.
There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say,
'Enough!':
16 Sheol,
the barren womb,
land never satisfied with water,
and fire that never says, 'Enough!'

17 As for the eye that mocks a father
and scorns obedience to a mother,
may the ravens of the valley pluck it out
and young vultures devour it.
18 There are three things too wonderful for me, four that I cannot
understand:
19 the way of an eagle in the sky,
the way of a snake on a rock,
the way of a ship at sea,
and the way of a man with a maiden.

20 This is the way of an adulteress:
She eats and wipes her mouth
and says, 'I have done nothing wrong.'
21 Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up:
22 a slave who becomes king,
a fool who is filled with food,
23 an unloved woman who marries,
and a slave woman who supplants her mistress.
24 Four things on earth are small, yet they are exceedingly wise:

25 The ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in
the summer;
26 the rock badgers† are creatures of little power, yet they make their
homes in the rocks;
27 the locusts have no king, yet they all advance in formation;
28 and the lizard can be caught in one's hands, yet it is found in the
palaces of kings.
29 There are three things that are stately in their stride, and four that are
impressive in their walk:
30 a lion, mighty among beasts, refusing to retreat before anything;
31 a strutting rooster;
a he-goat;
and a king against whom there is no rising up.‡

32 If you have foolishly exalted yourself
or if you have plotted evil,
put your hand over your mouth.
33 For as the churning of milk yields butter,
and the twisting of the nose draws blood,
so the stirring of anger brings forth strife."

31

1 These are the words of King Lemuel—the burden that his mother
taught him:

2 What shall I say,* O my son?
What, O son of my womb?
What, O son of my vows?
3 Do not spend your strength on women
or your vigor on those who ruin kings.
4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel,
it is not for kings to drink wine,
or for rulers to crave strong drink,†
5 lest they drink and forget what is decreed,
depriving all the oppressed of justice.

6 Give strong drink to one who is perishing,
and wine to the bitter in soul.
7 Let him drink and forget his poverty,
and remember his misery no more.

8 Open your mouth for those with no voice,
for the cause of all the dispossessed.
9 Open your mouth, judge righteously,
and defend the cause of the poor and needy.
10 A wife‡ of noble character, who can find?
She is far more precious than rubies.

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† **30:26 30:26** Or *the coneys* or *the hyraxes* ‡ **30:31 30:31** Or *a king with his army around him*
* **31:2 31:2** Or *What* or *What are you doing* † **31:4 31:4** Qere, literally *where is strong drink?*; Ketiv *or strong drink for rulers* ‡ **31:10 31:10** Verses 10–31 are an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he lacks nothing of value.
12 She brings him good and not harm
all the days of her life.
13 She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.
14 She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.

15 She rises while it is still night
to provide food for her household
and portions for her maidservants.
16 She appraises a field and buys it;
from her earnings she plants a vineyard.
17 She girds herself§ with strength
and shows that her arms are strong.
18 She sees that her gain is good,
and her lamp is not extinguished at night.
19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

20 She opens her arms to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household,
for they are all clothed in scarlet.*
22 She makes coverings for her bed;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is known at the city gates,
where he sits among the elders of the land.
24 She makes linen garments and sells them;
she delivers sashes to the merchants.

25 Strength and honor are her clothing,
and she can laugh at the days to come.
26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
27 She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband praises her as well:
29 "Many daughters have done noble things,
but you surpass them all!"

30 Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
31 Give her the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her at the gates.

§ **31:17 31:17** Hebrew *She girds her loins* * **31:21 31:21** Or *doubly clothed*

Job

1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. And this man
was blameless and upright, fearing God and shunning evil.
2 He had seven sons and three daughters,
3 and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female
donkeys, and a very large number of servants. Job was the greatest man
of all the people of the East.
4 Job's sons would take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they
would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.
5 And when the days of feasting were over, Job would send for his
children to purify them, rising early in the morning to offer burnt
offerings for all of them. For Job thought, "Perhaps my children have
sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular practice.
6 One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD,
and the adversary* also came with them.
7 "Where have you come from?" said the LORD to the adversary.
"From roaming through the earth," he replied, "and walking back and
forth in it."
8 Then the LORD said to the adversary, "Have you considered my servant
Job? For there is no one on earth like him, a man who is blameless and
upright, who fears God and shuns evil."
9 The adversary answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?
10 Have you not placed a hedge on every side around him and his
household and all that he owns? You have blessed the work of his hands,
and his possessions have increased in the land.
11 But stretch out your hand and strike all that he has, and he will surely
curse you to your face."
12 "Very well," said the LORD to the adversary. "Everything he has is in
your hands, but you must not lay a hand on the man himself."
Then the adversary went out from the presence of the LORD.
13 One day, while Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking
wine in their oldest brother's house,
14 a messenger came and reported to Job: "While the oxen were plowing
and the donkeys were grazing nearby,
15 the Sabeans swooped down and took them away. They put the
servants to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"
16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and reported:
"The fire of God fell from heaven. It burned and consumed the sheep and
the servants, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"
17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and reported:
"The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels, and took them
away. They put the servants to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell
you!"
18 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and reported:
"Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest
brother's house,

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* **1:6 1:6** Hebrew *ha-satan*, a title (*the adversary* or *the accuser*), not a proper name; here and throughout Job 1–2

19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the
four corners of the house. It collapsed on the young people and they are
dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"
20 Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the
ground and worshiped,
21 saying:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will return.
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the LORD."
22 In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

2

1 On another day the sons of God came to present themselves before the
LORD, and the adversary also came with them to present himself before
him.
2 "Where have you come from?" said the LORD to the adversary.
"From roaming through the earth," he replied, "and walking back and
forth in it."
3 Then the LORD said to the adversary, "Have you considered my servant
Job? For there is no one on earth like him, a man who is blameless and
upright, who fears God and shuns evil. He still retains his integrity, even
though you incited me against him to ruin him without cause."
4 "Skin for skin!" the adversary replied. "A man will give up all he owns
in exchange for his life.
5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will
surely curse you to your face."
6 "Very well," said the LORD to the adversary. "He is in your hands, but
you must spare his life."
7 So the adversary went out from the presence of the LORD and infected
Job with terrible boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.
8 And Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself as he sat
among the ashes.
9 Then Job's wife said to him, "Do you still retain your integrity? Curse*
God and die!"
10 "You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her. "Should we accept
from God only good and not adversity?"
In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.
11 Now when Job's three friends—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the
Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite—heard about all this adversity that
had come upon him, each of them came from his home, and they met
together to go and sympathize with Job and comfort him.
12 When they lifted up their eyes from afar, they could barely recognize
Job. They began to weep aloud, and each man tore his robe and threw
dust in the air over his head.
13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven
nights, but no one spoke a word to him because they saw how intense his
suffering was.

3

1 After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

* **2:9 2:9** Or *Bless*

2 And this is what he said:

3 “May the day of my birth perish,
and the night it was said,
‘A boy is conceived.’
4 If only that day had turned to darkness!
May God above disregard it;
may no light shine upon it.
5 May darkness and gloom reclaim it,
and a cloud settle over it;
may the blackness of the day overwhelm it.
6 If only darkness had taken that night away!
May it not appear among the days of the year;
may it never be entered in any of the months.
7 Behold, may that night be barren;
may no joyful voice come into it.
8 May it be cursed by those who curse the day*—
those prepared to rouse Leviathan.
9 May its morning stars grow dark;
may it wait in vain for daylight;
may it not see the breaking of dawn.
10 For that night did not shut the doors of the womb
to hide the sorrow from my eyes.

11 Why did I not perish at birth;
why did I not die as I came from the womb?
12 Why were there knees to receive me,
and breasts that I should be nursed?
13 For now I would be lying down in peace;
I would be asleep and at rest
14 with kings and counselors of the earth,
who built for themselves cities now in ruins,
15 or with princes who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver.
16 Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child,
like an infant who never sees daylight?
17 There the wicked cease from raging,
and there the weary find rest.
18 The captives enjoy their ease;
they do not hear the voice of the oppressor.
19 Both small and great are there,
and the slave is freed from his master.

20 Why is light given to the miserable,
and life to the bitter of soul,
21 who long for death that does not come,
and search for it like hidden treasure,
22 who rejoice and greatly exult
when they reach the grave?
23 Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden,
whom God has hedged in?

* **3:8 3:8** Or *curse the sea*

24 I sigh when food is put before me,
and my groans pour out like water.
25 For the thing I feared has overtaken me,
and what I dreaded has befallen me.
26 I am not at ease or quiet;
I have no rest, for trouble has come.”

4

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

2 “If one ventures a word with you, will you be wearied?
Yet who can keep from speaking?
3 Surely you have instructed many,
and have strengthened their feeble hands.
4 Your words have steadied those who stumbled;
you have braced the knees that were buckling.
5 But now trouble has come upon you, and you are weary.
It strikes you, and you are dismayed.
6 Is your reverence not your confidence,
and the uprightness of your ways your hope?

7 Consider now, I plead:

Who, being innocent, has ever perished?
Or where have the upright been destroyed?
8 As I have observed, those who plow iniquity
and those who sow trouble reap the same.
9 By the breath of God they perish,
and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.
10 The lion may roar, and the fierce lion may growl,
yet the teeth of the young lions are broken.
11 The old lion perishes for lack of prey,
and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.

12 Now a word came to me secretly;
my ears caught a whisper of it.
13 In disquieting visions in the night,
when deep sleep falls on men,
14 fear and trembling came over me
and made all my bones shudder.
15 Then a wind* glided past my face,
and the hair on my body bristled.
16 It stood still,
but I could not discern its appearance;
a form loomed before my eyes,
and I heard a whispering voice:

17 ‘Can a mortal be more righteous than God,
or a man more pure than his Maker?
18 If God puts no trust in his servants,
and he charges his angels with error,

* **4:15 4:15** Or *a spirit*

19 how much more those who dwell in houses of clay,
whose foundations are in the dust,
who can be crushed like a moth!
20 They are smashed to pieces from dawn to dusk;
unnoticed, they perish forever.
21 Are not their tent cords pulled up,
so that they die without wisdom?'

5

1 "Call out if you please, but who will answer?
To which of the holy ones will you turn?
2 For resentment kills a fool,
and envy slays the simple.
3 I have seen a fool taking root,
but suddenly his house was cursed.
4 His sons are far from safety,
crushed in court without a defender.
5 The hungry consume his harvest,
taking it even from the thorns,
and a snare snatches his wealth.*
6 For distress does not spring from the dust,
and trouble does not sprout from the ground.
7 Yet man is born to trouble
as surely as sparks fly upward.

8 However, if I were you, I would appeal to God
and lay my cause before him—
9 the One who does great and unsearchable things,
wonders without number.
10 He gives rain to the earth
and sends water upon the fields.
11 He sets the lowly on high,
so that mourners are lifted to safety.
12 He thwarts the schemes of the crafty,
so that their hands find no success.
13 He catches the wise in their craftiness,
and sweeps away the plans of the cunning.
14 They encounter darkness by day
and grope at noon as in the night.
15 He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth
and from the clutches of the powerful.
16 So the poor have hope,
and injustice shuts its mouth.

17 Blessed indeed is the man whom God corrects;
so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.†
18 For he wounds, but he also binds;
he strikes, but his hands‡ also heal.
19 He will rescue you from six calamities;
no harm will touch you in seven.

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* **5:5 5:5** Syriac and Vulgate *and the thirsty pant after his wealth* † **5:17 5:17** Hebrew *Shaddai*; here and throughout Job ‡ **5:18 5:18** Qere; Ketiv *his hand*

20 In famine he will redeem you from death,
and in battle from the stroke of the sword.
21 You will be hidden from the scourge of the tongue,
and will not fear havoc when it comes.
22 You will laugh at destruction and famine,
and need not fear the beasts of the earth.
23 For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field,
and the wild animals will be at peace with you.
24 You will know that your tent is secure,
and find nothing amiss when inspecting your home.
25 You will know that your offspring will be many,
your descendants like the grass of the earth.
26 You will come to the grave in full vigor,
like a sheaf of grain gathered in season.

27 Indeed, we have investigated, and it is true!
So hear it and know for yourself."

6

1 Then Job replied:

2 "If only my grief could be weighed
and placed with my calamity on the scales.
3 For then it would outweigh the sand of the seas—
no wonder my words have been rash.
4 For the arrows of the Almighty have pierced me;
my spirit drinks in their poison;
the terrors of God are arrayed against me.
5 Does a wild donkey bray over fresh grass,
or an ox low over its fodder?
6 Is tasteless food eaten without salt,
or is there flavor in the sap of the mallow plant?*
7 My soul refuses to touch them;
they are loathsome food to me.

8 If only my request were granted
and God would fulfill my hope:
9 that God would be willing to crush me,
to unleash his hand and cut me off!
10 It still brings me comfort,
and joy through unrelenting pain,
that I have not denied
the words of the Holy One.

11 What strength do I have, that I should still hope?
What is my future, that I should be patient?
12 Is my strength like that of stone,
or my flesh made of bronze?
13 Is there any help within me
now that success is driven from me?

* **6:6 6:6** Or *in the white of an egg*

14 A despairing man should have the kindness of his friend,
even if he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
15 But my brothers are as faithless as wadis,
as seasonal streams that overflow,
16 darkened because of the ice
and the inflow of melting snow,
17 but ceasing in the dry season
and vanishing from their channels in the heat.

18 Caravans turn aside from their routes;
they go into the wasteland and perish.
19 The caravans of Tema look for water;
the travelers of Sheba hope to find it.
20 They are confounded because they had hoped;
their arrival brings disappointment.
21 For now you are of no help;†
you see terror, and you are afraid.
22 Have I ever said, 'Give me something;
offer me a bribe from your wealth;
23 deliver me from the hand of the enemy;
redeem me from the grasp of the ruthless'?

24 Teach me, and I will be silent.
Help me understand how I have erred.
25 How painful are honest words!
But what does your argument prove?
26 Do you intend to correct my words,
and treat as wind my cry of despair?
27 You would even cast lots for an orphan
and barter away your friend.

28 But now, please look at me.
Would I lie to your face?
29 Reconsider; do not be unjust.
Reconsider, for my righteousness is at stake.
30 Is there iniquity on my tongue?
Can my mouth not discern malice?

7

1 "Is not man consigned to labor on earth?
Are not his days like those of a hired hand?
2 Like a slave he longs for shade;
like a hireling he waits for his wages.
3 So I am allotted months of futility,
and nights of misery are appointed to me.
4 When I lie down I think:
'When will I get up?'
But the night drags on,
and I toss and turn until dawn.
5 My flesh is clothed with worms
and encrusted with dirt;

† **6:21 6:21** Ketiv; Qere *you have become like it*

my skin is cracked and festering.
6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.

7 Remember that my life is but a breath.
My eyes will never again see happiness.
8 The eye that beholds me will no longer see me.
You will look for me, but I will be no more.
9 As a cloud vanishes and is gone,
so he who goes down to Sheol does not come back up.
10 He never returns to his house;
his place remembers him no more.

11 Therefore I will not restrain my mouth;
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.
12 Am I the sea, or the monster of the deep,
that you must keep me under guard?
13 When I think my bed will comfort me
and my couch will ease my complaint,
14 then you frighten me with dreams
and terrify me with visions,
15 so that I would prefer strangling and death
over my life in this body.
16 I loathe my life! I would not live forever.
Leave me alone, for my days are but a breath.

17 What is man that you should exalt him,
that you should set your heart upon him,
18 that you attend to him every morning,
and test him every moment?
19 Will you never look away from me,
or leave me alone to swallow my spittle?
20 If I have sinned, what have I done to you,
O watcher of mankind?
Why have you made me your target,
so that I am a burden to myself?*
21 Why do you not pardon my transgression
and take away my iniquity?
For soon I will lie down in the dust;
you will seek me, but I will be no more."

8

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

2 "How long will you go on saying such things?
The words of your mouth are a blustering wind.
3 Does God pervert justice?
Does the Almighty pervert what is right?
4 When your children sinned against him,
he gave them over to their rebellion.

* **7:20 7:20** LXX *to you*

5 But if you would earnestly seek God
and ask the Almighty for mercy,
6 if you are pure and upright,
even now he will rouse himself on your behalf
and restore your righteous estate.
7 Though your beginnings were modest,
your latter days will flourish.

8 Please inquire of past generations
and consider the discoveries of their fathers.
9 For we were born yesterday and know nothing;
our days on earth are but a shadow.
10 Will they not teach you and tell you,
and speak from their understanding?
11 Does papyrus grow where there is no marsh?
Do reeds flourish without water?
12 While the shoots are still uncut,
they dry up more quickly than grass.

13 Such is the destiny of all who forget God;
so the hope of the godless will perish.
14 His confidence is fragile;
his security is in a spider's web.
15 He leans on his web, but it gives way;
he holds fast, but it does not endure.
16 He is a well-watered plant in the sunshine,
spreading its shoots over the garden.
17 His roots wrap around the rock heap;
he looks for a home among the stones.
18 If he is uprooted from his place,
it will disown him, saying, 'I never saw you.'
19 Surely this is the joy of his way;
yet others will spring from the dust.

20 Behold, God does not reject the blameless,
nor will he strengthen the hand of evildoers.
21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughter,
and your lips with a shout of joy.
22 Your enemies will be clothed in shame,
and the tent of the wicked will be no more."

9

1 Then Job answered:

2 "Yes, I know that it is so,
but how can a mortal be righteous before God?
3 If one wished to contend with God,*
he could not answer him one time out of a thousand.
4 God is wise in heart and mighty in strength.
Who has resisted him and prospered?
5 He moves mountains without their knowledge

* **9:3 9:3** Or *If God wished to contend with someone*

and overturns them in his anger.
6 He shakes the earth from its place,
so that its foundations tremble.
7 He commands the sun not to shine;†
he seals off the stars.
8 He alone stretches out the heavens
and treads on the waves of the sea.
9 He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion,
of the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.
10 He does great things beyond searching out,
and wonders without number.
11 Were he to pass by me, I would not see him;
were he to move, I would not recognize him.
12 If he takes away,‡ who can stop him?
Who dares to ask him, 'What are you doing?'
13 God does not restrain his anger;
the helpers of Rahab cower beneath him.

14 How then can I answer him
or choose my arguments against him?
15 For even if I were right, I could not answer.
I could only beg my Judge for mercy.
16 If I summoned him and he answered me,
I do not believe he would listen to my voice.
17 For he would crush me with a tempest
and multiply my wounds without cause.
18 He does not let me catch my breath,
but overwhelms me with bitterness.
19 If it is a matter of strength,
he is indeed mighty!
If it is a matter of justice,
who can summon me?§
20 Even if I were righteous, my mouth would condemn me;
if I were blameless, he would declare me guilty.*

21 Though I am blameless, I have no concern for myself;
I despise my own life.
22 It is all the same, and so I say,
'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.'
23 When the scourge brings sudden death,
he mocks the despair of the innocent.
24 The earth is given into the hand of the wicked;
he blindfolds its judges.
If it is not he, then who is it?

25 My days are swifter than a runner;
they flee without seeing good.
26 They sweep by like boats of papyrus,
like an eagle swooping down on its prey.
27 If I were to say, 'I will forget my complaint
and change my expression and smile,'

† **9:7 9:7** Or *rise* ‡ **9:12 9:12** Or *snatches someone in death* § **9:19 9:19** LXX *him* * **9:20 9:20** Or *it would declare me guilty*

28 I would still dread all my sufferings;
I know that you will not acquit me.
29 Since I am already found guilty,
why should I labor in vain?
30 If I should wash myself with soapy water†
and cleanse my hands with lye,
31 then you would plunge me into the pit,
and even my own clothes would despise me.

32 For he is not a man like me, that I can answer him,
that we can take each other to court.
33 Nor is there a mediator between us,
to lay his hand upon us both.
34 Let him remove his rod from me,
so that his terror will no longer frighten me.
35 Then I would speak without fear of him.
But as it is, I am on my own.

10

1 "I loathe my own life;
I will express my complaint
and speak in the bitterness of my soul.
2 I will say to God:
Do not condemn me!
Let me know why you prosecute me.
3 Does it please you to oppress me,
to reject the work of your hands
and favor the schemes of the wicked?
4 Do you have eyes of flesh?
Do you see as man sees?
5 Are your days like those of a mortal,
or your years like those of a man,
6 that you should seek my iniquity
and search out my sin—
7 though you know that I am not guilty,
and there is no deliverance from your hand?

8 Your hands shaped me and altogether formed me.
Would you now turn and destroy me?
9 Please remember that you molded me like clay.
Would you now return me to dust?
10 Did you not pour me out like milk,
and curdle me like cheese?
11 You clothed me with skin and flesh,
and knit me together with bones and sinews.
12 You have granted me life and loving devotion,*
and your care has preserved my spirit.

13 Yet you concealed these things in your heart,

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† **9:30 9:30** Qere; Ketiv *with soap*; or *with snow water* * **10:12 10:12** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

and I know that this was in your mind:
14 If I sinned, you would take note,
and would not acquit me of my iniquity.
15 If I am guilty, woe to me!
And even if I am righteous, I cannot lift my head.
I am full of shame
and aware of my affliction.
16 Should I hold my head high,
you would hunt me like a lion,
and again display your power against me.
17 You produce new witnesses against me
and multiply your anger toward me.
Hardships assault me
in wave after wave.

18 Why then did you bring me from the womb?
Oh, that I had died, and no eye had seen me!
19 If only I had never come to be,
but had been carried from the womb to the grave.
20 Are my days not few?
Withdraw from me,† that I may have a little comfort,
21 before I go—never to return—
to a land of darkness and gloom,
22 to a land of utter darkness,
of deep shadow and disorder,
where even the light is like darkness."

11

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

2 "Should this stream of words go unanswered
and such a speaker be vindicated?
3 Should your babbling put others to silence?
Will you scoff without rebuke?
4 You have said, 'My doctrine is sound,
and I am pure in your sight.'
5 But if only God would speak
and open his lips against you,
6 and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom,
for true wisdom has two sides.
Know then that God exacts from you
less than your iniquity deserves.

7 Can you fathom the deep things of God
or discover the limits of the Almighty?
8 They are higher than the heavens—what can you do?
They are deeper than Sheol—what can you know?
9 Their measure is longer than the earth
and wider than the sea.

10 If he comes along to imprison you,

† **10:20 10:20** Qere; Ketiv *Let him cease and turn from me*

or convenes a court, who can stop him?
11 Surely he knows the deceit of men.
If he sees iniquity, does he not take note?
12 But a witless man can no more become wise
than the colt of a wild donkey can be born a man!*

13 As for you, if you direct your heart
and lift up your hands to him,
14 if you put away the iniquity in your hand,
and allow no injustice to dwell in your tents,
15 then indeed you will lift up your face without blemish;
you will stand firm and unafraid.
16 For you will forget your misery,
recalling it only as waters gone by.
17 Your life will be brighter than noonday;
its darkness will be like the morning.
18 You will be secure, because there is hope,
and you will look around and lie down in safety.

19 You will lie down without fear,
and many will court your favor.
20 But the eyes of the wicked will fail,
and escape will elude them;
they will hope for their last breath."

12

1 Then Job answered:

2 "Truly then you are the people
with whom wisdom itself will die!
3 But I also have a mind;
I am not inferior to you.
Who does not know such things as these?

4 I am a laughingstock to my friends,
though I called on God, and he answered.
The righteous and upright man is a laughingstock.
5 The one at ease scorns misfortune
as the fate of those whose feet are slipping.
6 The tents of robbers are safe,
and those who provoke God are secure—
those who carry their god in their hands.*

7 But ask the animals, and they will instruct you;
ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you.
8 Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you;
let the fish of the sea inform you.
9 Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
10 The life of every living thing is in his hand,
as well as the breath of all mankind.

* **11:12 11:12** Or *can be born tame* * **12:6 12:6** Or *though God keeps them in his power*

11 Does not the ear test words
as the tongue tastes its food?
12 Wisdom is found with the elderly,
and understanding comes with long life.

13 Wisdom and strength belong to God;
counsel and understanding are his.
14 What he tears down cannot be rebuilt;
the man he imprisons cannot be released.
15 If he holds back the waters, they dry up,
and if he releases them, they overwhelm the land.
16 True wisdom and power belong to him.
The deceived and the deceiver are his.
17 He leads counselors away barefoot
and makes fools of judges.
18 He loosens the bonds placed by kings
and fastens a belt around their waists.
19 He leads priests away barefoot
and overthrows the established.
20 He deprives the trusted of speech
and takes away the discernment of elders.
21 He pours out contempt on nobles
and disarms the mighty.
22 He reveals the deep things of darkness
and brings deep shadows into light.
23 He makes nations great and destroys them;
he enlarges nations, then disperses them.
24 He deprives the earth's leaders of reason
and makes them wander in a trackless wasteland.
25 They grope in the darkness without light;
he makes them stagger like drunkards.

13

1 "Indeed, my eyes have seen all this;
my ears have heard and understood.
2 What you know, I also know;
I am not inferior to you.
3 Yet I desire to speak to the Almighty
and argue my case before God.
4 You, however, smear with lies;
you are all worthless physicians.
5 If only you would remain silent;
for that would be your wisdom!

6 Hear now my argument,
and listen to the plea of my lips.
7 Will you speak wickedly on God's behalf
or speak deceitfully for him?
8 Would you show him partiality
or argue in his defense?
9 Would it be well when he examined you?
Could you deceive him as you would deceive a man?

10 Surely he would rebuke you
if you secretly showed partiality.
11 Would his majesty not terrify you?
Would the dread of him not fall upon you?
12 Your maxims are proverbs of ashes;
your defenses are defenses of clay.

13 Be silent, and I will speak.
Then let come to me what may.
14 Why do I take my flesh in my teeth*
and take my life in my own hands?
15 Though he slay me, I have no hope.†
I will still defend my ways to his face.
16 Moreover, this will be my deliverance,
for no godless man can appear before him.
17 Listen carefully to my words;
let my declaration ring in your ears.
18 See now, I have prepared my case;
I know that I will be vindicated.
19 Can anyone indict me?
If so, I will be silent and die.

20 Only grant these two things to me,
so that I need not hide from you:
21 Withdraw your hand from me,
and do not let your terror frighten me.
22 Then call me, and I will answer,
or let me speak, and you can reply.
23 How many are my iniquities and sins?
Reveal to me my transgression and sin.
24 Why do you hide your face
and consider me as your enemy?
25 Would you frighten a windblown leaf?
Would you chase after dry chaff?
26 For you record bitter accusations against me
and bequeath to me the iniquities of my youth.
27 You put my feet in the stocks
and stand watch over all my paths;
you set a limit
for the soles of my feet.

28 So man wastes away like something rotten,
like a moth-eaten garment.

14

1 “Man, who is born of woman,
is short of days and full of trouble.
2 Like a flower, he comes forth, then withers away;
like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure.
3 Do you open your eyes to one like this?

* **13:14 13:14** Or *Why do I put myself at risk* † **13:15 13:15** Ketiv; Qere *I will hope in him*

Will you bring me* into judgment before you?
4 Who can bring out clean from unclean?
No one!
5 Since his days are determined
and the number of his months is with you,
and since you have set limits†
that he cannot exceed,
6 look away from him and let him rest,
so he can enjoy his day as a hired hand.

7 For there is hope for a tree:
If it is cut down, it will sprout again,
and its tender shoots will not fail.
8 If its roots grow old in the ground
and its stump dies in the soil,
9 at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth twigs like a sapling.
10 But a man dies and is laid low;
he breathes his last, and where is he?
11 As water disappears from the sea
and a river becomes parched and dry,
12 so a man lies down
and does not rise.
Until the heavens are no more,
he will not be awakened or roused from sleep.

13 If only you would hide me in Sheol
and conceal me until your anger has passed!
If only you would appoint a time for me
and then remember me!
14 When a man dies, will he live again?
All the days of my hard service I will wait,
until my renewal‡ comes.
15 You will call, and I will answer;
you will desire the work of your hands.
16 For then you would count my steps,
but would not keep track of my sin.
17 My transgression would be sealed in a bag,
and you would cover over my iniquity.

18 But as a mountain erodes and crumbles
and a rock is dislodged from its place,
19 as water wears away the stones
and torrents wash away the soil,
so you destroy a man's hope.
20 You forever overpower him, and he passes on;
you change his countenance and send him away.
21 If his sons receive honor, he does not know it;
if they are brought low, he is unaware.
22 He feels only the pain of his own body
and mourns only for himself."

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* **14:3 14:3** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *him* † **14:5 14:5** Qere; Ketiv *a limit* ‡ **14:14 14:14** Or *my change* or *my relief*

15

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

2 “Does a wise man answer with empty counsel
or fill his belly with the hot east wind?
3 Should he argue with useless words
or speeches that serve no purpose?
4 But you even undermine the fear of God
and hinder meditation before him.
5 For your iniquity instructs your mouth,
and you choose the language of the crafty.
6 Your own mouth, not mine, condemns you;
your own lips testify against you.

7 Were you the first man ever born?
Were you brought forth before the hills?
8 Do you listen in on the council of God
or limit wisdom to yourself?
9 What do you know that we do not?
What do you understand that is not clear to us?
10 Both the gray-haired and the aged are on our side—
men much older than your father.
11 Are the consolations of God not enough for you,
even words spoken gently to you?
12 Why has your heart carried you away,
and why do your eyes flash,*
13 so that you turn your spirit against God
and pour such words from your mouth?

14 What is man, that he should be pure,
or one born of woman, that he should be righteous?
15 If God puts no trust in his holy ones,†
if even the heavens are not pure in his eyes,
16 how much less man, who is vile and corrupt,
who drinks injustice like water?
17 Listen to me and I will inform you.
I will describe what I have seen,
18 what was declared by wise men
and was not concealed from their fathers,
19 to whom alone the land was given
when no foreigner passed among them.

20 A wicked man writhes in pain all his days;
only a few years are reserved for the ruthless.
21 Sounds of terror fill his ears;
in his prosperity the destroyer attacks him.
22 He despairs of his return from darkness;
he is marked for the sword.
23 He wanders about for food, saying, ‘Where is it?’‡
He knows the day of darkness is at hand.

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* **15:12 15:12** Or *blink* † **15:15 15:15** Qere; Ketiv *his holy one* ‡ **15:23 15:23** LXX *he wanders about as food for vultures*

24 Distress and anguish terrify him,
overwhelming him like a king poised to attack.
25 For he has stretched out his hand against God
and has vaunted himself against the Almighty,
26 rushing headlong at him
with a thick, studded shield.

27 Though his face is covered with fat
and his waistline bulges with flesh,
28 he will dwell in ruined cities,
in abandoned houses destined to become rubble.
29 He will no longer be rich; his wealth will not endure.
His possessions will not overspread the land.
30 He will not escape from the darkness;
the flame will wither his shoots,
and the breath of God's mouth
will carry him away.

31 Let him not deceive himself with trust in emptiness,
for emptiness will be his reward.
32 It will be paid in full before his time,
and his branch will not flourish.
33 He will be like a vine stripped of its unripe grapes,
like an olive tree that sheds its blossoms.
34 For the company of the godless will be barren,
and fire will consume the tents of bribery.
35 They conceive trouble and give birth to evil;
their womb is pregnant with deceit."

16

1 Then Job answered:

2 "I have heard many things like these;
miserable comforters are you all.
3 Is there no end to your long-winded speeches?
What provokes you to continue testifying?
4 I could also speak like you
if you were in my place;
I could heap up words against you
and shake my head at you.
5 But I would encourage you with my mouth,
and the consolation of my lips would bring relief.

6 Even if I speak, my pain is not relieved,
and if I hold back, how will it go away?
7 Surely he has now exhausted me;
you have devastated all my family.
8 You have bound me, and it has become a witness;
my frailty rises up and testifies against me.
9 His anger has torn me and opposed me;
he gnashes his teeth at me.
My adversary pierces me with his eyes.

10 They open their mouths against me
and strike my cheeks with contempt;
they join together against me.
11 God has delivered me to unjust men;
he has thrown me to the clutches of the wicked.
12 I was at ease, but he shattered me;
he seized me by the neck and crushed me.
He has set me up as his target;
13 his archers surround me.
He pierces my kidneys without mercy
and spills my gall on the ground.
14 He breaks me with wound upon wound;
he rushes me like a mighty warrior.

15 I have sewn sackcloth over my skin;
I have buried my horn in the dust.
16 My face is red with weeping,
and deep shadows ring my eyes;
17 yet my hands are free of violence
and my prayer is pure.

18 O earth, do not cover my blood;
may my cry for help never be laid to rest.
19 Even now my witness is in heaven,
and my advocate is on high.
20 My friends are my scoffers
as my eyes pour out tears to God.
21 Oh, that a man might plead with God
as he pleads with his neighbor!
22 For when only a few years are past
I will go the way of no return.

17

1 “My spirit is broken; my days are extinguished;
the grave awaits me.
2 Surely mockers surround me,
and my eyes must gaze at their rebellion.

3 Give me, I pray, the pledge you demand.
Who else will be my guarantor?
4 You have closed their minds to understanding;
therefore you will not exalt them.
5 If a man denounces his friends for a price,
the eyes of his children will fail.

6 He has made me a byword among the people,
a man in whose face they spit.
7 My eyes have grown dim with grief,
and my whole body is but a shadow.
8 The upright are appalled at this,
and the innocent are stirred against the godless.
9 Yet a righteous one holds to his way,

and the one with clean hands grows stronger.
10 But come back and try again, all of you.
For I will not find a wise man among you.

11 My days have passed; my plans are broken off—
even the desires of my heart.
12 They have turned night into day,
making light seem near in the face of darkness.
13 If I look for Sheol as my home,
if I spread out my bed in darkness,
14 and say to corruption, 'You are my father,'
and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,'
15 where then is my hope?
Who can see any hope for me?
16 Will it go down to the gates of Sheol?
Will we go down together into the dust?"

18

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

2 "How long until you end these speeches?
Show some sense, and then we can talk.
3 Why are we regarded as cattle,
as stupid in your sight?
4 You who tear yourself in anger—
should the earth be forsaken on your account,
or the rocks be moved from their place?

5 Indeed, the lamp of the wicked is extinguished;
the flame of his fire does not glow.
6 The light in his tent grows dark,
and the lamp beside him goes out.
7 His vigorous stride is shortened,
and his own schemes trip him up.
8 For his own feet lead him into a net,
and he wanders into its mesh.
9 A trap seizes his heel;
a snare grips him.
10 A noose is hidden in the ground,
and a trap lies in his path.
11 Terrors frighten him on every side
and harass his every step.
12 His strength is depleted,
and calamity is ready at his side.
13 It devours patches of his skin;
the firstborn of death devours his limbs.

14 He is torn from the shelter of his tent
and is marched off to the king of terrors.
15 What is not his resides in his tent;*

* **18:15 18:15** Or *Nothing of his resides in his tent*; a conjectural emendation reads *Fire resides in his tent*

burning sulfur rains down on his dwelling.
16 The roots beneath him dry up,
and the branches above him wither away.
17 The memory of him perishes from the earth,
and he has no name in the land.
18 He is driven from light into darkness
and is chased from the inhabited world.
19 He has no offspring or posterity among his people,
no survivor where he once lived.

20 Those in the west are appalled at his fate,
while those in the east tremble in horror.
21 Surely such is the dwelling of the wicked
and the place of one who does not know God."

19

1 Then Job answered:

2 "How long will you torment me
and crush me with your words?
3 Ten times now you have reproached me;
you shamelessly mistreat me.
4 Even if I have truly gone astray,
my error concerns me alone.
5 If indeed you would exalt yourselves above me
and use my disgrace against me,
6 then understand that it is God who has wronged me
and drawn his net around me.

7 Though I cry out, 'Violence!' I get no response;
though I call for help, there is no justice.
8 He has blocked my way so I cannot pass;
he has veiled my paths with darkness.
9 He has stripped me of my honor
and removed the crown from my head.
10 He tears me down on every side until I am gone;
he uproots my hope like a tree.
11 His anger burns against me,
and he counts me among his enemies.
12 His troops advance together;
they construct a ramp against me
and encamp around my tent.

13 He has removed my brothers from me;
my acquaintances have abandoned me.
14 My kinsmen have failed me,
and my friends have forgotten me.
15 My guests and maidservants count me as a stranger;
I am a foreigner in their sight.
16 I call for my servant, but he does not answer,
though I implore him with my own mouth.
17 My breath is repulsive to my wife,

and I am loathsome to my own family.
18 Even little boys scorn me;
when I appear, they deride me.
19 All my best friends despise me,
and those I love have turned against me.
20 My skin and flesh cling to my bones;
I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.

21 Have pity on me, my friends, have pity,
for the hand of God has struck me.
22 Why do you persecute me as God does?
Will you never get enough of my flesh?

23 I wish that my words were recorded
and inscribed in a book,
24 by an iron stylus on lead,
or chiseled in stone forever.
25 But I know that my Vindicator* lives,
and in the end he will stand upon the earth.†
26 Even after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh‡ I will see God.
27 I will see him for myself;
my eyes will behold him, and not as a stranger.
How my heart yearns§ within me!

28 If you say, 'Let us persecute him,
since the root of the matter lies with me,*'
29 then you should fear the sword yourselves,
because wrath brings punishment by the sword,
so that you may know there is a judgment."

20

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

2 "So my anxious thoughts compel me to answer,
because of the turmoil within me.
3 I have heard a rebuke that insults me,
and my understanding prompts a reply.

4 Do you not know that from antiquity,
since man was placed on the earth,
5 the triumph of the wicked has been brief
and the joy of the godless momentary?
6 Though his arrogance reaches the heavens,
and his head touches the clouds,
7 he will perish forever, like his own dung;
those who had seen him will ask, 'Where is he?'
8 He will fly away like a dream, never to be found;
he will be chased away like a vision in the night.

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* **19:25 19:25** Or *Redeemer* † **19:25 19:25** Or *on my grave* ‡ **19:26 19:26** Or *without my flesh* § **19:27 19:27** Hebrew *my kidneys yearn* * **19:28 19:28** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate *with him*

9 The eye that saw him will see him no more,
and his place will no longer behold him.
10 His sons will seek the favor of the poor,
for his own hands must return his wealth.
11 The youthful vigor that fills his bones
will lie down with him in the dust.

12 Though evil is sweet in his mouth
and he conceals it under his tongue,
13 though he cannot bear to let it go
and keeps it in his mouth,
14 yet in his stomach his food sours
into the venom of cobras within him.
15 He swallows wealth but vomits it out;
God will force it from his stomach.
16 He will suck the poison of cobras;
the fangs of a viper will kill him.
17 He will not enjoy the streams,
the rivers flowing with honey and cream.
18 He must return the fruit of his labor without consuming it;
he cannot enjoy the profits of his trading.
19 For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor;
he has seized houses he did not build.

20 Because his appetite is never satisfied,
he cannot escape with his treasure.
21 Nothing is left for him to consume;
thus his prosperity will not endure.
22 In the midst of his plenty, he will be distressed;
the full force of misery will come upon him.
23 When he has filled his stomach,
God will vent his fury upon him,
raining it down on him as he eats.
24 Though he flees from an iron weapon,
a bronze-tipped arrow will pierce him.
25 It is drawn out of his back,
the gleaming point from his gall.*
Terrors come over him.
26 Total darkness is reserved for his treasures.
A fire unfanned will consume him
and devour what is left in his tent.
27 The heavens will expose his iniquity,
and the earth will rise up against him.
28 The possessions of his house will be removed,
flowing away on the day of God's wrath.

29 This is the wicked man's portion from God,
the inheritance God has appointed him."

21

1 Then Job answered:

* **20:25 20:25** Or *from his liver*

2 “Listen carefully to my words;
let this be your consolation to me.
3 Bear with me while I speak;
then, after I have spoken, you may go on mocking.

4 Is my complaint against a man?
Then why should I not be impatient?
5 Look at me and be appalled;
put your hand over your mouth.
6 When I remember, terror takes hold,
and my body trembles in horror.
7 Why do the wicked live on,
growing old and increasing in power?
8 Their descendants are established around them,
and their offspring before their eyes.
9 Their homes are safe from fear;
no rod of punishment from God is upon them.
10 Their bulls breed without fail;
their cows bear calves and do not miscarry.
11 They send forth their little ones like a flock;
their children skip about,
12 singing to the tambourine and lyre
and making merry at the sound of the flute.
13 They spend* their days in prosperity
and go down to Sheol in an instant.†
14 Yet they say to God: ‘Leave us alone!
For we have no desire to know your ways.
15 Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him,
and what would we gain if we pray to him?’
16 Still, their prosperity is not in their own hands,
so I stay far from the counsel of the wicked.

17 How often is the lamp of the wicked put out?
Does disaster come upon them?
Does God, in his anger, apportion destruction?
18 Are they like straw before the wind,
like chaff swept away by a storm?
19 It is said that God lays up one’s punishment for his children.
Let God repay the man himself, so he will know it.
20 Let his eyes‡ see his own destruction;
let him drink for himself the wrath of the Almighty.
21 For what does he care about his household after him,
when the number of his months has run out?

22 Can anyone teach knowledge to God,
since he judges those on high?
23 One man dies full of vigor,
completely secure and at ease.
24 His pails are full of milk,§

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* **21:13 21:13** Qere; Ketiv *wear out* † **21:13 21:13** Or *in peace* ‡ **21:20 21:20** Qere; Ketiv *his eye*
§ **21:24 21:24** Or *his body is well nourished*

and his bones are rich with marrow.
25 Yet another man dies in the bitterness of his soul,
having never tasted prosperity.
26 But together they lie down in the dust,
and worms cover them both.

27 Behold, I know your thoughts full well,
the schemes by which you would wrong me.
28 For you say, 'Where now is the nobleman's house,
and where are the tents in which the wicked dwell?'
29 Have you never asked those who travel the roads?
Do you not accept their reports?
30 Indeed, the evil man is spared from the day of calamity,
delivered from the day of wrath.
31 Who denounces his behavior to his face?
Who repays him for what he has done?
32 He is carried to the grave,
and watch is kept over his tomb.
33 The clods of the valley are sweet to him;
everyone follows behind him,
and those before him are without number.

34 So how can you comfort me with empty words?
For your answers remain full of falsehood."

22

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

2 "Can a man be of use to God?
Can even a wise man benefit him?
3 Does it delight the Almighty that you are righteous?
Does he profit if your ways are blameless?

4 Is it for your reverence that he rebukes you
and enters into judgment against you?
5 Is not your wickedness great?
Are not your iniquities endless?
6 For you needlessly demanded security from your brothers
and deprived the naked of their clothing.
7 You gave no water to the weary
and withheld food from the famished,
8 while the land belonged to a mighty man,
and a man of honor lived on it.
9 You sent widows away empty-handed,
and the strength of the fatherless was crushed.
10 Therefore snares surround you,
and sudden peril terrifies you;
11 it is so dark you cannot see,
and a flood of water covers you.

12 Is not God as high as the heavens?
Look at the highest stars, how lofty they are!
13 Yet you say: 'What does God know?

Does he judge through thick darkness?
14 Thick clouds veil him so he does not see us
as he traverses the vault of heaven.*'

15 Will you stay on the ancient path
that wicked men have trod?
16 They were snatched away before their time,
and their foundations were swept away by a flood.
17 They said to God, 'Depart from us.
What can the Almighty do to us?'
18 But it was he who filled their houses with good things;
so I stay far from the counsel of the wicked.
19 The righteous see it and are glad;
the innocent mock them:
20 'Surely our foes are destroyed,
and fire has consumed their excess.'

21 Reconcile now and be at peace with him;
thereby good will come to you.
22 Receive instruction from his mouth,
and lay up his words in your heart.
23 If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored.
If you remove injustice from your tents
24 and consign your gold to the dust
and the gold of Ophir to the stones of the ravines,†
25 then the Almighty will be your gold
and the finest silver for you.
26 Surely then you will delight in the Almighty
and lift up your face to God.
27 You will pray to him, and he will hear you,
and you will fulfill your vows.
28 Your decisions will be carried out,
and light will shine on your ways.
29 When men are brought low and you say, 'Lift them up!'
then he will save the lowly.
30 He will deliver even one who is not innocent,
rescuing him through the cleanness of your hands."

23

1 Then Job answered:

2 "Even today my complaint is bitter.
My hand* is heavy despite my groaning.
3 If only I knew where to find him,
so that I could go to his seat.
4 I would plead my case before him
and fill my mouth with arguments.
5 I would learn how he would answer,
and consider what he would say.
6 Would he contend with me in his great power?

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* **22:14 22:14** Or *heaven's horizon* or *the circle of the sky* † **22:24 22:24** Leningrad Codex; Aleppo Codex *like the stones of the ravines* * **23:2 23:2** LXX and Syriac *his hand*

No, he would certainly take note of me.
7 Then an upright man could reason with him,
and I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

8 If I go east, he is not there,
and if I go west, I cannot find him.
9 When he is at work in the north, I cannot behold him;
when he turns to the south, I cannot see him.
10 Yet he knows the way I have taken;
when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.
11 My feet have followed in his tracks;
I have kept his way without turning aside.
12 I have not departed from the command of his lips;
I have treasured the words of his mouth
more than my daily bread.

13 But he is unchangeable, and who can oppose him?
He does what he desires.
14 For he carries out his decree against me,
and he has many such plans.
15 Therefore I am terrified in his presence;
when I consider this, I fear him.
16 God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me.
17 Yet I am not silenced by the darkness,
by the thick darkness that covers my face.

24

1 "Why does the Almighty not reserve times for judgment?
Why may those who know him* never see his days?
2 Men move boundary stones;
they pasture stolen flocks.
3 They drive away the donkey of the fatherless
and take the widow's ox in pledge.
4 They push the needy off the road
and force all the poor of the land into hiding.

5 Indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert,
the poor go to work foraging for food;
the wasteland is food for their children.
6 They gather fodder in the fields
and glean the vineyards of the wicked.
7 Without clothing, they spend the night naked;
they have no covering against the cold.
8 Drenched by mountain rains,
they huddle against the rocks for want of shelter.

9 The fatherless infant is snatched from the breast;
the nursing child of the poor is seized for a debt.
10 Without clothing, they wander about naked.
They carry the sheaves, but still go hungry.

* **24:1 24:1** Qere; Ketiv *he who knows him*

11 They crush olives within their walls;
they tread the winepresses, but go thirsty.
12 From the city, men groan,
and the souls of the wounded cry out,
yet God charges no one with wrongdoing.

13 Then there are those who rebel against the light,
not knowing its ways or staying on its paths.
14 At daybreak† the murderer rises
to kill the poor and needy;
in the night he is like a thief.
15 The eye of the adulterer watches for twilight.
Thinking, 'No eye will see me,' he covers his face.
16 In the dark they dig through houses;
by day they shut themselves in,
never to experience the light.
17 For to them, deep darkness is their morning;
surely they are friends with the terrors of darkness!

18 They are but foam on the surface of the water;
their portion of the land is cursed,
so that no one turns toward their vineyards.
19 As drought and heat consume the melting snow,
so Sheol steals those who have sinned.
20 The womb forgets them;
the worm feeds on them;
they are remembered no more.
So injustice is broken like a tree.
21 They prey on the barren and childless,
and show no kindness to the widow.

22 Yet by his power, God drags away the mighty;
though rising up, they have no assurance of life.
23 He gives them a sense of security,
but his eyes are on their ways.
24 They are exalted for a moment,
then they are gone;
they are brought low and gathered up like all others;
they are cut off like heads of grain.
25 If this is not so, then who can prove me a liar
and reduce my words to nothing?"

25

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

2 "Dominion and awe belong to God;
he establishes harmony in the heights of heaven.
3 Can his troops be numbered?
On whom does his light not rise?
4 How then can a man be just before God?

† **24:14 24:14** A conjectural emendation reads *When daylight is gone*

How can one born of woman be pure?
5 If even the moon does not shine,
and the stars are not pure in his sight,
6 how much less man, who is but a maggot,
and the son of man, who is but a worm!”

26

1 Then Job answered:

2 “How you have helped the powerless
and saved the arm that is feeble!
3 How you have counseled the unwise
and provided fully sound insight!
4 To whom have you uttered these words?
And whose spirit spoke through you?

5 The dead tremble—
those beneath the waters and those who dwell in them.
6 Sheol is naked before God,
and Abaddon* has no covering.
7 He stretches out the north over empty space;
he hangs the earth upon nothing.
8 He wraps up the waters in his clouds,
yet the clouds do not burst under their own weight.
9 He covers the face of his throne,†
spreading over it his cloud.
10 He has inscribed a horizon on the face of the waters
at the boundary between light and darkness.
11 The foundations of heaven quake,
astounded at his rebuke.
12 By his power he stilled‡ the sea;
by his understanding he shattered Rahab.
13 By his breath the skies were cleared;
his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.§
14 Indeed, these are but the fringes of his ways;*
how faint is the whisper we hear of him!
Who then can understand
the thunder of his mighty deeds?”†

27

1 Job continued his discourse:

2 “As surely as God lives, who has deprived me of justice—
the Almighty, who has embittered my soul—
3 as long as my breath is still within me
and the breath of God remains in my nostrils,
4 my lips will not speak wickedness,
and my tongue will not utter deceit.
5 I will never say that you are right;

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* **26:6 26:6** *Abaddon* means *Destruction.* † **26:9 26:9** Or *of the full moon* ‡ **26:12 26:12** Or *stirred* § **26:13 26:13** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake* * **26:14 26:14** Qere; Ketiv *his way* † **26:14 26:14** Qere; Ketiv *his might*

I will maintain my integrity until I die.
6 I will cling to my righteousness and never let go.
As long as I live, my conscience will not accuse me.
7 May my enemy be like the wicked
and my opponent like the unjust.
8 For what is the hope of the godless when he is cut off,
when God takes away his life?
9 Will God hear his cry
when distress comes upon him?
10 Will he delight in the Almighty?
Will he call upon God at all times?
11 I will instruct you in the power of God.
I will not conceal the ways of the Almighty.
12 Surely all of you have seen it for yourselves.
Why then do you keep up this empty talk?

13 This is the wicked man's portion from God—
the heritage the ruthless receive from the Almighty.
14 Though his sons are many, they are destined for the sword;
and his offspring will never have enough food.
15 His survivors* will be buried by the plague,
and his widows† will not weep for them.
16 Though he heaps up silver like dust
and piles up a wardrobe like clay,
17 what he lays up, the righteous will wear,
and his silver will be divided by the innocent.
18 The house he built is like a moth's cocoon,
like a hut set up by a watchman.
19 He lies down wealthy, but will not be gathered;‡
when he opens his eyes, all is gone.
20 Terrors overtake him like a flood;
a tempest sweeps him away in the night.
21 The east wind carries him away, and he is gone;
it sweeps him out of his place.
22 It hurls itself against him without mercy
as he flees headlong from its power.
23 It claps its hands at him
and hisses him out of his place.

28

1 "Surely there is a mine for silver
and a place where gold is refined.
2 Iron is taken from the earth,
and copper is smelted from ore.
3 Man puts an end to the darkness;
he probes the farthest recesses
for ore in deepest darkness.
4 Far from human habitation he cuts a shaft
in places forgotten by the foot of man.

* **27:15 27:15** Qere; Ketiv *his survivor* † **27:15 27:15** LXX *their widows*; compare Psalm 78:64
‡ **27:19 27:19** LXX and Syriac *but will do so no more*

Far from men he dangles and sways.
5 Food may come from the earth,
but from below it is transformed as by fire.
6 Its rocks are the source of sapphires,
containing flecks of gold.
7 No bird of prey knows that path;
no falcon's eye has seen it.
8 Proud beasts have never trodden it;
no lion has ever prowled over it.
9 The miner strikes the flint;
he overturns mountains at their base.
10 He hews out channels in the rocks,
and his eyes spot every treasure.
11 He stops up* the sources of the streams
to bring what is hidden to light.

12 But where can wisdom be found,
and where does understanding dwell?
13 No man can know its value,
nor is it found in the land of the living.
14 The ocean depths say, 'It is not in me,'
while the sea declares, 'It is not with me.'
15 It cannot be bought with gold,
nor can its price be weighed out in silver.
16 It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir,
in precious onyx or sapphire.
17 Neither gold nor crystal can compare to it,
nor jewels of fine gold be exchanged for it.
18 Coral and quartz are unworthy of mention;
the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.
19 Topaz from Cush† cannot compare to it,
nor can it be valued in pure gold.

20 From where, then, does wisdom come,
and where does understanding dwell?
21 It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing
and concealed from the birds of the air.
22 Abaddon‡ and Death say,
'We have heard a rumor about it.'
23 But God understands its way,
and he knows its place.
24 For he looks to the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.
25 When God fixed the weight of the wind
and measured out the waters,
26 when he set a limit for the rain
and a path for the thunderbolt,
27 then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;
he established it and searched it out.
28 And he said to man, 'Behold,
the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,

* **28:11 28:11** LXX and Vulgate *he searches* † **28:19 28:19** That is, the upper Nile region ‡ **28:22 28:22** *Abaddon* means *Destruction.*

and to turn away from evil is understanding.' "

29

1 And Job continued his discourse:

2 "How I long for the months gone by,
for the days when God watched over me,
3 when his lamp shone above my head,
and by his light I walked through the darkness,
4 when I was in my prime,*
when the friendship of God rested on my tent,
5 when the Almighty was still with me
and my children were around me,
6 when my steps were bathed in cream
and the rock poured out for me streams of oil!

7 When I went out to the city gate
and took my seat in the public square,
8 the young men saw me and withdrew,
and the old men rose to their feet.
9 The princes refrained from speaking
and covered their mouths with their hands.
10 The voices of the nobles were hushed,
and their tongues stuck to the roofs of their mouths.
11 For those who heard me called me blessed,
and those who saw me commended me,
12 because I rescued the poor who cried out
and the fatherless who had no helper.
13 The dying man blessed me,
and I made the widow's heart sing for joy.
14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me;
justice was my robe and my turban.
15 I served as eyes to the blind
and as feet to the lame.
16 I was a father to the needy,
and I took up the case of the stranger.
17 I shattered the fangs of the unjust
and snatched the prey from his teeth.

18 So I thought: 'I will die in my nest
and multiply my days as the sand.
19 My roots will spread out to the waters,
and the dew will rest nightly on my branches.
20 My glory is ever new within me,
and my bow is renewed in my hand.'

21 Men listened to me with expectation,
waiting silently for my counsel.
22 After my words, they spoke no more;
my speech settled on them like dew.
23 They waited for me as for rain

* **29:4 29:4** Hebrew *in the time of my harvest*

and drank in my words like spring showers.
24 If I smiled at them, they did not believe it;
the light of my countenance was precious.
25 I chose their course and presided as chief.
So I dwelt as a king among his troops,
as a comforter of the mourners.

30

1 “But now they mock me,
men younger than I am,
whose fathers I would have refused
to put with my sheep dogs.
2 What use to me was the strength of their hands,
since their vigor had left them?
3 Gaunt from poverty and hunger,
they gnawed the dry land,
and the desolate wasteland by night.
4 They plucked mallow among the shrubs,
and the roots of the broom tree were their food.*
5 They were banished from among men,
shouted at like thieves,
6 so that they lived on the slopes of the wadis,
among the rocks and in holes in the ground.
7 They cried out among the shrubs
and huddled beneath the nettles.
8 A senseless and nameless brood,
they were driven off the land.

9 And now they mock me in song;
I have become a byword among them.
10 They abhor me and keep far from me;
they do not hesitate to spit in my face.
11 Because God has unstrung my bow† and afflicted me,
they have cast off restraint‡ in my presence.
12 The rabble arises at my right;
they lay snares for my feet
and build siege ramps against me.
13 They tear up my path;
they profit from my destruction,
with no one to assist them.§
14 They advance as through a wide breach;
through the ruins they keep rolling in.
15 Terrors are turned loose against me;
they drive away my dignity as by the wind,
and my prosperity has passed like a cloud.
16 And now my soul is poured out within me;
days of affliction grip me.
17 Night pierces my bones,
and my gnawing pains never rest.

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* **30:4 30:4** Or *their fuel* † **30:11 30:11** Qere; Ketiv *loosened his cord* ‡ **30:11 30:11** Hebrew *the bridle* § **30:13 30:13** By emendation *with no one to restrain them*; MT ‘ozer *helper*

18 With great force my garment is disfigured;*
he seizes me by the collar of my tunic.
19 He throws me into the mud,
and I have become like dust and ashes.

20 I cry out to you for help, but you do not answer;
when I stand up, you merely look at me.
21 You have ruthlessly turned on me;
you oppose me with your strong hand.
22 You snatch me up into the wind
and drive me before it;
you dissolve my strength.†
23 Yes, I know that you will bring me down to death,
to the place appointed for all the living.

24 Yet no one stretches out his hand against a ruined man
when he cries for help in his distress.
25 Have I not wept for those in trouble?
Has my soul not grieved for the needy?
26 But when I hoped for good, evil came;
when I looked for light, darkness fell.
27 I am churning within and cannot rest;
days of affliction confront me.
28 I go about blackened, but not by the sun.
I stand up in the assembly and cry for help.
29 I have become a brother of jackals,‡
a companion of ostriches.§
30 My skin grows black and peels,
and my bones burn with fever.
31 My harp is tuned to mourning
and my flute to the sound of weeping.

31

1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes.
How then could I gaze with desire at a virgin?
2 For what is the allotment of God from above,
or the heritage from the Almighty on high?
3 Does not disaster come to the unjust
and calamity to the workers of iniquity?
4 Does he not see my ways
and count my every step?

5 If I have walked in falsehood
or my foot has rushed to deceit,
6 let God weigh me with honest scales,
that he may know my integrity.
7 If my steps have turned from the path,
if my heart has followed my eyes,
or if impurity has stuck to my hands,

---

* **30:18 30:18** LXX *he grasps my garment* † **30:22 30:22** Qere; Ketiv *you dissolve me in the storm*; or *you toss me about in the storm* ‡ **30:29 30:29** Or *serpents* or *dragons* § **30:29 30:29** Literally *of daughters of an ostrich* or *of daughters of an owl*

8 then may another eat what I have sown,
and may my crops be uprooted.

9 If my heart has been enticed by my neighbor's wife,
or I have lurked at his door,
10 then may my own wife grind grain for another,
and may other men sleep with her.
11 For that would be a heinous crime,
an iniquity to be judged.
12 For it is a fire that burns down to Abaddon;*
it would root out my entire harvest.

13 If I have rejected the cause of my male or female slave
when they made a complaint against me,
14 what will I do when God rises to judge?
How will I answer when called to account?
15 Did not he who made me in the womb also make them?
Did not the same One form us in the womb?

16 If I have denied the desires of the poor
or allowed the widow's eyes to fail,
17 if I have eaten my morsel alone,
not sharing it with the fatherless—
18 though from my youth I reared him as would a father,
and from my mother's womb I guided the widow—
19 if I have seen one perish for lack of clothing,
or a needy man without a cloak,
20 if his heart has not blessed me†
for warming him with the fleece of my sheep,
21 if I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless
because I saw that I had support in the gate,
22 then may my arm fall from my shoulder
and be torn from its socket.
23 For calamity from God terrifies me,
and his splendor I cannot overpower.

24 If I have put my trust in gold
or called pure gold my security,
25 if I have rejoiced in my great wealth
because my hand had gained so much,
26 if I have beheld the sun‡ in its radiance
or the moon moving in splendor,
27 so that my heart was secretly enticed
and my hand threw a kiss from my mouth,
28 this would also be an iniquity to be judged,
for I would have denied God on high.

29 If I have rejoiced in my enemy's ruin,
or exulted when evil befell him—
30 I have not allowed my mouth to sin
by asking for his life with a curse—

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* **31:12 31:12** *Abaddon* means *Destruction.* † **31:20 31:20** Hebrew *if his loins have not blessed me*
‡ **31:26 31:26** Hebrew *the light*

31 if the men of my house have not said,
‘Who is there who has not had his fill of his meat?’§—
32 but no stranger had to lodge on the street,
for my door has been open to the traveler—
33 if I have covered my transgressions like Adam*
by hiding my guilt in my heart,
34 because I greatly feared the crowds
and the contempt of the clans terrified me,
so that I kept silent
and would not go outside—

35 (Oh, that I had one to hear me!
Here is my signature.
Let the Almighty answer me;
let my accuser compose an indictment.
36 Surely I would carry it on my shoulder
and wear it like a crown.
37 I would give account of all my steps;
I would approach him like a prince.)—

38 if my land cries out against me
and its furrows weep together,
39 if I have devoured its produce without payment
or broken the spirit of its tenants,
40 then let briers grow instead of wheat
and stinkweed instead of barley.”
Thus conclude the words of Job.

32

1 So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.
2 This kindled the anger of Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram. He burned with anger against Job for justifying himself rather than God,
3 and he burned with anger against Job’s three friends because they had failed to refute Job, and yet had condemned him.
4 Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because the others were older than he.
5 But when he saw that the three men had no further reply, his anger was kindled.
6 So Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite declared:

“I am young in years,
while you are old;
that is why I was timid and afraid
to tell you what I know.
7 I thought that age should speak,
and many years should teach wisdom.
8 But there is a spirit in a man,
the breath of the Almighty,
that gives him understanding.

§ **31:31 31:31** That is, Job's meat; Hebrew *flesh* * **31:33 31:33** Or *like men*

9 It is not only the old* who are wise,
or the elderly who understand justice.
10 Therefore I say, 'Listen to me;
I too will declare what I know.'

11 Indeed, I waited while you spoke;
I listened to your reasoning;
as you searched for words,
12 I paid you full attention.
But no one proved Job wrong;
not one of you rebutted his arguments.
13 So do not claim, 'We have found wisdom;
let God, not man, refute him.'
14 But Job has not directed his words against me,
and I will not answer him with your arguments.

15 Job's friends are dismayed, with no more to say;
words have escaped them.
16 Must I wait, now that they are silent,
now that they stand and no longer reply?
17 I too will answer;
yes, I will declare what I know.
18 For I am full of words,
and my spirit within me compels me.
19 Behold, my belly is like unvented wine;
it is about to burst like a new wineskin.
20 I must speak and find relief;
I must open my lips and respond.
21 I will be partial to no one,
nor will I flatter any man.
22 For I do not know how to flatter,
or my Maker would remove me in an instant.

33

1 "But now, O Job, hear my speech,
and listen to all my words.
2 Behold, I will open my mouth;
my address is on the tip of my tongue.
3 My words are from an upright heart,
and my lips speak sincerely what I know.
4 The spirit of God has made me,
and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
5 Refute me if you can;
prepare your case and confront me.
6 I am just like you before God;
I was also formed from clay.
7 Surely no fear of me should terrify you;
nor will my hand be heavy upon you.

8 Surely you have spoken in my hearing,
and I have heard these very words:

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* **32:9 32:9** Or *many* or *great*

9 ‘I am pure, without transgression;
I am clean, with no iniquity in me.
10 Yet God finds occasions against me;
he counts me as his enemy.
11 He puts my feet in the stocks;
he watches over all my paths.’

12 Behold, you are not right in this matter.
I will answer you, for God is greater than man.
13 Why do you complain to him
that he answers nothing a man asks?*
14 For God speaks in one way and in another,
yet no one notices.
15 In a dream,
in a vision in the night,
when deep sleep falls upon men
as they slumber on their beds,
16 he opens their ears
and terrifies them with warnings
17 to turn a man from wrongdoing
and keep him from pride,
18 to preserve him from the Pit
and his life from perishing by the sword.

19 A man is also chastened on his bed
with pain and constant distress in his bones,
20 so that he detests his bread,
and his soul loathes his favorite food.
21 His flesh wastes away from sight,
and his hidden bones protrude.
22 He draws near to the Pit,
and his life to the messengers of death.

23 Yet if there is a messenger on his side,
one mediator in a thousand,
to tell a man what is right for him,
24 to be gracious to him and say,
‘Spare him from going down to the Pit;
I have found his ransom,’
25 then his flesh is refreshed like a child’s;
he returns to the days of his youth.
26 He prays to God and finds favor;
he sees God’s face and shouts for joy,
and God restores his righteousness
to that man.
27 Then he sings before† men
with these words:
‘I have sinned and perverted what was right;
yet I did not get what I deserved.’
28 He redeemed him‡ from going down to the Pit,

* **33:13 33:13** Or *that he answers for none of his actions* † **33:27 33:27** Or *Then he looks upon*
‡ **33:28 33:28** Qere; Ketiv *me*

and his life§ will see the light.

29 Behold, all these things God does to a man,
two or even three times,
30 to bring him back from the Pit,
that he may be enlightened with the light of life.
31 Pay attention, Job, and listen to me;
be silent, and I will speak.
32 But if you have something to say, answer me;
speak up, for I would like to vindicate you.
33 But if not, then listen to me;
be quiet, and I will teach you wisdom."

34

1 Then Elihu continued:

2 "Hear my words, O wise men;
give ear to me, O men of learning.
3 For the ear tests words
as the mouth tastes food.
4 Let us choose for ourselves what is right;
let us learn together what is good.
5 For Job has declared, 'I am righteous,
yet God has deprived me of justice.
6 Would I lie about my case?
My wound is incurable,
though I am without transgression.'
7 What man is like Job,
who drinks up derision like water?
8 He keeps company with evildoers
and walks with wicked men.
9 For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing
that he should delight in God.'

10 Therefore listen to me,
O men of understanding.
Far be it from God to do wrong,
and from the Almighty to act unjustly.
11 For according to a man's deeds he repays him;
according to a man's ways he brings consequences.
12 Indeed, it is true that God does not act wickedly,
and the Almighty does not pervert justice.
13 Who gave him charge over the earth?
Who appointed him over the whole world?
14 If he were to set his heart to it
and withdraw his spirit and breath,
15 all flesh would perish together
and mankind would return to the dust.

16 If you have understanding, hear this;
listen to my words.
17 Could one who hates justice govern?

§ **33:28 33:28** Qere; Ketiv *my life*

Will you condemn the just and mighty One,
18 who says to kings, ‘You are worthless!’
and to nobles, ‘You are wicked,’
19 who is not partial to princes
and does not favor rich over poor?
For they are all the work of his hands.
20 They die in an instant,
in the middle of the night.
The people convulse and pass away;
the mighty are removed without human hand.

21 For his eyes are on the ways of a man,
and he sees his every step.
22 There is no darkness or deep shadow
where the workers of iniquity can hide.
23 For God need not examine a man further
or have him approach for judgment.
24 He shatters the mighty without inquiry
and sets up others in their place.
25 Therefore, he recognizes their deeds;
he overthrows them in the night and they are crushed.
26 He strikes them for their wickedness
in full view,
27 because they turned aside from him
and had no regard for any of his ways.
28 They caused the cry of the poor to come before him,
and he heard the outcry of the afflicted.
29 But when he remains silent, who can condemn him?
When he hides his face, who can see him?
Yet he watches over both man and nation,
30 that godless men should not rule
or lay snares for the people.

31 Suppose someone says to God,
‘I have endured my punishment; I will offend no more.
32 Teach me what I cannot see;
if I have done wrong, I will not do it again.’
33 Should God repay you on your own terms
when you have disavowed him?
You must choose, not I;
so tell me what you know.
34 Men of understanding will declare to me,
and the wise men who hear me will say:
35 ‘Job speaks without knowledge;
his words lack insight.’
36 If only Job were tried to the utmost
for answering like a wicked man.
37 For he adds rebellion to his sin;
he claps his hands among us
and multiplies his words against God.”

35

1 And Elihu went on to say:

2 “Do you think this is just?
You say, ‘I am more righteous than God.’*
3 For you ask, ‘What does it profit me,
and what benefit do I gain apart from sin?’
4 I will reply to you
and to your friends as well.
5 Look to the heavens and see;
gaze at the clouds high above you.
6 If you sin, what do you accomplish against him?
If you multiply your transgressions, what do you do to him?
7 If you are righteous, what do you give him,
or what does he receive from your hand?
8 Your wickedness affects only a man like yourself,
and your righteousness only a son of man.

9 Men cry out under great oppression;
they plead for relief from the arm of the mighty.
10 But no one asks, ‘Where is God my Maker,
who gives us songs in the night,
11 who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth
and makes us wiser than the birds of the air?’
12 There they cry out, but he does not answer,
because of the pride of evil men.
13 Surely God does not listen to empty pleas,
and the Almighty does not take note of it.
14 How much less, then, when you say that you do not see him,
that your case is before him and you must wait for him,
15 and further, that in his anger he has not punished
or taken much notice of folly!
16 So Job opens his mouth in vain
and multiplies words without knowledge.”

36

1 And Elihu continued:

2 “Bear with me a little longer, and I will show you
that there is more to be said on God’s behalf.
3 I get my knowledge from afar,
and I will ascribe justice to my Maker.
4 For truly my words are free of falsehood;
one perfect in knowledge is with you.

5 Indeed, God is mighty, but he despises no one;
he is mighty in strength of understanding.
6 He does not keep the wicked alive,
but he grants justice to the afflicted.
7 He does not take his eyes off the righteous,
but he enthrones them with kings

* **35:2 35:2** Or *‘I am righteous before God.’*

and exalts them forever.

8 And if men are bound with chains,
caught in cords of affliction,
9 then he tells them their deeds
and how arrogantly they have transgressed.
10 He opens their ears to correction
and commands that they turn from iniquity.
11 If they obey and serve him,
then they end their days in prosperity
and their years in happiness.
12 But if they do not obey,
then they perish by the sword*
and die without knowledge.

13 The godless in heart harbor resentment;
even when he binds them, they do not cry for help.
14 They die in their youth,
among the male shrine prostitutes.
15 God rescues the afflicted by their affliction†
and opens their ears in oppression.

16 Indeed, he drew you from the jaws of distress
to a spacious and broad place,
to a table full of richness.
17 But now you are laden with the judgment due the wicked;
judgment and justice have seized you.
18 Be careful that no one lures you with riches;
do not let a large bribe lead you astray.
19 Can your wealth‡ or all your mighty effort
keep you from distress?
20 Do not long for the night,
when people vanish from their homes.
21 Be careful not to turn to iniquity,
for this you have preferred to affliction.

22 Behold, God is exalted in his power.
Who is a teacher like him?
23 Who has appointed his way for him,
or told him, 'You have done wrong'?
24 Remember to magnify his work,
which men have praised in song.
25 All mankind has seen it;
men behold it from afar.
26 Indeed, God is great—beyond our knowledge;
the number of his years is unsearchable.
27 For he draws up drops of water
which distill the rain from the mist,
28 which the clouds pour out
and shower abundantly on mankind.

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* **36:12 36:12** Or *they will cross the river of death* † **36:15 36:15** Or *in their affliction* ‡ **36:19 36:19** Or *your cry for help*

29 Furthermore, who can understand how the clouds spread out,
how the thunder roars from his pavilion?
30 See how he scatters his lightning around him
and covers the depths of the sea.
31 For by these he governs§ the nations
and provides food in abundance.
32 He fills his hands with lightning
and commands it to strike its mark.
33 The thunder declares his presence;
even the cattle regard the rising storm.

37

1 "At this my heart also pounds
and leaps from its place.
2 Listen closely to the thunder of his voice
and the rumbling that comes from his mouth.
3 He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole sky
and sends it to the ends of the earth.
4 Then there comes a roaring sound;
he thunders with his majestic voice.
He does not restrain the lightning
when his voice resounds.
5 God thunders wondrously with his voice;
he does great things we cannot comprehend.
6 For he says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,'
and to the gentle rain, 'Pour out a mighty downpour.'
7 He seals up the hand of every man,
so that all men may know his work.
8 The wild animals enter their lairs;
they settle down in their dens.
9 The tempest comes from its chamber,
and the cold from the driving north winds.
10 By the breath of God the ice is formed
and the watery expanses are frozen.
11 He loads the clouds with moisture;
he scatters his lightning through them.
12 They swirl about,
whirling at his direction,
accomplishing all that he commands
over the face of all the earth.
13 Whether for punishment or for his land,
he accomplishes this in his loving devotion.

14 Listen to this, O Job;
stand still and consider the wonders of God.
15 Do you know how God dispatches the clouds
or makes the lightning flash?
16 Do you understand how the clouds float,
those wonders of him who is perfect in knowledge?
17 You whose clothes get hot
when the land lies hushed under the south wind,

§ **36:31 36:31** Or *judges* or *nourishes*

18 can you, like him, spread out the skies,
as strong as a mirror of bronze?

19 Teach us what we should say to him;
we cannot draw up our case because of our darkness.
20 Should he be told that I want to speak?
Would a man ask to be swallowed up*?
21 Now no one can gaze at the sun
when it is bright in the skies
after the wind has swept them clean.
22 Out of the north he comes in golden splendor;
awesome majesty surrounds him.
23 The Almighty is beyond our reach;
he is exalted in power!
In his justice and great righteousness
he does not oppress.
24 Therefore, men fear him,
for he is not partial to the wise in heart."

38

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

2 "Who is this who obscures my counsel
by words without knowledge?*
3 Now brace yourself† like a man;
I will question you, and you shall inform me.‡
4 Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
5 Who fixed its measurements? Surely you know!
Or who stretched a measuring line across it?
6 On what were its foundations set,
or who laid its cornerstone,§
7 while the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

8 Who enclosed the sea behind doors
when it burst forth from the womb,
9 when I made the clouds its garment
and thick darkness its blanket,
10 when I fixed its boundaries
and set in place its bars and doors,
11 and I declared: 'You may come this far, but no farther;
here your proud waves must stop'?

12 In your days, have you commanded the morning
or assigned the dawn its place,
13 that it might spread to the ends of the earth
and shake the wicked out of it?
14 The earth takes shape like clay under a seal;

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* **37:20 37:20** Or *speak without being swallowed up* * **38:2 38:2** Cited in Job 42:3 † **38:3 38:3** Hebrew *gird up your loins* ‡ **38:3 38:3** Cited in Job 42:4 § **38:6 38:6** Or *who set its core in place*

its hills stand out like the folds of a garment.
15 Light is withheld from the wicked,
and their upraised arm is broken.

16 Have you journeyed to the vents of the sea
or walked in the trenches of the deep?
17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you?
Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?
18 Have you surveyed the extent of the earth?
Tell me, if you know all this.

19 Where is the way to the home of light?
Do you know where darkness resides,
20 so you can lead it back to its border?
Do you know the paths to its home?
21 Surely you know, for you were already born!
And the number of your days is great!

22 Have you entered the storehouses of snow
or observed the storehouses of hail,
23 which I hold in reserve for times of trouble,
for the day of war and battle?
24 In which direction is the lightning dispersed,
or the east wind scattered over the earth?

25 Who cuts a channel for the flood
or clears a path for the thunderbolt,
26 to bring rain on a barren land,
on a desert where no man lives,
27 to satisfy the parched wasteland
and make it sprout with tender grass?
28 Does the rain have a father?
Who has begotten the drops of dew?
29 From whose womb does the ice emerge?
Who gives birth to the frost from heaven,
30 when the waters become hard as stone
and the surface of the deep is frozen?

31 Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades
or loosen the belt of Orion?
32 Can you bring forth Mazzaroth in its season*
or lead out the Bear† and her cubs?
33 Do you know the laws of the heavens?
Can you set their dominion over the earth?
34 Can you command the clouds
so that a flood of water covers you?
35 Can you send the lightning bolts on their way?
Do they report to you, 'Here we are'?

36 Who has put wisdom in the heart‡

* **38:32 38:32** Or *bring forth the constellations in their seasons* † **38:32 38:32** Or *Leo* or *Arcturus*
‡ **38:36 38:36** Or *Who has given the ibis wisdom*, that is, wisdom about the flooding of the Nile

or given understanding to the mind?
37 Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?
Or who can tilt the water jars of the heavens
38 when the dust hardens into a mass
and the clods of earth stick together?

39 Can you hunt the prey for a lioness
or satisfy the hunger of young lions
40 when they crouch in their dens
and lie in wait in the thicket?
41 Who provides food for the raven
when its young cry out to God
as they wander about for lack of food?

39

1 "Do you know when mountain goats give birth?
Have you watched the doe bear her fawn?
2 Can you count the months they are pregnant?
Do you know the time they give birth?
3 They crouch down and bring forth their young;
they deliver their newborn.
4 Their young ones thrive and grow up in the open field;
they leave and do not return.

5 Who set the wild donkey free?
Who released the swift donkey from the harness?
6 I made the wilderness his home
and the salt flats his dwelling.
7 He scorns the tumult of the city
and never hears the shouts of a driver.
8 He roams the mountains for pasture,
searching for any green thing.

9 Will the wild ox consent to serve you?
Will he stay by your manger at night?
10 Can you hold him to the furrow with a harness?
Will he plow the valleys behind you?
11 Can you rely on his great strength?
Will you leave your hard work to him?
12 Can you trust him to bring in your grain
and gather it to your threshing floor?

13 The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully,
but cannot match the pinions* and feathers of the stork.
14 For she leaves her eggs on the ground
and lets them warm in the sand.
15 She forgets that a foot may crush them,
or a wild animal may trample them.
16 She treats her young harshly, as if not her own,
with no concern that her labor was in vain.
17 For God has deprived her of wisdom;

* **39:13 39:13** *Pinions* are the outer parts of a bird's wings, including the flight feathers.

he has not endowed her with understanding.
18 Yet when she proudly spreads her wings,
she laughs at the horse and its rider.

19 Do you give strength to the horse
or adorn his neck with a mane?
20 Do you make him leap like a locust,
striking terror with his proud snorting?
21 He paws in the valley and rejoices in his strength;
he charges into battle.
22 He laughs at fear, frightened of nothing;
he does not turn back from the sword.
23 A quiver rattles at his side,
along with a flashing spear and lance.†
24 Trembling with excitement, he devours the distance;
he cannot stand still when the ram's horn sounds.
25 At the blast of the horn, he snorts, 'Aha!'‡
He catches the scent of battle from afar,
the shouts of captains and the cry of war.

26 Does the hawk take flight by your understanding
and spread his wings§ toward the south?
27 Does the eagle soar at your command
and make his nest on high?
28 He dwells on a cliff and lodges there;
his stronghold is on a rocky crag.
29 From there he spies out food;
his eyes see it from afar.
30 His young ones feast on blood;
and where the slain are, there he is."

40

1 And the LORD said to Job:

2 "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
Let him who argues with God give an answer."

3 Then Job answered the LORD:

4 "Behold, I am insignificant. How can I reply to you?
I place my hand over my mouth.
5 I have spoken once, but I have no answer—
twice, but I have nothing to add."
6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

7 "Now brace yourself* like a man;
I will question you, and you shall inform me.†

8 Would you really annul my justice?
Would you condemn me to justify yourself?

† **39:23 39:23** Or *javelin* ‡ **39:25 39:25** Or *he snorts with fervor* § **39:26 39:26** Qere; Ketiv *his wing*
* **40:7 40:7** Hebrew *gird up your loins* † **40:7 40:7** Cited in Job 42:4

9 Do you have an arm like God's?
Can you thunder with a voice like his?
10 Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor,
and clothe yourself with honor and glory.
11 Unleash the fury of your wrath;
look on every proud man and bring him low.
12 Look on every proud man and humble him;
trample the wicked where they stand.
13 Bury them together in the dust;
imprison them in the hidden place.‡
14 Then I will confess to you
that your own right hand can save you.

15 Look at Behemoth, which I made along with you.
He feeds on grass like an ox.
16 See the strength of his loins
and the power in the muscles of his belly.
17 His tail sways like a cedar;
the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.
18 His bones are tubes of bronze;
his limbs are rods of iron.
19 He is the foremost of God's works;§
only his Maker can draw the sword against him.
20 The hills yield him their produce,
while all the beasts of the field play nearby.
21 He lies under the lotus plants,*
hidden among the reeds of the marsh.
22 The lotus plants conceal him in their shade;
the willows† of the brook surround him.
23 Though the river rages, Behemoth is unafraid;
he remains secure, though the Jordan surges to his mouth.
24 Can anyone capture him as he looks on,
or pierce his nose with a snare?
25 "Can you pull in Leviathan with a hook
or tie down his tongue with a rope?
26 Can you put a cord through his nose
or pierce his jaw with a hook?
27 Will he beg you for mercy
or speak to you softly?
28 Will he make a covenant with you
to take him as a slave for life?
29 Can you pet him like a bird
or put him on a leash for your maidens?
30 Will traders barter for him
or divide him among the merchants?
31 Can you fill his hide with harpoons
or his head with fishing spears?
32 If you lay a hand on him,
you will remember the battle and never repeat it!

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‡ **40:13 40:13** Or *in the grave* § **40:19 40:19** Hebrew *ways* * **40:21 40:21** Or *bramble bushes*; also in verse 22 † **40:22 40:22** Or *poplars*

41

1 Surely hope of overcoming him is false.
Is not the sight of him overwhelming?
2 No one is so fierce as to rouse Leviathan.
Then who is able to stand against me?
3 Who has given to me that I should repay him?
Everything under heaven is mine.

4 I cannot keep silent* about his limbs,
his power and graceful form.
5 Who can strip off his outer coat?
Who can approach him with a bridle?†
6 Who can open his jaws,
ringed by his fearsome teeth?
7 His rows of scales are his pride,
tightly sealed together.
8 One scale is so near to another
that no air can pass between them.
9 They are joined to one another;
they clasp and cannot be separated.

10 His snorting flashes with light,
and his eyes are like the rays of dawn.
11 Firebrands stream from his mouth;
fiery sparks shoot forth!
12 Smoke billows from his nostrils
as from a boiling pot over burning reeds.
13 His breath sets coals ablaze,
and flames pour from his mouth.
14 Strength resides in his neck,
and dismay leaps before him.
15 The folds of his flesh are tightly joined;
they are firm and immovable.
16 His chest is as hard as a rock,
as hard as a lower millstone!

17 When Leviathan rises up, the mighty are terrified;
they withdraw before his thrashing.
18 The sword that reaches him has no effect,
nor does the spear or dart or arrow.
19 He regards iron as straw
and bronze as rotten wood.
20 No arrow can make him flee;
slingstones become like chaff to him.
21 A club is regarded as straw,
and he laughs at the sound of the lance.‡
22 His undersides are jagged potsherds,
spreading out the mud like a threshing sledge.
23 He makes the depths seethe like a cauldron;
he makes the sea like a jar of ointment.

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* **41:4 41:4** Ketiv; Qere *Would I keep silent about him* † **41:5 41:5** LXX *Who can come within his double coat of mail?*; MT *his bridle* ‡ **41:21 41:21** Or *javelin*

24 He leaves a glistening wake behind him;
one would think the deep had white hair!
25 Nothing on earth is his equal—
a creature devoid of fear!
26 He looks down on all the haughty;
he is king over all the proud."

42

1 Then Job replied to the LORD:

2 "I know* that you can do all things
and that no plan of yours can be thwarted.
3 You asked, 'Who is this
who conceals my counsel without knowledge?'†
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.
4 You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak.
I will question you, and you shall inform me.'‡
5 My ears had heard of you,
but now my eyes have seen you.
6 Therefore I despise myself,
and I repent in dust and ashes."
7 After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and your two friends. For you have not spoken about me accurately, as my servant Job has.
8 So now, take seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. Then my servant Job will pray for you, for I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has."
9 So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD had told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.
10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his prosperity and doubled his former possessions.
11 All his brothers and sisters and prior acquaintances came and dined with him in his house. They consoled him and comforted him over all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. And each one gave him a piece of silver§ and a gold ring.
12 So the LORD blessed Job's latter days more than his first. He owned 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.
13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters.
14 He named his first daughter Jemimah, his second Keziah, and his third Keren-happuch.
15 No women as beautiful as Job's daughters could be found in all the land, and their father granted them an inheritance among their brothers.
16 After this, Job lived 140 years and saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.
17 And so Job died, old and full of years.

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* **42:2 42:2** Qere; Ketiv *you know* † **42:3 42:3** Job 38:2 ‡ **42:4 42:4** Job 38:3 and Job 40:7 § **42:11 42:11** Hebrew *a kesitah*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known.

Song of Songs

1 This is Solomon's Song of Songs.*
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!
For your love is more delightful than wine.
3 The fragrance of your perfume is pleasing;
your name is like perfume poured out.
No wonder the maidens adore you.

4 Take me away with you—let us hurry!
May the king bring me to his chambers.
We will rejoice and delight in you;
we will praise your love more than wine.
It is only right that they adore you.

5 I am dark, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem,
like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.
6 Do not stare because I am dark,
for the sun has gazed upon me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
they made me a keeper of the vineyards,
but my own vineyard I have neglected.

7 Tell me, O one I love,
where do you pasture your sheep?
Where do you rest them at midday?
Why should I be like a veiled woman
beside the flocks of your companions?
8 If you do not know, O fairest of women,
follow the tracks of the flock,
and graze your young goats
near the tents of the shepherds.
9 I compare you, my darling,
to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.
10 Your cheeks are beautiful with ornaments,
your neck with strings of jewels.
11 We will make you ornaments of gold,
studded with beads of silver.
12 While the king was at his table,
my perfume spread its fragrance.
13 My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh
resting between my breasts.
14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms
in the vineyards of En-gedi.
15 How beautiful you are, my darling!
Oh, how very beautiful!
Your eyes are like doves.

* **1:1 1:1** Most translators add subheadings for speaker identifications such as *The Bride*, *The Groom*, and *The Friends* based on the gender and number of the Hebrew words.

16 How handsome you are, my beloved!
Oh, how delightful!
The soft grass is our bed.
17 The beams of our house are cedars;
our rafters are fragrant firs.

2

1 I am a rose of Sharon,*
a lily of the valley.
2 Like a lily among the thorns
is my darling among the maidens.
3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest
is my beloved among the young men.
I delight to sit in his shade,
and his fruit is sweet to my taste.
4 He has brought me to the house of wine,†
and his banner over me is love.

5 Sustain me with raisins;
refresh me with apples,
for I am faint with love.

6 His left hand is under my head,
and his right arm embraces me.
7 O daughters of Jerusalem, I adjure you
by the gazelles and does of the field:
Do not arouse or awaken love
until the time is right.

8 Listen! My beloved approaches.
Look! Here he comes,
leaping across the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look, he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattice.

10 My beloved calls to me,
“Arise, my darling.
Come away with me, my beautiful one.
11 For now the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.
12 The flowers have appeared in the countryside;
the season of pruning‡ has come,
and the cooing of turtledoves
is heard in our land.
13 The fig tree ripens its figs;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, my darling;§

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* **2:1 2:1** Sharon Plain is a region in the coastal plain of Israel † **2:4 2:4** That is, the banquet hall
‡ **2:12 2:12** Or *singing* § **2:13 2:13** Qere; Ketiv *Arise, come, my darling*

come away with me, my beautiful one."
14 O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the crevices of the cliff,
let me see your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet,
and your countenance is lovely.
15 Catch for us the foxes—
the little foxes that ruin the vineyards—
for our vineyards are in bloom.
16 My beloved is mine and I am his;
he pastures his flock among the lilies.
17 Before the day breaks and shadows flee,
turn, my beloved,
and be like a gazelle
or a young stag on the mountains of Bether.*

3

1 On my bed at night
I sought the one I love;
I sought him,
but did not find him.
2 I will arise now and go about the city,
through the streets and squares.
I will seek the one I love.
So I sought him but did not find him.

3 I encountered the watchmen on their rounds of the city:
"Have you seen the one I love?"
4 I had just passed them when I found the one I love.
I held him and would not let go
until I had brought him to my mother's house,
to the chamber of the one who conceived me.

5 O daughters of Jerusalem, I adjure you
by the gazelles and does of the field:
Do not arouse or awaken love
until the time is right.
6 Who is this coming up from the wilderness
like a column of smoke,
scented with myrrh and frankincense
from all the spices of the merchant?
7 Behold, it is Solomon's carriage,*
escorted by sixty of the mightiest men of Israel.
8 All are skilled with the sword,
experienced in warfare.
Each has his sword at his side
prepared for the terror of the night.

9 King Solomon has made his carriage
out of the timber of Lebanon.

* **2:17 2:17** Or *the rugged mountains* * **3:7 3:7** That is, the couch on which servants carry a king

10 He has made its posts of silver,
its base of gold, its seat of purple fabric.
Its interior is inlaid with love
by the daughters of Jerusalem.

11 Come out, O daughters of Zion,
and gaze at King Solomon,
wearing the crown with which his mother crowned him
on the day of his wedding—
the day of his heart's rejoicing.

4

1 How beautiful you are, my darling—
how very beautiful!
Your eyes are like doves
behind your veil.
Your hair is like a flock of goats
streaming down Mount Gilead.
2 Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn sheep
coming up from the washing;
each has its twin,
and not one of them is lost.
3 Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon,
and your mouth is lovely.
Your brow behind your veil
is like a slice of pomegranate.
4 Your neck is like the tower of David,
built with rows of stones;
on it hang a thousand shields,
all of them shields of warriors.
5 Your breasts are like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle grazing among the lilies.

6 Before the day breaks and the shadows flee,
I will make my way
to the mountain of myrrh
and to the hill of frankincense.
7 You are altogether beautiful, my darling;
in you there is no flaw.

8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride,
come with me from Lebanon!
Descend* from the peak of Amana,
from the summits of Senir and Hermon,
from the dens of the lions,
from the mountains of the leopards.
9 You have captured my heart,
my sister, my bride;
you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes,
with one jewel of your neck.
10 How delightful is your love,
my sister, my bride!

* **4:8 4:8** Or *Look down*

Your love is much better than wine,
and the fragrance of your perfume than all spices.
11 Your lips, my bride,
drip sweetness like the honeycomb;
honey and milk are under your tongue,
and the fragrance of your garments
is like the aroma of Lebanon.

12 My sister, my bride, you are a garden locked up,
a spring enclosed, a fountain sealed.
13 Your branches are an orchard of pomegranates
with the choicest of fruits, with henna and nard,
14 with nard and saffron, with calamus and cinnamon,
with every kind of frankincense tree,
with myrrh and aloes,
with all the finest spices.
15 You are a garden spring,
a well of fresh water†
flowing down from Lebanon.
16 Awake, O north wind,
and come, O south wind.
Breathe on my garden
and spread the fragrance of its spices.
Let my beloved come into his garden
and taste its choicest fruits.

5

1 I have come to my garden, my sister, my bride;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.
I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey;
I have drunk my wine with my milk.
Eat, O friends, and drink;
drink freely, O beloved.
2 I sleep, but my heart is awake.
A sound! My beloved is knocking:
“Open to me, my sister, my darling,
my dove, my flawless one.
My head is drenched with dew,
my hair with the dampness of the night.”

3 I have taken off my robe—
must I put it back on?
I have washed my feet—
must I soil them again?
4 My beloved put his hand to the latch;
my heart pounded for him.
5 I rose up to open for my beloved.
My hands dripped with myrrh,
my fingers with flowing myrrh
on the handles of the bolt.
6 I opened for my beloved,
but he had turned and gone.

† **4:15 4:15** Or *flowing water* or *living water*

My heart sank when he spoke.*
I sought him but did not find him.
I called, but he did not answer.

7 I encountered the watchmen on their rounds of the city.
They beat me and bruised me;
they took away my cloak,
those guardians of the walls.
8 O daughters of Jerusalem, I adjure you,
if you find my beloved,
tell him I am sick with love.
9 How is your beloved better than others,
O most beautiful among women?
How is your beloved better than another,
that you charge us so?
10 My beloved is dazzling and ruddy,
outstanding among ten thousand.
11 His head is purest gold;
his hair is wavy and black as a raven.
12 His eyes are like doves
beside the streams of water,
bathed in milk
and mounted like jewels.
13 His cheeks are like beds of spice,
towers of perfume.
His lips are like lilies,
dripping with flowing myrrh.
14 His arms are rods of gold
set with beryl.
His body is polished ivory
bedecked with sapphires.
15 His legs are pillars of marble
set on bases of pure gold.
His appearance is like Lebanon,
as majestic as the cedars.
16 His mouth† is most sweet;
he is altogether lovely.
This is my beloved, and this is my friend,
O daughters of Jerusalem.

6

1 Where has your beloved gone,
O most beautiful among women?
Which way has he turned?
We will seek him with you.
2 My beloved has gone down to his garden,
to the beds of spices,
to pasture his flock in the gardens
and to gather lilies.
3 I belong to my beloved and he belongs to me;

* **5:6 5:6** Hebrew *my soul went out when he spoke*; others render *at his departure* † **5:16 5:16** Hebrew *palate*

he pastures his flock among the lilies.
4 You are as beautiful, my darling, as Tirzah,
as lovely as Jerusalem,
as majestic as troops with banners.
5 Turn your eyes away from me,
for they have overcome me.
Your hair is like a flock of goats
streaming down from Gilead.
6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep
coming up from the washing;
each has its twin,
and not one of them is lost.
7 Your brow behind your veil
is like a slice of pomegranate.

8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines,
and maidens without number,
9 but my dove, my perfect one, is unique,
the favorite of the mother who bore her.
The maidens see her and call her blessed;
the queens and concubines sing her praises.
10 Who is this who shines like the dawn,
as fair as the moon,
as bright as the sun,
as majestic as the stars in procession?
11 I went down to the walnut grove
to see the blossoms of the valley,
to see if the vines were budding
or the pomegranates were in bloom.
12 Before I realized it, my desire had set me
among the chariots of Ammi-nadib.*

7

1 Come back, come back, O Shulammite!
Come back, come back, that we may gaze upon you.
Why do you look at the Shulammite,
as on the dance of Mahanaim*?
2 How beautiful are your sandaled feet,
O daughter of the prince!
The curves of your thighs are like jewels,
the handiwork of a master.
3 Your navel is a rounded goblet;
it never lacks blended wine.
Your waist is a mound of wheat
encircled by the lilies.
4 Your breasts are like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle.
5 Your neck is like a tower
made of ivory;
your eyes are like the pools of Heshbon
by the gate of Bath-rabbim;

* **6:12 6:12** Or *among the royal chariots of my people* * **7:1 7:1** Or *the dance of the two camps*

your nose is like the tower of Lebanon,
facing toward Damascus.
6 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel,
the hair of your head like purple threads;
the king is captured in your tresses.

7 How fair and pleasant you are,
O love, with your delights!
8 Your stature is like a palm tree;
your breasts are clusters of fruit.
9 I said, "I will climb the palm tree;
I will take hold of its fruit."
May your breasts be like clusters of the vine,
the fragrance of your breath like apples,
10 and your mouth† like the finest wine.
May it flow smoothly to my beloved,
gliding gently over the lips of sleepers.‡

11 I belong to my beloved,
and his desire is for me.
12 Come, my beloved,
let us go to the countryside;
let us spend the night among the henna blossoms.§

13 Let us go early to the vineyards
to see if the vine has budded,
if the blossom has opened,
if the pomegranates are in bloom—
there I will give you my love.

14 The mandrakes send forth a fragrance,
and at our door is every delicacy,
new as well as old,
that I have treasured up for you, my beloved.

8

1 O that you were to me like a brother
who nursed at my mother's breasts!
If I found you outdoors, I would kiss you,
and no one would despise me.
2 I would lead you and bring you
to the house of my mother who taught me.
I would give you spiced wine to drink,
the nectar of my pomegranates.

3 His left hand is under my head,
and his right arm embraces me.
4 O daughters of Jerusalem, I adjure you:
Do not arouse or awaken love
until the time is right.

† **7:10 7:10** Hebrew *palate* ‡ **7:10 7:10** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *over lips and teeth* § **7:12 7:12** Or *among the wildflowers* or *in the villages*

5 Who is this coming up from the wilderness,
leaning on her beloved?
I roused you under the apple tree;
there your mother conceived you;
there she travailed and brought you forth.

6 Set me as a seal over your heart,
as a seal upon your arm.
For love is as strong as death,
its passion* as unrelenting as Sheol.
Its sparks are fiery flames,
the fiercest blaze of all.
7 Mighty waters cannot quench love;
rivers cannot sweep it away.
If a man were to give all the wealth of his house for love,
his offer would be utterly scorned.
8 We have a little sister,
and her breasts are not yet grown.
What shall we do for our sister
on the day she is spoken for?
9 If she is a wall,
we will build a tower of silver upon her.
If she is a door,
we will enclose her with panels of cedar.
10 I am a wall,
and my breasts are like towers.
So I have become in his eyes
like one who brings peace.
11 Solomon had a vineyard in Baal-hamon.
He leased it to the tenants.
For its fruit, each was to bring
a thousand shekels of silver.†
12 But my own vineyard is mine to give;
the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon,
and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.
13 You who dwell in the gardens,
my companions are listening for your voice.
Let me hear it!
14 Come away, my beloved,
and be like a gazelle
or a young stag
on the mountains of spices.

* **8:6 8:6** Or *jealousy* † **8:11 8:11** Hebrew *a thousand of silver*; that is, approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver

Lamentations

1

1 How* lonely lies the city,
once so full of people!
She who was great among the nations
has become a widow.
The princess of the provinces
has become a slave.

2 She weeps aloud in the night,
with tears upon her cheeks.
Among all her lovers
there is no one to comfort her.
All her friends have betrayed her;
they have become her enemies.

3 Judah has gone into exile
under affliction and harsh slavery;
she dwells among the nations
but finds no place to rest.
All her pursuers have overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.

4 The roads to Zion mourn,
because no one comes to her appointed feasts.
All her gates are deserted;
her priests groan,
her maidens grieve,
and she herself is bitter with anguish.

5 Her foes have become her masters;
her enemies are at ease.
For the LORD has brought her grief
because of her many transgressions.
Her children have gone away
as captives before the enemy.

6 All the splendor has departed
from the Daughter of Zion.
Her princes are like deer
that find no pasture;
they lack the strength to flee
in the face of the hunter.

7 In the days of her affliction and wandering
Jerusalem remembers all the treasures
that were hers in days of old.
When her people fell into enemy hands

* **1:1 1:1** This chapter is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

she received no help.
Her enemies looked upon her,
laughing at her downfall.

8 Jerusalem has sinned greatly;
therefore she has become an object of scorn.
All who honored her now despise her,
for they have seen her nakedness;†
she herself groans and turns away.

9 Her uncleanness stains her skirts;
she did not consider her end.
Her downfall was astounding;
there was no one to comfort her.
Look, O LORD, on my affliction,
for the enemy has triumphed!

10 The adversary has seized
all her treasures.
For she has seen the nations
enter her sanctuary—
those you had forbidden
to enter your assembly.

11 All her people groan
as they search for bread.
They have traded their treasures for food
to keep themselves alive.
Look, O LORD, and consider,
for I have become despised.

12 Is this nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look around and see!
Is there any sorrow like mine,
which was inflicted on me,
which the LORD made me suffer
on the day of his fierce anger?

13 He sent fire from on high,
and it overpowered my bones.
He spread a net for my feet
and turned me back.
He made me desolate,
faint all the day long.

14 My transgressions are bound into a yoke,‡
knit together by his hand;
they are draped over my neck,
and the Lord has broken my strength.
He has delivered me into the hands
of those I cannot withstand.

† **1:8 1:8** Or *her shame* ‡ **1:14 1:14** Most Hebrew manuscripts; other Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *he kept watch over my sins*

15 The Lord has rejected
all the mighty men in my midst;
he has set a time for me§
to crush my young warriors.
Like grapes in a winepress,
the Lord has trampled the Virgin Daughter of Judah.

16 For these things I weep;
my eyes flow with tears.
For there is no one nearby to comfort me,
no one to revive my soul.
My children are destitute
because the enemy has prevailed.

17 Zion stretches out her hands,
but there is no one to comfort her.
The LORD has decreed against Jacob
that his neighbors become his foes.
Jerusalem has become
an unclean thing among them.

18 The LORD is righteous,
yet I rebelled against his command.
Listen, all you people;
look upon my suffering.
My young men and maidens
have gone into captivity.

19 I called out to my lovers,
but they have betrayed me.
My priests and elders
perished in the city
while they searched for food
to keep themselves alive.

20 See, O LORD, how distressed I am!
I am churning within;
my heart is pounding within me,
for I have been most rebellious.
Outside, the sword bereaves;
inside, there is death.

21 People have heard my groaning,
but there is no one to comfort me.
All my enemies have heard of my trouble;
they are glad that you have caused it.
May you bring the day you have announced,
so that they may become like me.

22 Let all their wickedness come before you,
and deal with them

§ **1:15 1:15** Or *has summoned an army against me*

as you have dealt with me
because of all my transgressions.
For my groans are many,
and my heart is faint.

2

1 How* the Lord has covered the Daughter of Zion
with the cloud of his anger!
He has cast the glory of Israel
from heaven to earth.
He has abandoned his footstool
in the day of his anger.

2 Without pity the Lord has swallowed up
all the dwellings of Jacob.
In his wrath he has demolished
the fortified cities of the Daughter of Judah.
He brought to the ground and defiled
her kingdom and its princes.

3 In fierce anger he has cut off
all the strength† of Israel
and withdrawn his right hand
at the approach of the enemy.
He has burned in Jacob like a flaming fire
that consumes everything around it.

4 He has bent his bow like an enemy;
his right hand is positioned.
Like a foe he has killed
all who were pleasing to the eye;
he has poured out his wrath like fire
on the tent of the Daughter of Zion.

5 The Lord is like an enemy;
he has swallowed up Israel.
He has swallowed up all her palaces
and destroyed her strongholds.
He has multiplied mourning and lamentation
for the Daughter of Judah.

6 He has laid waste his tabernacle like a garden booth;
he has destroyed his place of meeting.
The LORD has made Zion forget
her appointed feasts and Sabbaths.
In his fierce anger
he has despised both king and priest.

7 The Lord has rejected his altar;
he has abandoned his sanctuary;

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* **2:1 2:1** This chapter is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. † **2:3 2:3** Or *every horn*

he has delivered the walls of her palaces
into the hand of the enemy.
They have raised a shout in the house of the LORD
as on the day of an appointed feast.

8 The LORD determined to destroy
the wall of the Daughter of Zion.
He stretched out a measuring line
and did not withdraw his hand from destroying.
He made the ramparts and walls lament;
together they waste away.

9 Her gates have sunk into the ground;
he has destroyed and shattered their bars.
Her king and her princes are exiled among the nations,
the law is no more,
and even her prophets
find no vision from the LORD.

10 The elders of the Daughter of Zion
sit on the ground in silence.
They have thrown dust on their heads
and put on sackcloth.
The young women of Jerusalem
have bowed their heads to the ground.

11 My eyes fail from weeping;
I am churning within.
My heart is poured out in grief
over the destruction of the daughter of my people,
because children and infants faint
in the streets of the city.

12 They cry out to their mothers:
“Where is the grain and wine?”
as they faint like the wounded
in the streets of the city,
as their lives fade away
in the arms of their mothers.

13 What can I say for you?
To what can I compare you,
O Daughter of Jerusalem?
To what can I liken you,
that I may console you,
O Virgin Daughter of Zion?
For your wound is as deep as the sea.
Who can ever heal you?

14 The visions of your prophets
were empty and deceptive;
they did not expose your guilt

to ward off your captivity.
The burdens they envisioned for you
were empty and misleading.

15 All who pass by
clap their hands at you in scorn.
They hiss and shake their heads
at the Daughter of Jerusalem:
"Is this the city that was called
the perfection of beauty,
the joy of all the earth?"

16 All your enemies
open their mouths against you.
They hiss and gnash their teeth,
saying, "We have swallowed her up.
This is the day for which we have waited.
We have lived to see it!"

17 The LORD has done what he planned;
he has accomplished his decree,
which he ordained in days of old;
he has overthrown you without pity.
He has let the enemy gloat over you
and exalted the strength‡ of your foes.

18 Their heart cries out to the Lord.§
O wall of the Daughter of Zion,
let your tears run down like a river
day and night.
Give yourself no relief,
and your eyes no rest.

19 Arise, cry out in the night
from the first watch of the night.*
Pour out your heart like water
in the presence of the Lord.
Lift up your hands to him
for the lives of your children
who are fainting from hunger
on the corner of every street.

20 Look, O LORD, and consider:
Whom have you ever treated like this?
Should women eat their offspring,
the infants they have nurtured?
Should priests and prophets be killed
in the sanctuary of the Lord?

21 Both young and old lie together

‡ **2:17 2:17** Or *the horn* § **2:18 2:18** Or *The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord.* * **2:19 2:19** That is, between six and nine at night

in the dust of the streets.
My young men and maidens
have fallen by the sword.
You have slain them in the day of your anger;
you have slaughtered them without compassion.

22 You summoned my terrors on every side,
as for the day of an appointed feast.
In the day of the LORD's anger
no one escaped or survived;
my enemy has destroyed
those I nurtured and reared.

3

1 I* am the man who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's wrath.
2 He has driven me away and made me walk
in darkness instead of light.
3 Indeed, he keeps turning his hand
against me all day long.

4 He has worn away my flesh and skin;
he has shattered my bones.
5 He has besieged me and surrounded me
with bitterness and hardship.
6 He has made me dwell in darkness
like those dead for ages.

7 He has walled me in so I cannot escape;
he has weighed me down with chains.
8 Even when I cry out and plead for help,
he shuts out my prayer.
9 He has barred my ways with cut stones;
he has made my paths crooked.

10 He is a bear lying in wait,
a lion hiding in ambush.
11 He forced me off my path and tore me to pieces;
he left me without help.
12 He bent his bow
and set me as the target for his arrow.

13 He pierced my kidneys
with his arrows.
14 I am a laughingstock to all my people;
they mock me in song all day long.
15 He has filled me with bitterness;
he has intoxicated me with wormwood.

16 He has ground my teeth with gravel
and trampled me in the dust.

* **3:1 3:1** This chapter is an acrostic poem, each 3–verse stanza beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

17 My soul has been deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what prosperity is.
18 So I say, “My strength has perished,
along with my hope from the LORD.”
19 Remember my affliction and wandering,
the wormwood and the gall.
20 Surely my soul remembers
and is humbled within me.
21 Yet I call this to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

22 Because of the loving devotion† of the LORD we are not consumed,
for his mercies never fail.
23 They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness!
24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the one who seeks him.
26 It is good to wait quietly
for the deliverance of the LORD.
27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke
while he is still young.

28 Let him sit alone in silence,
for the LORD has laid it upon him.
29 Let him bury his face in the dust—
perhaps there is still hope.
30 Let him offer his cheek to the one who would strike him;
let him be filled with reproach.

31 For the Lord will not
cast us off forever.
32 Even if he causes grief, he will show compassion
according to his abundant loving devotion.
33 For he does not willingly afflict
or grieve the sons of men.

34 To crush underfoot
all the prisoners of the land,
35 to deny a man justice
before the Most High,
36 to subvert a man in his lawsuit—
of these the Lord does not approve.
37 Who has spoken and it came to pass,
unless the Lord has ordained it?
38 Do not both adversity and good
come from the mouth of the Most High?
39 Why should any mortal man complain,

† **3:22 3:22** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

in view of his sins?‡

40 Let us examine and test our ways,
and turn back to the LORD.
41 Let us lift up our hearts and hands
to God in heaven:
42 “We have sinned and rebelled;
you have not forgiven.”

43 You have covered yourself in anger and pursued us;
you have killed without pity.
44 You have covered yourself with a cloud
that no prayer can pass through.
45 You have made us scum and refuse
among the nations.

46 All our enemies
open their mouths against us.
47 Panic and pitfall have come upon us—
devastation and destruction.
48 Streams of tears flow from my eyes
over the destruction of the daughter of my people.

49 My eyes overflow unceasingly,
without relief,
50 until the LORD
looks down from heaven and sees.
51 My eyes bring grief to my soul
because of all the daughters of my city.

52 Without cause my enemies
hunted me like a bird.
53 They dropped me alive into a pit
and cast stones upon me.
54 The waters flowed over my head,
and I thought I was going to die.

55 I called on your name, O LORD,
out of the depths of the Pit.
56 You heard my plea:
“Do not ignore my cry for relief.”
57 You drew near when I called on you;
you said, “Do not be afraid.”

58 You defend my cause, O Lord;
you redeem my life.
59 You have seen, O LORD, the wrong done to me;
vindicate my cause!
60 You have seen all their malice,
all their plots against me.

61 O LORD, you have heard their insults,

‡ **3:39 3:39** Qere; Ketiv *his sin*

all their plots against me—
62 the slander and murmuring of my assailants
against me all day long.
63 When they sit and when they rise,
see how they mock me in song.

64 You will pay them back what they deserve, O LORD,
according to the work of their hands.
65 Put a veil of anguish over their hearts;
may your curse be upon them!
66 You will pursue them in anger and exterminate them
from under your heavens, O LORD.

4

1 How* the gold has become tarnished,
the pure gold has become dull!
The gems of the temple lie scattered
on every street corner.

2 How the precious sons of Zion,
once worth their weight in pure gold,
are now esteemed as jars of clay,
the work of a potter's hands!

3 Even jackals† offer their breasts
to nurse their young,
but the daughter of my people has become cruel,
like an ostrich in the wilderness.

4 The nursing infant's tongue
clings in thirst to the roof of his mouth.
Little children beg for bread,
but no one gives them any.

5 Those who once ate delicacies
are destitute in the streets;
those brought up in crimson
huddle in ash heaps.

6 The punishment‡ of the daughter of my people
is greater than that of Sodom,
which was overthrown in an instant
without a hand turned to help her.

7 Her dignitaries were brighter than snow,
whiter than milk;
their bodies were more ruddy than rubies,
their appearance§ like sapphires.*

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* **4:1 4:1** This chapter is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. † **4:3 4:3** Qere; Ketiv *sea monsters* or *serpents* ‡ **4:6 4:6** Or *iniquity* § **4:7 4:7** Or *their polishing* or *their hair* * **4:7 4:7** Hebrew *lapis lazuli*

8 But now their appearance is blacker than soot;
they are not recognized in the streets.
Their skin has shriveled on their bones;
it has become as dry as a stick.

9 Those slain by the sword are better off
than those who die of hunger,
who waste away, pierced with pain
because the fields lack produce.

10 The hands of compassionate women
have cooked their own children,
who became their food
in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

11 The LORD has exhausted his wrath;
he has poured out his fierce anger;
he has kindled a fire in Zion,
and it has consumed her foundations.

12 The kings of the earth did not believe,
nor any people of the world,
that an enemy or a foe
could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

13 But this was for the sins of her prophets
and the guilt of her priests,
who shed the blood of the righteous
in her midst.

14 They wandered blind in the streets,
defiled by this blood,
so that no one dared
to touch their garments.

15 “Go away! Unclean!”
men shouted at them.
“Away, away! Do not touch us!”
So they fled and wandered.
Among the nations it was said,
“They can stay here no longer.”

16 The presence of the LORD has scattered them;
he regards them no more.
The priests are shown no honor;
the elders find no favor.

17 All the while our eyes were failing
as we looked in vain for help.
We watched from our towers
for a nation that could not save us.

18 They stalked our every step,

so that we could not walk in our streets.
Our end drew near, our time ran out,
for our end had come!

19 Those who chased us were swifter
than the eagles in the sky;
they pursued us over the mountains
and ambushed us in the wilderness.

20 The LORD's anointed, the breath of our life,
was captured in their pits.
We had said of him,
"Under his shadow we will live among the nations."

21 So rejoice and be glad, O Daughter of Edom,
you who dwell in the land of Uz.
Yet the cup will pass to you as well;
you will get drunk and expose yourself.

22 O Daughter of Zion, your punishment is complete;
he will not exile you again.†
But he will punish your iniquity, O Daughter of Edom;
he will expose your sins.

5

1 Remember, O LORD, what has happened to us.
Look and see our disgrace!
2 Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers,
our houses to foreigners.
3 We have become fatherless orphans;
our mothers are widows.
4 We must buy the water we drink;
our wood comes at a price.
5 We are closely pursued;
we are weary and find no rest.

6 We submitted to Egypt and Assyria
to get enough bread.
7 Our fathers sinned and are no more,
but we bear their punishment.
8 Slaves rule over us;
there is no one to deliver us from their hands.
9 We get our bread at the risk of our lives
because of the sword in the wilderness.
10 Our skin is as hot as an oven
with fever from our hunger.

11 Women have been ravished in Zion,
virgins in the cities of Judah.
12 Princes have been hung up by their hands;
elders receive no respect.
13 Young men toil at millstones;

† **4:22 4:22** Or *he will not prolong your exile*

boys stagger under loads of wood.
14 The elders have left the city gate;
the young men have stopped their music.
15 Joy has left our hearts;
our dancing has turned to mourning.
16 The crown has fallen from our head.
Woe to us, for we have sinned!

17 Because of this, our hearts are faint;
because of these, our eyes grow dim—
18 because of Mount Zion, which lies desolate,
patrolled by foxes.

19 You, O LORD, reign forever;
your throne endures from generation to generation.
20 Why have you forgotten us forever?
Why have you forsaken us for so long?
21 Restore us to yourself, O LORD, so we may return;
renew our days as of old,
22 unless you have utterly rejected us
and remain angry with us beyond measure.

Ecclesiastes

1 These are the words of the Teacher,* the son of David, king in
Jerusalem:

2 “Futility† of futilities,”
    says the Teacher,
“futility of futilities!
    Everything is futile!”

3 What does a man gain from all his labor,
    at which he toils under the sun?
4 Generations come and generations go,
    but the earth remains forever.
5 The sun rises and the sun sets;
    it hurries back to where it rises.
6 The wind blows southward,
    then turns northward;
round and round it swirls,
    ever returning on its course.
7 All the rivers flow into the sea,
    yet the sea is never full;
to the place from which the streams come,
    there again they flow.

8 All things are wearisome,
    more than one can describe;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
    nor the ear content with hearing.
9 What has been will be again,
    and what has been done will be done again;
    there is nothing new under the sun.
10 Is there a case where one can say,
    “Look, this is new”?
It has already existed
    in the ages before us.
11 There is no remembrance
    of those who came before,
and those yet to come will not be remembered
    by those who follow after.
12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.
13 And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom all that is done
under heaven. What a miserable task God has laid upon the sons of men
to occupy them!
14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun, and have found
them all to be futile, a pursuit of the wind.

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* **1:1 1:1** Or *the Convener* or *the Preacher* or *the leader of the assembly*; Hebrew *Qoheleth* is rendered as *the Teacher* throughout Ecclesiastes. † **1:2 1:2** Literally *vapor* or *breath*; the Hebrew words translated in Ecclesiastes as forms of *futile* or *fleeting* can also be translated as *vanity* or *meaningless*.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened,
and what is lacking cannot be counted.
16 I said to myself, “Behold, I have grown and increased in wisdom
beyond all those before me who were over Jerusalem, and my mind has
observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge.”
17 So I set my mind to know wisdom and madness and folly; I learned
that this, too, is a pursuit of the wind.

18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow,
and as knowledge grows, grief increases.

2

1 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy what is
good!”
But it proved to be futile.
2 I said of laughter, “It is folly,” and of pleasure, “What does it
accomplish?”
3 I sought to cheer my body with wine and to embrace folly—my mind
still guiding me with wisdom—until I could see what was worthwhile for
men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.
4 I expanded my pursuits. I built houses and planted vineyards for
myself.
5 I made gardens and parks for myself, where I planted all kinds of fruit
trees.
6 I built reservoirs to water my groves of flourishing trees.
7 I acquired male and female slaves, and slaves were born in my house.
I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me,
8 and I accumulated for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings
and provinces. I gathered to myself male and female singers, and the
delights of the sons of men—many concubines.
9 So I became great and surpassed all in Jerusalem who had preceded
me; and my wisdom remained with me.
10 Anything my eyes desired, I did not deny myself. I refused my heart
no pleasure. For my heart took delight in all my work, and this was the
reward for all my labor.
11 Yet when I considered all the works that my hands had accomplished
and what I had toiled to achieve, I found everything to be futile, a pursuit
of the wind; there was nothing to be gained under the sun.
12 Then I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what
more can the king’s successor do than what has already been
accomplished?
13 And I saw that wisdom exceeds folly, just as light exceeds darkness:

14 The wise man has eyes in his head,
but the fool walks in darkness.
Yet I also came to realize that one fate overcomes them both.
15 So I said to myself, “The fate of the fool will also befall me. What then
have I gained by being wise?”
And I said to myself that this too is futile.
16 For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise, just as with the fool,
seeing that both will be forgotten in the days to come. Alas, the wise man
will die just like the fool!

17 So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was
grievous to me. For everything is futile and a pursuit of the wind.
18 I hated all for which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave
it to the man who comes after me.
19 And who knows whether that man will be wise or foolish? Yet he will
take over all the labor at which I have worked skillfully under the sun.
This too is futile.
20 So my heart began to despair over all the labor that I had done under
the sun.
21 When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge, and
skill, and he must give his portion to a man who has not worked for it, this
too is futile and a great evil.
22 For what does a man get for all the toil and striving with which he
labors under the sun?
23 Indeed, all his days are filled with grief, and his task is sorrowful;
even at night, his mind does not rest. This too is futile.
24 Nothing is better for a man than to eat and drink and enjoy his work.
I have also seen that this is from the hand of God.
25 For apart from me,* who can eat and who can find enjoyment?
26 To the man who is pleasing in his sight, he gives wisdom and
knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he assigns the task of gathering and
accumulating that which he will hand over to one who pleases God. This
too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.

3

1 To everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven:
2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to break down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to count as lost,
a time to keep and a time to discard,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.
9 What does the worker gain from his toil?
10 I have seen the burden that God has laid upon the sons of men to
occupy them.
11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men, yet they cannot fathom the work that God has done
from beginning to end.
12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and do
good while they live,
13 and also that every man should eat and drink and find satisfaction in
all his labor—this is the gift of God.

* **2:25 2:25** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Syriac *apart from him*

14 I know that everything God does endures forever; nothing can be
added to it or taken from it. God does it so that they should fear him.
15 What exists has already been, and what will be has already been, for
God will call to account what has passed.
16 Furthermore, I saw under the sun that in the place of judgment there
is wickedness, and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness.
17 I said in my heart, "God will judge the righteous and the wicked, since
there is a time for every activity and every deed."
18 I said to myself, "As for the sons of men, God tests them so that they
may see for themselves that they are but beasts."
19 For the fates of both men and beasts are the same: As one dies, so dies
the other—they all have the same breath.* Man has no advantage over the
animals, since everything is futile.
20 All go to one place; all come from dust, and all return to dust.
21 Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and the spirit of the
animal descends into the earth?
22 I have seen that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his
work, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will come
after him?

4

1 Again I looked, and I considered all the oppression taking place under
the sun. I saw the tears of the oppressed, and they had no comforter; the
power lay in the hands of their oppressors, and there was no comforter.
2 So I admired the dead, who had already died, above the living, who are
still alive.
3 But better than both is he who has not yet existed, who has not seen
the evil that is done under the sun.
4 I saw that all labor and success spring from a man's envy of his
neighbor. This too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.

5 The fool folds his hands
and consumes his own flesh.
6 Better one handful with tranquility
than two handfuls with toil and pursuit of the wind.
7 Again, I saw futility under the sun.
8 There is a man all alone, without even a son or brother. And though
there is no end to his labor, his eye is still not content* with his wealth:
"For whom do I toil and deprive myself of enjoyment?" This too is futile—a
miserable task.
9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their
labor.
10 For if one falls down, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one
who falls without another to help him up!
11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one
keep warm alone?
12 And though one may be overpowered, two can resist. Moreover, a
cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
13 Better is a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no
longer knows how to take a warning.

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* **3:19 3:19** Or *spirit* * **4:8 4:8** Qere; Ketiv *his eyes are*

14 For the youth has come from the prison to the kingship, though he
was born poor in his own kingdom.
15 I saw that all who lived and walked under the sun followed this
second one, the youth who succeeded the king.
16 There is no limit to all the people who were before them. Yet the
successor will not be celebrated by those who come even later. This too is
futile and a pursuit of the wind.
17 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Draw near to
listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they
do wrong.

5

1 Do not be quick to speak, and do not be hasty in your heart to utter a
word before God. For God is in heaven and you are on earth. So let your
words be few.
2 As a dream comes through many cares,
so the speech of a fool comes with many words.
3 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it, because he
takes no pleasure in fools. Fulfill your vow.
4 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.
5 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, and do not tell the
messenger* that your vow was a mistake. Why should God be angry with
your words and destroy the work of your hands?
6 For as many dreams bring futility, so do many words. Therefore, fear
God.
7 If you see the oppression of the poor and the denial of justice and
righteousness in the province, do not be astonished at the matter; for one
official is watched by a superior, and others higher still are over them.
8 The produce of the earth is taken by all; the king himself profits from
the fields.
9 He who loves money is never satisfied by money, and he who loves
wealth is never satisfied by income. This too is futile.
10 When good things increase, so do those who consume them; what
then is the profit to the owner, except to behold them with his eyes?
11 The sleep of the worker is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but
the abundance of the rich man permits him no sleep.
12 There is a grievous evil I have seen under the sun: wealth hoarded to
the harm of its owner,
13 or wealth lost in a failed venture, so when that man has a son there is
nothing to pass on.
14 As a man came from his mother's womb, so he will depart again,
naked as he arrived. He takes nothing for his labor to carry in his hands.
15 This too is a grievous affliction: Exactly as a man is born, so he will
depart. What does he gain as he toils for the wind?
16 Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness, with much sorrow,
sickness, and anger.
17 Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat and drink, and
to find satisfaction in all the labor one does under the sun during the few
days of life that God has given him—for this is his lot.

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* **5:5 5:5** Or *angel*

18 Furthermore, God has given riches and wealth to every man, and he
has enabled him to enjoy them, to accept his lot, and to rejoice in his labor.
This is a gift from God.
19 For a man seldom considers the days of his life, because God keeps
him occupied with the joy of his heart.

6

1 There is another evil I have seen under the sun, and it weighs heavily
upon mankind:
2 God gives a man riches, wealth, and honor, so that he lacks nothing his
heart desires; but God does not allow him to enjoy them. Instead, a
stranger will enjoy them. This is futile and a grievous affliction.
3 A man may father a hundred children and live for many years; yet no
matter how long he lives, if he is unsatisfied with his prosperity and does
not even receive a proper burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off
than he.
4 For a stillborn child enters in futility and departs in darkness, and his
name is shrouded in obscurity.
5 The child, though neither seeing the sun nor knowing anything, has
more rest than that man,
6 even if he lives a thousand years twice over but fails to enjoy his
prosperity. Do not all go to the same place?

7 All a man's labor is for his mouth,
yet his appetite is never satisfied.*
8 What advantage, then, has the wise man over the fool? What gain
comes to the poor man who knows how to conduct himself before others?
9 Better what the eye can see than the wandering of desire. This too is
futile and a pursuit of the wind.
10 Whatever exists was named long ago, and it is known what man is;
but he cannot contend with one stronger than he.
11 For the more words, the more futility—and how does that profit
anyone?
12 For who knows what is good for a man during the few days in which
he passes through his fleeting life like a shadow? Who can tell a man what
will come after him under the sun?

7

1 A good name is better than fine perfume,
and one's day of death is better than his day of birth.
2 It is better to enter a house of mourning
than a house of feasting,
since death is the end of every man,
and the living should take this to heart.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter,
for a sad countenance is good for the heart.
4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,
but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

5 It is better to heed a wise man's rebuke

* **6:7 6:7** Hebrew *filled*

than to listen to the song of fools.
6 For like the crackling of thorns under the pot,
so is the laughter of the fool. This too is futile.

7 Surely extortion turns a wise man into a fool,
and a bribe corrupts the heart.
8 The end of a matter is better than the beginning,
and a patient spirit is better than a proud one.

9 Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit,
for anger settles in the lap of a fool.*
10 Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?"
For it is unwise of you to ask about this.

11 Wisdom, like an inheritance, is good,
and it benefits those who see the sun.
12 For wisdom, like money, is a shelter,
and the advantage of knowledge
is that wisdom preserves the life of its owner.

13 Consider the work of God:
Who can straighten what he has bent?
14 In the day of prosperity, be joyful,
but in the day of adversity, consider this:
God has made one of these along with the other,
so that a man cannot discover
anything that will come after him.
15 In my futile life I have seen both of these:

A righteous man perishing in his righteousness,
and a wicked man living long in his wickedness.
16 Do not be overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself?
17 Do not be excessively wicked, and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?
18 It is good to grasp the one and not let the other slip from your hand. For he who fears God will follow both warnings.†

19 Wisdom makes the wise man
stronger than ten rulers in a city.
20 Surely there is no righteous man on earth
who does good and never sins.
21 Do not pay attention to every word that is spoken, or you may hear your servant cursing you.
22 For you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.
23 All this I tested by wisdom, saying, "I resolve to be wise." But it was beyond me.
24 What exists is out of reach and very deep. Who can fathom it?

* **7:9 7:9** Hebrew *in the bosom of fools* † **7:18 7:18** Or *will avoid all extremes*

25 I directed my mind to understand, to explore, to search out wisdom
and explanations, and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the
folly of madness.
26 And I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose
heart is a net, and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God
escapes her, but the sinner is ensnared.
27 "Behold," says the Teacher, "I have discovered this by adding one thing
to another to find an explanation.
28 While my soul was still searching but not finding, among a thousand I
have found one man, but among all these I have not found one such
woman.
29 Only this have I found: I have discovered that God made mankind
upright, but they have sought out many schemes."

8

1 Who is like the wise man? Who knows the interpretation of a matter?
A man's wisdom brightens his face, and the sternness of his face is
changed.
2 Keep the king's command, I say, because of your oath before God.
3 Do not hasten to leave his presence, and do not persist in a bad cause,
for he will do whatever he pleases.
4 For the king's word is supreme, and who can say to him, "What are you
doing?"
5 Whoever keeps his command will come to no harm, and a wise heart
knows the right time and procedure.
6 For there is a right time and procedure to every purpose, though a
man's misery weighs heavily upon him.
7 Since no one knows what will happen, who can tell him what is to
come?
8 As no man has power over the wind to contain it, so no one has
authority over his day of death. As no one can be discharged in wartime,
so wickedness will not release those who practice it.
9 All this I have seen, applying my mind to every deed that is done under
the sun; there is a time when one man lords it over another to his own
detriment.
10 Then too, I saw the burial of the wicked who used to go in and out of
the holy place, and they were soon forgotten* in the city where they had
done so. This too is futile.
11 When the sentence for a crime is not speedily executed, the hearts of
men become fully set on doing evil.
12 Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and still lives long, yet I
also know that it will go well with those who fear God, who are reverent
in his presence.
13 Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them,
and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.
14 There is a futility that is done on the earth: There are righteous men
who get what the actions of the wicked deserve, and there are wicked men
who get what the actions of the righteous deserve. I say that this too is
futile.

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* **8:10 8:10** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate *they were praised*

15 So I commended the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better
for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be merry. For this joy
will accompany him in his labor during the days of his life that God gives
him under the sun.
16 When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe the task that
one performs on the earth—though his eyes do not see sleep in the day or
even in the night—
17 I saw every work of God, and that a man is unable to comprehend the
work that is done under the sun. Despite his efforts to search it out, he
cannot find its meaning; even if the wise man claims to know, he is unable
to comprehend.

9

1 So I took all this to heart and concluded that the righteous and the
wise, as well as their deeds, are in God's hands. Man does not know what
lies ahead, whether love or hate.
2 It is the same for all: There is a common fate for the righteous and the
wicked, for the good,* for the clean and the unclean, for the one who
sacrifices and the one who does not. As it is for the good, so it is for the
sinner; as it is for the one who makes a vow, so it is for the one who
refuses to take a vow.
3 This is an evil in everything that is done under the sun: There is one
fate for everyone. Furthermore, the hearts of men are full of evil and
madness while they are alive, and afterward they join the dead.
4 There is hope, however, for anyone who is among the living;† for even
a live dog is better than a dead lion.
5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing.
They have no further reward, because the memory of them is forgotten.
6 Their love, their hate, and their envy have already vanished, and they
will never again have a share in all that is done under the sun.
7 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart,
for God has already approved your works:
8 Let your garments always be white,
and never spare the oil for your head.
9 Enjoy life with your beloved wife all the days of the fleeting‡ life that
God has given you under the sun—all your fleeting days. For this is your
portion in life and in your labor under the sun.
10 Whatever you find to do with your hands, do it with all your might,
for in Sheol, where you are going, there is no work or planning or
knowledge or wisdom.
11 I saw something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift, nor
the battle to the strong; neither is the bread to the wise, nor the wealth to
the intelligent, nor the favor to the skillful. For time and chance happen to
all.
12 For surely no man knows his time: Like fish caught in a cruel net or
birds trapped in a snare, so men are ensnared in an evil time that
suddenly falls upon them.
13 I have also seen this wisdom under the sun, and it was great to me:
14 There was a small city with few men. A mighty king came against it,
surrounded it, and built large siege ramps against it.

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* **9:2 9:2** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate add *and the bad* † **9:4 9:4** Qere; Ketiv *whoever is chosen* ‡ **9:9 9:9** Or *futile*; twice in this verse

15 Now a poor wise man was found in the city, and he saved the city by
his wisdom. Yet no one remembered that poor man.
16 And I said, “Wisdom is better than strength, but the wisdom of the
poor man is despised, and his words are not heeded.”

17 The calm words of the wise are heeded
over the shouts of a ruler among fools.
18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war,
but one sinner destroys much good.

10

1 As dead flies bring a stench to the perfumer’s oil,
so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.
2 A wise man’s heart inclines to the right,
but the heart of a fool to the left.
3 Even as the fool walks along the road, his sense is lacking,
and he shows everyone that he is a fool.
4 If the ruler’s temper flares against you, do not abandon your post,
for calmness lays great offenses to rest.

5 There is an evil I have seen under the sun—
an error that proceeds from the ruler:
6 Folly is appointed to great heights,
but the rich sit in lowly positions.
7 I have seen slaves on horseback,
while princes go on foot like slaves.

8 He who digs a pit may fall into it,
and he who breaches a wall may be bitten by a snake.
9 The one who quarries stones may be injured by them,
and he who splits logs endangers himself.
10 If the axe is dull and the blade unsharpened,
more strength must be exerted,
but skill produces success.
11 If the snake bites before it is charmed,
there is no profit for the charmer.

12 The words of a wise man’s mouth are gracious,
but the lips of a fool consume him.
13 The beginning of his talk is folly,
and the end of his speech is evil madness.
14 Yet the fool multiplies words.
No one knows what is coming,
and who can tell him what will come after him?
15 The toil of a fool wearies him,
for he does not know the way to the city.

16 Woe to you, O land whose king is a servant,*
and whose princes feast in the morning.
17 Blessed are you, O land whose king is a son of nobles,
and whose princes feast at the proper time—

* **10:16 10:16** Or *a youth*

for strength and not for drunkenness.

18 Through laziness the roof caves in,
and in the hands of the idle, the house leaks.

19 A feast is prepared for laughter, and wine makes life merry,
but money is the answer for everything.

20 Do not curse the king even in your thoughts,
or curse the rich even in your bedroom,
for a bird of the air may carry your words,
and a winged creature may report your speech.

11

1 Cast your bread upon the waters,
for after many days you will find it again.
2 Divide your portion among seven, or even eight,
for you do not know what disaster may befall the land.

3 If the clouds are full,
they will pour out rain upon the earth;
whether a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where it falls, there it will lie.
4 He who watches the wind will fail to sow,
and he who observes the clouds will fail to reap.

5 As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones*
in a mother's womb,
so you cannot understand the work of God,
the Maker of all things.
6 Sow your seed in the morning,
and do not rest your hands in the evening,
for you do not know which will succeed,
whether this or that, or if both will equally prosper.
7 Light is sweet,
and it pleases the eyes to see the sun.
8 So if a man lives many years,
let him rejoice in them all.
But let him remember the days of darkness,
for they will be many.
Everything to come is futile.

9 Rejoice, O young man, while you are young,
and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth.
Walk in the ways of your heart
and in the sight of your eyes,
but know that for all these things
God will bring you to judgment.
10 So banish sorrow from your heart,
and cast off pain from your body,

* **11:5 11:5** Or *As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the bones are formed*

for youth and vigor are fleeting.†

12

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the days of adversity come
and the years approach of which you will say,
"I find no pleasure in them,"
2 before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is darkened,
and the clouds return after the rain,
3 on the day the keepers of the house tremble
and the strong men stoop,
when those grinding cease because they are few
and those watching through windows see dimly,
4 when the doors to the street are shut
and the sound of the mill fades away,
when one rises at the sound of a bird
and all the daughters of song grow faint,
5 when men fear the heights and dangers of the road,
when the almond tree blossoms,
the grasshopper loses its spring,
and the caper berry shrivels—
for then man goes to his eternal home
and mourners walk the streets.

6 Remember him before the silver cord is snapped*
and the golden bowl is crushed,
before the pitcher is shattered at the spring
and the wheel is broken at the well,
7 before the dust returns to the ground from which it came
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

8 "Futility of futilities," says the Teacher.
"Everything is futile!"
9 Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also taught the people knowledge; he pondered, searched out, and arranged many proverbs.
10 The Teacher searched to find delightful sayings and to record accurate words of truth.†
11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the anthologies of the masters are like firmly embedded nails driven by a single shepherd.
12 And by these, my son, be further warned: There is no end to the making of many books, and much study wearies the body.
13 When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: Fear God and keep his commandments, because this is the whole duty of man.
14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, along with every hidden thing, whether good or evil.

† **11:10 11:10** Or *futile* * **12:6 12:6** Qere; Ketiv *is removed* † **12:10 12:10** Or *and sought to write what was upright and true*

Esther

1 This is what happened in the days of Ahasuerus,* who reigned over
127 provinces from India to Cush.†
2 In those days King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in the citadel of
Susa.
3 In the third year of his reign, Ahasuerus held a feast for all his officials
and servants. The military leaders of Persia and Media were there, along
with the nobles and princes of the provinces.
4 And for a full 180 days he displayed the glorious riches of his kingdom
and the magnificent splendor of his greatness.
5 At the end of this time, in the garden court of the royal palace, the king
held a seven-day feast for all the people in the citadel of Susa, from the
least to the greatest.
6 Hangings of white and blue linen were fastened with cords of fine
white and purple material to silver rings on the marble pillars. Gold and
silver couches were arranged on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble,
mother-of-pearl, and other costly stones.
7 Beverages were served in an array of goblets of gold, each with a
different design, and the royal wine flowed freely, according to the king's
bounty.
8 By order of the king, no limit was placed on the drinking, and every
official of his household was to serve each man whatever he desired.
9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of
King Ahasuerus.
10 On the seventh day, when the king's heart was merry with wine, he
ordered the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona,
Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas—
11 to bring Queen Vashti before him, wearing her royal crown, to display
her beauty to the people and officials. For she was beautiful to behold.
12 Queen Vashti, however, refused to come at the king's command
brought by his eunuchs. And the king became furious, and his anger
burned within him.
13 Then the king consulted the wise men who knew the times, for it was
customary for him to confer with the experts in law and justice.
14 His closest advisors were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish,
Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media
who had personal access to the king and ranked highest in the kingdom.
15 "According to law," he asked, "what should be done with Queen Vashti,
since she refused to obey the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by
the eunuchs?"
16 And in the presence of the king and his princes, Memucan replied,
"Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king, but all the princes and the
peoples in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.
17 For the conduct of the queen will become known to all women,
causing them to despise their husbands‡ and say, 'King Ahasuerus ordered
Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she did not come.'

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* **1:1 1:1** Generally identified as Xerxes I of Persia; here and throughout Esther † **1:1 1:1** That is, the upper Nile region ‡ **1:17 1:17** Or *to disdain their husbands in their eyes*

18 This very day the noble women of Persia and Media who have heard
about the queen's conduct will say the same thing to all the king's officials,
resulting in much contempt and wrath.
19 So if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree, and let it be
recorded in the laws of Persia and Media so that it cannot be repealed,
that Vashti shall never again enter the presence of King Ahasuerus, and
that her royal position shall be given to a woman better than she.
20 The edict the king issues will be heard throughout his vast
kingdom—and so all women, from the least to the greatest, will honor
their husbands."
21 The king and his princes were pleased with this counsel; so the king
did as Memucan advised.
22 He sent letters to all the provinces of the kingdom, to each province in
its own script and to each people in their own language, saying that every
man should be master of his own household and speak in the language of
his own people.§

2

1 Some time later, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had subsided, he
remembered Vashti and what she had done, and what had been decreed
against her.
2 Then the king's attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for
beautiful young virgins for the king,
3 and let the king appoint commissioners in each province of his
kingdom to assemble all the beautiful young women into the harem at the
citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's
eunuch in charge of the women, and let them be given beauty treatments.
4 Then let the young woman who pleases the king become queen in
place of Vashti."
This suggestion pleased the king, and he acted accordingly.
5 Now there was at the citadel of Susa a Jewish man from the tribe of
Benjamin named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish.
6 He had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar
king of Babylon among those taken captive with Jeconiah* king of Judah.
7 And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah (that is, Esther), the daughter
of his uncle, because she did not have a father or mother. The young
woman was lovely in form and appearance, and when her father and
mother had died, Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter.
8 When the king's command and edict had been proclaimed, many
young women gathered at the citadel of Susa under the care of Hegai.
Esther was also taken to the palace and placed under the care of Hegai,
the custodian of the women.
9 And the young woman pleased him and obtained his favor, so he
quickly provided her with beauty treatments and the special diet. He
assigned to her seven select maidservants from the palace and transferred
her with them to the best place in the harem.
10 Esther did not reveal her people or her lineage, because Mordecai had
instructed her not to do so.

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§ **1:22 1:22** Or *proclaiming in the language of his own people that every man should be master of his own household* * **2:6 2:6** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

11 And every day Mordecai would walk back and forth in front of the
court of the harem to learn about Esther's welfare and what was
happening to her.
12 In the twelve months before her turn to go to King Ahasuerus, the
harem regulation required each young woman to receive beauty
treatments with oil of myrrh for six months, and then with perfumes and
cosmetics for another six months.
13 When the young woman would go to the king, she was given whatever
she requested to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.
14 She would go there in the evening, and in the morning she would
return to a second harem† under the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch
in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he
delighted in her and summoned her by name.
15 Now Esther was the daughter of Abihail, the uncle from whom
Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter. And when it was her turn
to go to the king, she did not ask for anything except what Hegai, the
king's trusted official in charge of the harem, had advised. And Esther
found favor in the eyes of everyone who saw her.
16 She was taken to King Ahasuerus in the royal palace in the tenth
month, the month of Tebeth,‡ in the seventh year of his reign.
17 And the king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she
found grace and favor in his sight more than all of the other virgins. So he
placed the royal crown upon her head and made her queen in place of
Vashti.
18 Then the king held a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his
officials and servants. He proclaimed a tax holiday in the provinces and
gave gifts worthy of the king's bounty.
19 When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai was sitting
at the king's gate.§
20 Esther still had not revealed her lineage or her people, just as
Mordecai had instructed. She obeyed Mordecai's command, as she had
done under his care.
21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan*
and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the entrance, grew
angry and conspired to assassinate King Ahasuerus.
22 When Mordecai learned of the plot, he reported it to Queen Esther,
and she informed the king on Mordecai's behalf.
23 After the report had been investigated and verified, both officials
were impaled on a stake.† And all this was recorded in the Book of the
Annals‡ in the presence of the king.

3

1 After these events, King Ahasuerus honored Haman son of
Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him to a position above all the
princes who were with him.

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† **2:14 2:14** Or *to another part of the harem* ‡ **2:16 2:16** *Tebeth* is the tenth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of December and January. § **2:19 2:19** Or *Mordecai had become a palace official* * **2:21 2:21** *Bigthan* is a variant of *Bigthana*; see Esther 6:2. † **2:23 2:23** Literally *hanged on a tree*; or *hanged on the gallows*; similarly throughout Esther ‡ **2:23 2:23** Or *the Book of the Chronicles* or *the Book of the Historical Events*

2 All the royal servants at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage
to Haman, because the king had commanded that this be done for him.
But Mordecai would not bow down or pay homage.
3 Then the royal servants at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you
disobey the command of the king?"
4 Day after day they warned him, but he would not comply. So they
reported it to Haman to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be
tolerated, since he had told them he was a Jew.
5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or pay him
homage, he was filled with rage.
6 And when he learned the identity of Mordecai's people, he scorned the
notion of* laying hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he sought to destroy
all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the kingdom of Ahasuerus.
7 In the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, in the first month, the month of
Nisan,† the Pur (that is, the lot) was cast before Haman to determine a day
and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.‡
8 Then Haman informed King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people
scattered and dispersed among the peoples of every province of your
kingdom. Their laws are different from everyone else's, and they do not
obey the king's laws. So it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.
9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will
deposit ten thousand talents of silver§ into the royal treasury to pay those
who carry it out."
10 So the king removed the signet ring from his finger and gave it to
Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.
11 "Keep your money," said the king to Haman. "These people are given
to you to do with them as you please."
12 On the thirteenth day of the first month, the royal scribes were
summoned and the order was written exactly as Haman commanded the
royal satraps, the governors of each province, and the officials of each
people, in the script of each province and the language of every people. It
was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the royal
signet ring.
13 And the letters were sent by couriers to each of the royal provinces
with the order to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jews—young and old,
women and children—and to plunder their possessions on a single day,
the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month.
14 A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued in every province and
published to all the people, so that they would be ready on that day.
15 The couriers left, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict
was issued in the citadel of Susa. Then the king and Haman sat down to
drink, but the city of Susa was in confusion.

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* **3:6 3:6** Hebrew *he disdained in his eyes* † **3:7 3:7** *Nisan* is the first month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April. ‡ **3:7 3:7** LXX *was cast before Haman—a day and month—and the lot fell on the fourteenth of the month of Adar*; Hebrew *was cast before Haman a day and month—the twelfth, Adar*; the month of *Adar* (also in verse 13) is the twelfth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of February and March.
§ **3:9 3:9** *10,000 talents* is approximately 377 tons or 342 metric tons of silver.

4

1 When Mordecai learned of all that had happened, he tore his clothes,
put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the middle of the city,
wailing loudly and bitterly.
2 But he went only as far as the king's gate, because the law prohibited
anyone wearing sackcloth from entering that gate.
3 In every province to which the king's command and edict came, there
was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and lamented,
and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.
4 When Esther's maidens and eunuchs came and told her about
Mordecai, the queen was overcome with distress. She sent clothes for
Mordecai to wear instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.
5 Then Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs appointed
to her, and she dispatched him to Mordecai to learn what was troubling
him and why.
6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the
king's gate,
7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, including the
exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay into the royal
treasury in order to destroy the Jews.
8 Mordecai also gave Hathach a copy of the written decree issued in Susa
for the destruction of the Jews, to show and explain to Esther, urging her to
approach the king, implore his favor, and plead before him for her people.
9 So Hathach went back and relayed Mordecai's response to Esther.
10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and instructed him to tell Mordecai,
11 "All the royal officials and the people of the king's provinces know that
one law applies to every man or woman who approaches the king in the
inner court without being summoned—that he be put to death. Only if the
king extends the gold scepter may that person live. But I have not been
summoned to appear before the king for the past thirty days."
12 When Esther's words were relayed to Mordecai,
13 he sent back to her this reply: "Do not imagine that because you are in
the king's palace you alone will escape the fate of all the Jews.
14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the
Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's house will
perish. And who knows if perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such
a time as this?"
15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:
16 "Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa, and fast for
me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day, and I and my maidens
will fast as you do. After that, I will go to the king, even though it is against
the law. And if I perish, I perish!*"
17 So Mordecai went and did all that Esther had instructed him.

5

1 On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner
court of the palace across from the king's quarters. The king was sitting on
his royal throne in the royal courtroom, facing the entrance.

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* **4:16 4:16** Or *if I am destroyed, then I will be destroyed!*

2 As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she found
favor in his sight. The king extended the gold scepter in his hand toward
Esther, and she approached and touched the tip of the scepter.
3 "What is it, Queen Esther?" the king inquired. "What is your request?
Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given to you."
4 "If it pleases the king," Esther replied, "may the king and Haman come
today to the banquet I have prepared for the king."
5 "Hurry," commanded the king, "and bring Haman, so we can do as
Esther has requested."
So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.
6 And as they drank their wine, the king said to Esther, "What is your
petition? It will be given to you. What is your request? Even up to half the
kingdom, it will be fulfilled."
7 Esther replied, "This is my petition and my request:
8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king
to grant my petition and fulfill my request, may the king and Haman come
tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the
king's question."
9 That day Haman went out full of joy and glad of heart. At the king's
gate, however, he saw Mordecai, who did not rise or tremble in fear at his
presence. And Haman was filled with rage toward Mordecai.
10 Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home. And calling
for his friends and his wife Zeresh,
11 Haman recounted to them his glorious wealth, his many sons, and all
the ways the king had honored and promoted him over the other officials
and servants.
12 "What is more," Haman added, "Queen Esther invited no one but me to
join the king at the banquet she prepared, and I am invited back
tomorrow along with the king.
13 Yet none of this satisfies me as long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at
the king's gate."
14 His wife Zeresh and all his friends told him, "Have them build a stake
fifty cubits high,* and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai
impaled on it. Then go to the banquet with the king and enjoy yourself."
The advice pleased Haman, and he had the stake constructed.

6

1 That night sleep escaped the king; so he ordered the Book of Records,
the Chronicles,* to be brought in and read to him.
2 And there it was found recorded that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana†
and Teresh, two of the eunuchs who guarded the king's entrance, when
they had conspired to assassinate King Ahasuerus.
3 The king inquired, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on
Mordecai for this act?"
"Nothing has been done for him," replied the king's attendants.
4 "Who is in the court?" the king asked.
Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to ask the
king to impale Mordecai on the stake he had prepared for him.

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* **5:14 5:14** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters high. * **6:1 6:1** Or *the Book of Memorials, the Annals* or *the Book of Records of Historical Events* † **6:2 6:2** *Bigthana* is a variant of *Bigthan*; see Esther 2:21.

5 So the king's attendants answered him, "Haman is there, standing in the court."
"Bring him in," ordered the king.
6 Haman entered, and the king asked him, "What should be done for the man whom the king is delighted to honor?"
Now Haman thought to himself, "Whom would the king be delighted to honor more than me?"
7 And Haman told the king, "For the man whom the king is delighted to honor,
8 have them bring a royal robe that the king himself has worn and a horse on which the king himself has ridden—one with a royal crest placed on its head.
9 Let the robe and the horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them array the man the king wants to honor and parade him on the horse through the city square, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man whom the king is delighted to honor!' "
10 "Hurry," said the king to Haman, "and do just as you proposed. Take the robe and the horse to Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything that you have suggested."
11 So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai, and paraded him through the city square, crying out before him, "This is what is done for the man whom the king is delighted to honor!"
12 Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief.
13 Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has begun, is Jewish, you will not prevail against him—for surely you will fall before him."
14 While they were still speaking with Haman, the king's eunuchs arrived and rushed him to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

7

1 So the king and Haman went to dine with Esther the queen,
2 and as they drank their wine on that second day, the king asked once more, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given to you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be fulfilled."
3 Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, grant me my life as my petition, and the lives of my people as my request.
4 For my people and I have been sold out to destruction, death, and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have remained silent, because no such distress would justify burdening the king."
5 Then King Ahasuerus spoke up and asked Queen Esther, "Who is this, and where is the one who would devise* such a scheme?"
6 Esther replied, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked man—Haman!"
And Haman stood in terror before the king and queen.
7 In his fury, the king arose from drinking his wine and went to the palace garden, while Haman stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life, for he realized that the king was planning a terrible fate for him.

* **7:5 7:5** Hebrew *whose heart has filled him to do*

8 Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall,
Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king
exclaimed, “Would he actually assault the queen while I am in the palace?”
As soon as the words had left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's
face.
9 Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said: “There is
a stake fifty cubits high† at Haman's house. He had it built for Mordecai,
who gave the report that saved the king.”
“Impale him on it!” declared the king.
10 So they impaled Haman on the stake he had prepared for Mordecai.
Then the fury of the king subsided.

8

1 That same day King Ahasuerus awarded Queen Esther the estate of
Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai entered the king's presence
because Esther had revealed his relation to her.
2 The king removed the signet ring he had recovered from Haman and
presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed Mordecai over the estate
of Haman.
3 And once again, Esther addressed the king. She fell at his feet weeping
and begged him to revoke the evil scheme of Haman the Agagite, which he
had devised against the Jews.
4 The king extended the gold scepter toward Esther, and she arose and
stood before the king.
5 “If it pleases the king,” she said, “and if I have found favor in his sight,
and the matter seems proper to the king, and I am pleasing in his sight,
may an order be written to revoke the letters that the scheming Haman
son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's
provinces.
6 For how could I bear to see the disaster that would befall my people?
How could I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?”
7 So King Ahasuerus said to Esther the Queen and Mordecai the Jew,
“Behold, I have given Haman's estate to Esther, and he was impaled on the
stake because he attacked the Jews.
8 Now you may write in the king's name as you please regarding the
Jews, and seal it with the royal signet ring. For a decree that is written in
the name of the king and sealed with the royal signet ring cannot be
revoked.”
9 At once the royal scribes were summoned, and on the twenty-third day
of the third month (the month of Sivan*), they recorded all of Mordecai's
orders to the Jews and to the satraps, governors, and princes of the 127
provinces from India to Cush†—writing to each province in its own script,
to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script
and language.
10 Mordecai wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the
royal signet ring. He sent the documents by mounted couriers riding on
swift horses bred from the royal mares.
11 By these letters the king permitted the Jews in each and every city the
right to assemble and defend themselves, to destroy, kill, and annihilate all

† **7:9 7:9** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters high. * **8:9 8:9** *Sivan* is the third month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of May and June. † **8:9 8:9** That is, to the upper Nile region

the forces of any people or province hostile to them, including women and children, and to plunder their possessions.
12 The single day appointed throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar.‡
13 A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued in every province and published to all the people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.
14 The couriers rode out in haste on their royal horses, pressed on by the command of the king. And the edict was also issued in the citadel of Susa.
15 Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal garments of blue and white, with a large gold crown and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.
16 For the Jews it was a time of light and gladness, of joy and honor.
17 In every province and every city, wherever the king's edict and decree reached, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many of the people of the land themselves became Jews, because the fear of the Jews had fallen upon them.

9

1 On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar,* the king's command and edict were to be executed. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but their plan was overturned and the Jews overpowered those who hated them.
2 In each of the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the Jews assembled in their cities to attack those who sought to harm them. No man could withstand them, because the fear of them had fallen upon all peoples.
3 And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them.
4 For Mordecai exercised great power in the palace, and his fame spread throughout the provinces as he became more and more powerful.
5 The Jews put all their enemies to the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did as they pleased to those who hated them.
6 In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men,
7 including Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,
8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,
9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha.
10 They killed these ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.
11 On that day the number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king,
12 who said to Queen Esther, "In the citadel of Susa the Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men, including Haman's ten sons. What have they done in the rest of the royal provinces? Now what is your petition? It will be given to you. And what further do you request? It will be fulfilled."

‡ **8:12 8:12** *Adar* is the twelfth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of February and March. * **9:1 9:1** *Adar* is the twelfth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of February and March; also in verses 15, 17, 19, and 21.

13 Esther replied, “If it pleases the king, may the Jews in Susa also have
tomorrow to carry out today’s edict, and may the bodies of Haman’s ten
sons be impaled on the stake.”
14 So the king commanded that this be done. An edict was issued in
Susa, and they impaled the ten sons of Haman.
15 On the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, the Jews in Susa came
together again and put to death three hundred men there, but they did not
lay a hand on the plunder.
16 The rest of the Jews in the royal provinces also assembled to defend
themselves and rid themselves of their enemies. They killed 75,000 who
hated them, but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.
17 This was done on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the
fourteenth day they rested, making it a day of feasting and joy.
18 The Jews in Susa, however, had assembled on the thirteenth and the
fourteenth days of the month. So they rested on the fifteenth day, making
it a day of feasting and joy.
19 This is why the rural Jews, who live in the villages, observe the
fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day of joy and feasting. It is a
holiday for sending gifts to one another.
20 Mordecai recorded these events and sent letters to all the Jews in all
the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,
21 to establish among them an annual celebration on the fourteenth and
fifteenth days of the month of Adar
22 as the days on which the Jews gained rest from their enemies and the
month in which their sorrow turned to joy and their mourning into a
holiday. He wrote that these were to be days of feasting and joy, of sending
gifts to one another and to the poor.
23 So the Jews agreed to continue the custom they had started, as
Mordecai had written to them.
24 For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the
Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the Pur
(that is, the lot) to crush and destroy them.
25 But when it came before the king, he commanded by letter that the
wicked scheme which Haman had devised against the Jews should come
back upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be impaled on
the stake.
26 Therefore these days are called Purim, from the word Pur.
Because of all the instructions in this letter, and because of all they had
seen and experienced,
27 the Jews bound themselves to establish the custom that they and their
descendants and all who join them should not fail to celebrate these two
days at the appointed time each and every year, according to their
regulation.
28 These days should be remembered and celebrated by every
generation, family, province, and city, so that these days of Purim should
not fail to be observed among the Jews, nor should the memory of them
fade from their descendants.
29 So Queen Esther daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew,
wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.
30 And Mordecai sent letters with words of peace and truth to all the
Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus,

31 in order to confirm these days of Purim at their appointed time, just
as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established them and had
committed themselves and their descendants to the times of fasting and
lamentation.
32 So Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, which
were written into the record.

10

1 Now King Ahasuerus imposed tribute throughout the land, even to its
farthest shores.
2 And all of Mordecai's powerful and magnificent accomplishments,
together with the full account of the greatness to which the king had
raised him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings
of Media and Persia?
3 For Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus, preeminent
among the Jews and highly favored by his many kinsmen, seeking the
good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

Ruth

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. And
a certain man from Bethlehem in Judah, with his wife and two sons, went
to reside in the land of Moab.
2 The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name was Naomi, and the
names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites
from Bethlehem in Judah, and they entered the land of Moab and settled
there.
3 Then Naomi's husband Elimelech died, and she was left with her two
sons,
4 who took Moabite women as their wives, one named Orpah and the
other named Ruth.
And after they had lived in Moab about ten years,
5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and Naomi was left without her
two sons and without her husband.
6 When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had attended to his people
by providing them with food, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to
leave the land of Moab.
7 Accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, she left the place where she
had been living and set out on the road leading back to the land of Judah.
8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you to
your mother's home. May the LORD show you loving devotion,* as you
have shown to your dead and to me.
9 May the LORD enable each of you to find rest in the home of your new
husband."
And she kissed them as they wept aloud
10 and said, "Surely we will return with you to your people."
11 But Naomi replied, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you go
with me? Are there still sons in my womb to become your husbands?
12 Return home, my daughters. Go on, for I am too old to have another
husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me to have a husband
tonight and to bear sons,
13 would you wait for them to grow up? Would you refrain from having
husbands? No, my daughters, it is much more bitter for me than for you,
because the hand of the LORD has gone out against me."
14 Again they wept aloud, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye,
but Ruth clung to her.
15 "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people
and her gods; follow her back home."
16 But Ruth replied:

"Do not urge me to leave you
or to turn from following you.
For wherever you go, I will go,
and wherever you live, I will live;
your people will be my people,
and your God will be my God.

* **1:8 1:8** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

17 Where you die, I will die,
and there I will be buried.
May the LORD punish me,
and ever so severely,
if anything but death
separates you and me."
18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped trying to persuade her.
19 So Naomi and Ruth traveled until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women of the town exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"
20 "Do not call me Naomi,† " she replied. "Call me Mara,‡ because the Almighty§ has dealt quite bitterly with me.
21 I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? After all, the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me."
22 So Naomi returned from the land of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. And they arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

2

1 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a prominent man of noble character from the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.
2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go into the fields and glean heads of grain after someone in whose sight I may find favor."
"Go ahead, my daughter," Naomi replied.
3 So Ruth departed and went out into the field and gleaned after the harvesters. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.
4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and said to the harvesters, "The LORD be with you."
"The LORD bless you," they replied.
5 And Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "Whose young woman is this?"
6 The foreman answered, "She is the Moabitess who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab.
7 She has said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the harvesters.' So she came out and has continued from morning until now, except that she rested a short time in the shelter."
8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Do not go and glean in another field, and do not go away from this place, but stay here close to my servant girls.
9 Let your eyes be on the field they are harvesting, and follow along after these girls. Indeed, I have ordered the young men not to touch you. And when you are thirsty, go and drink from the jars the young men have filled."
10 At this, she fell on her face, bowing low to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you should take notice of me, even though I am a foreigner?"
11 Boaz replied, "I have been made fully aware of all you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, how you left your

† **1:20 1:20** *Naomi* means *pleasant*. ‡ **1:20 1:20** *Mara* means *bitter*. § **1:20 1:20** Hebrew *Shaddai*; also in verse 21

father and mother and the land of your birth, and how you came to a
people you did not know before.
12 May the LORD repay your work, and may you receive a rich reward
from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have taken
refuge."
13 "My lord," she said, "may I continue to find favor in your eyes, for you
have comforted and spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not
like one of your servant girls."
14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here; have some bread and
dip it into the vinegar sauce." So she sat down beside the harvesters, and
he offered her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied and had some
left over.
15 When Ruth got up to glean, Boaz ordered his young men, "Even if she
gathers among the sheaves, do not insult her.
16 Rather, pull out for her some stalks from the bundles and leave them
for her to gather. Do not rebuke her."
17 So Ruth gathered grain in the field until evening. And when she beat
out what she had gleaned, it was about an ephah of barley.*
18 She picked up the grain and went into the town, where her
mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. And she brought out what she
had saved from her meal and gave it to Naomi.
19 Then her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today, and
where did you work? Blessed be the man who noticed you."
So she told her mother-in-law where she had worked. "The name of the
man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.
20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the
LORD, who has not withdrawn his kindness from the living or the dead."
Naomi continued, "The man is a close relative. He is one of our
kinsman-redeemers.†"
21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also told me, 'Stay with my young
men until they have finished gathering all my harvest.' "
22 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, "My daughter, it is good
for you to work with his young women, so that nothing will happen to you
in another field."
23 So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean grain until
the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her
mother-in-law.

3

1 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, should
I not seek a resting place for you, that it may be well with you?
2 Now is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been working, a
relative of ours? In fact, tonight he is winnowing barley on the threshing
floor.
3 Therefore wash yourself, put on perfume, and wear your best clothes.*
Go down to the threshing floor, but do not let the man know you are there
until he has finished eating and drinking.

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* **2:17 2:17** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 29 pounds or 13.2 kilograms of barley). † **2:20 2:20** The Hebrew word for *kinsman-redeemer* or *guardian-redeemer* is a legal term for the kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative; see Leviticus 25:25–55. * **3:3 3:3** Qere; Ketiv *your cloak*

4 When he lies down, note the place where he lies. Then go in and
uncover his feet, and lie down, and he will explain to you what you should
do."
5 "I will do everything you say," Ruth answered.
6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her
mother-in-law had instructed her to do.
7 After Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he
went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then Ruth went in
secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.
8 At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet
was a woman!
9 "Who are you?" he asked.
"I am your servant Ruth," she replied. "Spread the corner of your
garment† over me, for you are a kinsman-redeemer.‡"
10 Then Boaz said, "May the LORD bless you, my daughter. You have
shown more kindness now than before, because you have not run after
the younger men, whether rich or poor.
11 And now do not be afraid, my daughter. I will do for you whatever
you request, since all my fellow townspeople know that you are a woman
of noble character.
12 Yes, it is true that§ I am a kinsman-redeemer, but there is a redeemer
nearer than I.*
13 Stay here tonight, and in the morning, if he wants to redeem you,
good. Let him redeem you. But if he does not want to redeem you, as
surely as the LORD lives, I will. Now lie here until morning."
14 So she lay down at his feet until morning, but she got up before
anyone else could recognize her.
Then Boaz said, "Do not let it be known that a woman came to the
threshing floor."
15 And he told her, "Bring the shawl you are wearing and hold it out."
When she did so, he poured in six measures of barley† and placed it on
her. Then he went‡ into the city.
16 When Ruth returned to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked her, "How did
it go, my daughter?"
Then Ruth told her all that Boaz had done for her.
17 And she said, "He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said,
'Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.' "
18 "Wait, my daughter," said Naomi, "until you find out how things go, for
he will not rest unless he has resolved the matter today."

4

1 Meanwhile, Boaz went to the gate and sat down there. Soon the
kinsman-redeemer* of whom he had spoken came along, and Boaz said,
"Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

† **3:9 3:9** Or *Spread your wing*; the word for *wing* can also mean *corner of a garment*; see Ruth 2:12. ‡ **3:9 3:9** The Hebrew word for *kinsman-redeemer* or *guardian-redeemer* is a legal term for the kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative; similarly in verses 12 and 13; see Leviticus 25:25–55. § **3:12 3:12** Ketiv adds *if*, not read * **3:12 3:12** That is, more closely related † **3:15 3:15** Possibly six seahs (two ephahs), or approximately 39.6 dry quarts or 43.8 liters (about 58 pounds or 26.3 kilograms of barley) ‡ **3:15 3:15** Most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac *she went* * **4:1 4:1** The Hebrew word for *kinsman-redeemer* or *guardian-redeemer* is a legal term for the kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative; also in verses 3, 6, 8, and 14; see Leviticus 25:25–55.

2 Then Boaz took ten of the elders of the city and said, “Sit here,” and
they did so.
3 And he said to the kinsman-redeemer, “Naomi, who has returned from
the land of Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother
Elimelech.
4 I thought I should inform you that you may buy it back in the presence
of those seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you
want to redeem it, do so. But if he† will not redeem it, tell me so I may
know, because there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after
you.”
“I will redeem it,” he replied.
5 Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi and also
from Ruth the Moabitess, you must also acquire‡ the widow of the
deceased in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance.”
6 The kinsman-redeemer replied, “I cannot redeem it myself, or I would
jeopardize my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption, because I
cannot redeem it.”
7 Now in former times in Israel, concerning the redemption or exchange
of property, to make any matter legally binding a man would remove his
sandal and give it to the other party, and this was a confirmation in Israel.
8 So the kinsman-redeemer removed his sandal and said to Boaz, “Buy it
for yourself.”
9 At this, Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses
today that I am buying from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech, Chilion,
and Mahlon.
10 Moreover, I have acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon’s widow, as my
wife, to raise up the name of the deceased through his inheritance, so that
his name will not disappear from among his brothers or from the gate of
his home. You are witnesses today.”
11 “We are witnesses,” said the elders and all the people at the gate. “May
the LORD make the woman entering your home like Rachel and Leah, who
together built up the house of Israel. May you be prosperous in Ephrathah
and famous in Bethlehem.
12 And may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar
bore to Judah, because of the offspring the LORD will give you by this
young woman.”
13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And when he had
relations with her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth
to a son.
14 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not
left you this day without a kinsman-redeemer. May his name become
famous in Israel.
15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your
daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has
given him birth.”
16 And Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and became a nurse
to him.
17 The neighbor women said, “A son has been born to Naomi,” and they
named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse, the father of David.
18 Now these are the generations of Perez:

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† **4:4 4:4** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *you* ‡ **4:5 4:5** Qere; Ketiv *I also acquire*

Perez was the father of Hezron,
19 Hezron was the father of Ram,
Ram was the father of Amminadab,
20 Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon was the father of Salma,§
21 Salmon was the father of Boaz,
Boaz was the father of Obed,
22 Obed was the father of Jesse,
and Jesse was the father of David.

§ **4:20 4:20** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Vulgate (see also verse 21 and LXX of 1 Chronicles 2:11) *Salmon*

Daniel

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah,
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
2 And the Lord delivered into his hand Jehoiakim king of Judah, along
with some of the articles from the house of God. He carried these off to the
land of Shinar,* to the house of his god, where he put them in the treasury
of his god.
3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to
bring in some Israelites from the royal family† and the nobility—
4 young men without blemish, handsome, gifted in all wisdom,
knowledgeable, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's
palace—and to teach them the language and literature of the Chaldeans.‡
5 The king assigned them daily provisions of the royal food and wine.
They were to be trained for three years, after which they were to enter the
king's service.
6 Among these young men were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah,
Mishael, and Azariah.
7 The chief official gave them new names: To Daniel he gave the name
Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to
Azariah, Abednego.
8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the
king's food or wine. So he asked the chief official for permission not to
defile himself.
9 Now God had granted Daniel favor and compassion from the chief
official,
10 but he said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has assigned your
food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking thinner than
those of the other young men your age? You would endanger my head
before the king!"
11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief official had appointed
over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,
12 "Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given only vegetables
to eat and water to drink.
13 Then compare our appearances with those of the young men who are
eating the royal food, and deal with your servants according to what you
see."
14 So he consented to this and tested them for ten days.
15 And at the end of ten days, they looked healthier and better nourished
than all the young men who were eating the king's food.
16 So the steward continued to withhold their choice food and the wine
they were to drink, and he gave them vegetables instead.
17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding in
every kind of literature and wisdom. And Daniel had insight into all kinds
of visions and dreams.
18 Now at the end of the time specified by the king, the chief official
presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.

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* **1:2 1:2** That is, Babylonia † **1:3 1:3** Hebrew *from the seed of the kingdom* ‡ **1:4 1:4** That is, the Babylonians

19 And the king spoke with them, and among all the young men he found
no one equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered
the king's service.
20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king
consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and
enchanters in his entire kingdom.
21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

2

1 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams that
troubled his spirit, and sleep escaped him.
2 So the king gave orders to summon the magicians, enchanters,
sorcerers, and Chaldeans* to explain his dreams. When they came and
stood before the king,
3 he said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to
understand it."
4 Then the Chaldeans answered the king in Aramaic,† "O king, may you
live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the
interpretation."
5 The king replied to the Chaldeans, "My word is final: If you do not tell
me the dream and its interpretation, you will be cut into pieces and your
houses will be reduced to rubble.
6 But if you tell me the dream and its interpretation, you will receive
from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and its
interpretation."
7 They answered a second time, "Let the king tell the dream to his
servants, and we will give the interpretation."
8 The king replied, "I know for sure that you are stalling for time because
you see that my word is final.
9 If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one decree for you. You
have conspired to speak before me false and fraudulent words, hoping the
situation will change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I will know that
you can give me its interpretation."
10 The Chaldeans answered the king, "No one on earth can do what the
king requests! No king, however great and powerful, has ever asked
anything like this of any magician, enchanter, or Chaldean.
11 What the king requests is so difficult that no one can tell it to him
except the gods, whose dwelling is not with mortals."
12 This response made the king so angry and furious that he gave orders
to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.
13 So the decree went out that the wise men were to be executed, and
men went to look for Daniel and his friends to execute them.
14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, went out to execute
the wise men of Babylon, Daniel responded with discretion and tact.
15 "Why is the decree from the king so harsh?" he asked Arioch, the
king's officer.
Then Arioch explained the situation to Daniel.
16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him some time, so that he
could give him the interpretation.

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* **2:2 2:2** Or *astrologers*; also in verses 4, 5, and 10 † **2:4 2:4** The original text from this point of Daniel 2:4 through Daniel 7:28 is in Aramaic.

17 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his
friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,
18 urging them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning
this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be killed with the
rest of the wise men of Babylon.
19 During the night, the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision, and
he blessed the God of heaven
20 and declared:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
for wisdom and power belong to him.
21 He changes the times and seasons;
he removes kings and establishes them.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.
22 He reveals the deep and hidden things;
he knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.
23 To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
because you have given me
wisdom and power.
And now you have made known to me
what we have requested,
for you have made known to us
the dream of the king."
24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to
destroy the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise
men of Babylon! Bring me before the king, and I will give him the
interpretation."
25 Arioch hastily brought Daniel before the king and said to him, "I have
found a man among the exiles from Judah who will tell the king the
interpretation."
26 The king responded to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you
able to tell me what I saw in the dream, as well as its interpretation?"
27 Daniel answered the king, "No wise man, enchanter, medium, or
magician can explain to the king the mystery of which he inquires.
28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made
known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the latter days. Your
dream and the visions that came into your mind as you lay on your bed
were these:
29 As you lay on your bed, O king, your thoughts turned to the future,
and the Revealer of Mysteries made known to you what will happen.
30 And to me this mystery has been revealed, not because I have more
wisdom than any man alive, but in order that the interpretation might be
made known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of
your mind.
31 As you, O king, were watching, a great statue‡ appeared. A great and
dazzling statue stood before you, and its form was awesome.
32 The head of the statue was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver,
its belly and thighs were bronze,

‡ **2:31 2:31** Or *image*; here and through the rest of Daniel 2

33 its legs were iron, and its feet were part iron and part clay.
34 As you watched, a stone was cut out,§ but not by human hands. It
struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.
35 Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were shattered and
became like chaff on the threshing floor in summer. The wind carried
them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that had
struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
36 This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation.
37 You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has
given sovereignty, power, strength, and glory.
38 Wherever the sons of men or beasts of the field or birds of the air
dwell, he has given them into your hand and has made you ruler over
them all. You are that head of gold.
39 But after you, there will arise another kingdom, inferior to yours.
Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule the whole earth.
40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; for iron
shatters and crushes all things, and like iron that crushes all things, it will
shatter and crush all the others.
41 And just as you saw that the feet and toes were made partly of fired
clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom, yet some of the
strength of iron will be in it—just as you saw the iron mixed with clay.
42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so this
kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.
43 As you saw the iron mixed with clay, so the peoples* will mix with one
another but will not hold together any more than iron mixes with clay.
44 In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom
that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will
shatter all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself stand
forever.
45 And just as you saw a stone being cut out of the mountain without
human hands, and it shattered the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold, so
the great God has told the king what will happen in the future.
The dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy."
46 At this, King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, paid homage to Daniel,
and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.
47 The king said to Daniel, "Your God is truly the God of gods and Lord of
kings, the Revealer of Mysteries, since you were able to reveal this
mystery."
48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many generous gifts. He
made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief
administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.
49 And at Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego to manage the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in
the king's court.

3

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue* sixty cubits high and six
cubits wide,† and he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of
Babylon.

§ **2:34 2:34** LXX *cut out from a mountain* * **2:43 2:43** Aramaic *the seed of men* * **3:1 3:1** Or *image*; here and throughout Daniel 3 † **3:1 3:1** The statue was approximately 90 feet high and 9 feet wide (27.4 meters high and 2.7 meters wide).

2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to assemble the satraps,
prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the
other officials of the provinces to attend the dedication of the statue he
had set up.
3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges,
magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces assembled for the
dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they
stood before it.
4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “O people of every nation and
language, this is what you are commanded:
5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp,
pipes, and all kinds of music,‡ you must fall down and worship the golden
statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.
6 And whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be
thrown into the blazing fiery furnace.”
7 Therefore, as soon as all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute,
zither, lyre, harp, and all kinds of music, the people of every nation and
language would fall down and worship the golden statue that King
Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
8 At this time some Chaldeans§ came forward and maliciously accused
the Jews,
9 saying to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, may you live forever!
10 You, O king, have issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound
of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music must fall
down and worship the golden statue,
11 and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into
the blazing fiery furnace.
12 But there are some Jews you have appointed to manage the province
of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—who have ignored you,
O king, and have refused to serve your gods or worship the golden statue
you have set up.”
13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, furious with rage, summoned Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king,
14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego, is it true that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden
statue I have set up?
15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp,
pipes, and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship
the statue I have made, very good. But if you refuse to worship, you will
be thrown at once into the blazing fiery furnace. Then what god will be
able to deliver you from my hands?”
16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, “O
Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.
17 If this be so, then the God whom we serve is able* to deliver us from
the blazing fiery furnace and from your hand, O king.
18 But even if he does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not
serve your gods or worship the golden statue you have set up.”

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‡ **3:5 3:5** The precise identification of some musical instruments in this chapter is uncertain. § **3:8 3:8** Or *astrologers* * **3:17 3:17** Or *If the God whom we serve exists, then he is able*

19 At this, Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on
his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave
orders to heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual,
20 and he commanded some mighty men of valor in his army to tie up
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing fiery
furnace.
21 So they were tied up, wearing robes, trousers, turbans, and other
clothes, and they were thrown into the blazing fiery furnace.
22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the
fiery flames killed the men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego.
23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, firmly
bound, fell into the blazing fiery furnace.
24 Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and asked
his advisers, "Did we not throw three men, firmly bound, into the fire?"
"Certainly, O king," they replied.
25 "Look!" he exclaimed. "I see four men, unbound and unharmed,
walking around in the fire—and the fourth looks like a son of the gods!"
26 Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the blazing fiery
furnace and called out, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of
the Most High God, come out!"
So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire,
27 and when the satraps, prefects, governors, and royal advisers had
gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of
these men. Not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were
unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them.
28 Nebuchadnezzar declared, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who
trusted in him. They violated the king's command and risked their lives
rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.
29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say
anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
will be cut into pieces and their houses reduced to rubble. For there is no
other god who can deliver in this way."
30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the
province of Babylon.
31 King Nebuchadnezzar,
To the people of every nation and language who dwell in all the earth:
May your prosperity be multiplied.
32 I am pleased to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God
has performed for me.

33 How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!
His kingdom is an eternal kingdom;
his dominion endures from generation to generation.

4

1 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my
palace.
2 I had a dream, and it frightened me; while I was in my bed, the images
and visions in my mind alarmed me.

3 So I issued a decree that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before
me to interpret the dream for me.
4 When the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans,* and diviners came in, I
told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me.
5 But at last, into my presence came Daniel (whose name is Belteshazzar
after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods). And
I told him the dream:
6 "O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the
holy gods is in you and that no mystery baffles you. So explain to me the
visions I saw in my dream, and their interpretation.
7 In these visions of my mind as I was lying in bed, I saw this come to
pass:

There was a tree in the midst of the land,
and its height was great.
8 The tree grew large and strong;
its top reached the sky,
and it was visible
to the ends of the earth.
9 Its leaves were beautiful,
its fruit was abundant,
and upon it was food for all.
Under it the beasts of the field found shelter,
in its branches the birds of the air nested,
and from it every creature was fed.
10 As I lay on my bed, I also saw in the visions of my mind a watcher,† a
holy one, coming down from heaven.
11 He called out in a loud voice:

'Cut down the tree and chop off its branches;
strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit.
Let the beasts flee from under it,
and the birds from its branches.
12 But leave the stump with its roots in the ground,
with a band of iron and bronze around it,
in the tender grass of the field.

Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven
and graze with the beasts on the grass of the earth.
13 Let his mind be changed from that of a man,
and let him be given the mind of a beast
till seven times pass him by.
14 This decision is the decree of the watchers,
the verdict declared by the holy ones,
so that the living will know
that the Most High rules over the kingdom of mankind
and gives it to whom he wishes,
setting over it the lowliest of men.'
15 This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. Now,
Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because none of the wise men of

* **4:4 4:4** Or *astrologers* † **4:10 4:10** Or *an angelic watcher* or *a messenger*; also in verses 14 and 20

my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you are able, because the spirit of
the holy gods is in you."
16 For a time, Daniel, who was also known as Belteshazzar, was
perplexed, and his thoughts alarmed him.
So the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation
alarm you."
"My lord," replied Belteshazzar, "may the dream apply to those who hate
you, and its interpretation to your enemies!
17 The tree you saw that grew large and strong, whose top reached the
sky and was visible to all the earth,
18 whose foliage was beautiful and whose fruit was abundant, providing
food for all, under which the beasts of the field lived, and in whose
branches the birds of the air nested—
19 you, O king, are that tree! For you have become great and strong;
your greatness has grown to reach the sky, and your dominion extends to
the ends of the earth.
20 And you, O king, saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from
heaven and saying:

'Cut down the tree and destroy it,
but leave the stump with its roots in the ground,
with a band of iron and bronze around it,
in the tender grass of the field.

Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven,
and graze with the beasts of the field
till seven times pass him by.'
21 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree that the Most
High has issued against my lord the king:
22 You will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling will be
with the beasts of the field. You will feed on grass like an ox and be
drenched with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass you by, until
you acknowledge that the Most High rules over the kingdom of mankind
and gives it to whom he wishes.
23 As for the command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots, your
kingdom will be restored to you as soon as you acknowledge that Heaven
rules.
24 Therefore, may my advice be pleasing to you, O king. Break away
from your sins by doing what is right, and from your iniquities by
showing mercy to the oppressed. Perhaps there will be an extension of
your prosperity."
25 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.
26 Twelve months later, as he was walking on the roof of the royal palace
of Babylon,
27 the king exclaimed, "Is this not Babylon the Great, which I myself have
built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of
my majesty?"
28 While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from
heaven: "It is decreed to you, King Nebuchadnezzar, that the kingdom has
departed from you.
29 You will be driven away from mankind to live with the beasts of the
field, and you will feed on grass like an ox. And seven times will pass you

by, until you acknowledge that the Most High rules over the kingdom of
mankind and gives it to whom he wishes."
30 At that moment the sentence against Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled.
He was driven away from mankind. He ate grass like an ox, and his body
was drenched with the dew of heaven, until his hair grew like the feathers
of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.
31 But at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven,
and my sanity was restored to me. Then I praised the Most High, and I
honored and glorified him who lives forever:

"For his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation.
32 All the peoples of the earth
are counted as nothing,
and he does as he pleases
with the army of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.
There is no one who can restrain his hand
or say to him, 'What have you done?' "
33 At the same time my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor
returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles
sought me out, and I was restored to my throne, and surpassing greatness
was added to me.
34 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of
heaven, for all his works are true and all his ways are just. And he is able
to humble those who walk in pride.

5

1 Later,* King Belshazzar held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles,
and he drank wine with them.
2 Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the
gold and silver vessels that Nebuchadnezzar his father† had taken from
the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king could drink from them, along
with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines.
3 Thus they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the
temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king drank from them,
along with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines.
4 As they drank the wine, they praised their gods of gold and silver,
bronze and iron, wood and stone.
5 At that moment the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on
the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. As the king
watched the hand that was writing,
6 his face grew pale and his thoughts so alarmed him that his hips gave
way and his knees knocked together.
7 The king called out for the enchanters, Chaldeans,‡ and diviners to be
brought in, and he said to these wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this
inscription and tells me its interpretation will be clothed in purple and
have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third
highest ruler in the kingdom."

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* **5:1 5:1** Aramaic does not include *Later*. Some translators include *Many years later* to account for the time elapsed, probably about 30 years, since the previous chapter. † **5:2 5:2** Or *predecessor* or *grandfather*; also in verses 11, 13, and 18 ‡ **5:7 5:7** Or *astrologers*; also in verse 11

8 So all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the
inscription or interpret it for him.
9 Then King Belshazzar became even more terrified, his face grew even
more pale, and his nobles were bewildered.
10 Hearing the outcry of the king and his nobles, the queen§ entered the
banquet hall. "O king, may you live forever!" she said. "Do not let your
thoughts terrify you, or your face grow pale.
11 There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in
him. In the days of your father he was found to have insight, intelligence,
and wisdom like that of the gods.
Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the
magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and diviners. Your own father, the king,
12 did this because Daniel, the one he named Belteshazzar, was found to
have an extraordinary spirit, as well as knowledge, understanding, and
the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult
problems. Summon Daniel, therefore, and he will give you the
interpretation."
13 So Daniel was brought before the king, who asked him, "Are you
Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah?
14 I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that you have
insight, intelligence, and extraordinary wisdom.
15 Now the wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read
this inscription and interpret it for me, but they could not give its
interpretation.
16 But I have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations
and solve difficult problems. Therefore, if you can read this inscription
and give me its interpretation, you will be clothed in purple and have a
gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third
highest ruler in the kingdom."
17 In response, Daniel said to the king, "You may keep your gifts for
yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read
the inscription for the king and interpret it for him.
18 As for you, O king, the Most High God gave your father
Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness, glory and honor.
19 Because of the greatness that he bestowed on him, the people of every
nation and language trembled in fear before him. He killed whom he
wished and kept alive whom he wished; he exalted whom he wished and
humbled whom he wished.
20 But when his heart became arrogant and his spirit was hardened with
pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and his glory was taken from
him.
21 He was driven away from mankind, and his mind was like that of a
beast. He lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like an ox, and his
body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he acknowledged that
the Most High God rules over the kingdom of mankind, setting over it
whom he wishes.
22 But you his son,* O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even
though you knew all this.
23 Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven. The
vessels from his house were brought to you, and as you drank wine from

§ **5:10 5:10** Or *queen mother* * **5:22 5:22** Or *descendant* or *successor* or *grandson*

them with your nobles, wives, and concubines, you praised your gods of
silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or
hear or understand. But you have failed to glorify the God who holds in
his hand your very breath and all your ways.
24 Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.
25 Now this is the inscription that was written:
MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN.
26 And this is the interpretation of the message:

MENE† means that God has numbered the days of your reign and
brought it to an end.
27 TEKEL‡ means that you have been weighed on the scales and found
deficient.
28 PERES§ means that your kingdom has been divided and given over to
the Medes and Persians."
29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel in
purple, placed a gold chain around his neck, and proclaimed him the third
highest ruler in the kingdom.
30 That very night Belshazzar king of the Chaldeans* was slain,

6

1 and Darius the Mede received the kingdom at the age of sixty-two.
2 Now it pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the
kingdom,
3 and over them three administrators, including Daniel, to whom these
satraps were accountable so that the king would not suffer loss.
4 Soon, by his extraordinary spirit, Daniel distinguished himself among
the administrators and satraps. So the king planned to set him over the
whole kingdom.
5 Thus the administrators and satraps sought a charge against Daniel
concerning the kingdom, but they could find no charge or corruption,
because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found
in him.
6 Finally these men said, "We will never find any charge against this
Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his
God."
7 So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said,
"O King Darius, may you live forever!
8 All the royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors
have agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce a
decree that for thirty days anyone who petitions any god or man except
you, O king, will be thrown into the den of lions.
9 Therefore, O king, establish the decree and sign the document so that it
cannot be changed—in accordance with the law of the Medes and
Persians, which cannot be repealed."
10 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.
11 Now when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he
went into his house, where the windows of his upper room opened toward

† **5:26 5:26** *Mene* sounds like the Aramaic for *numbered.* ‡ **5:27 5:27** *Tekel* sounds like the Aramaic for *weighed.* § **5:28 5:28** *Peres* (the singular of *Parsin*) sounds like the Aramaic for *divided* and for *Persia.* * **5:30 5:30** That is, the Babylonians

Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and
gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.
12 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel petitioning and
imploring his God.
13 So they approached the king and asked about his royal decree: “Did
you not sign a decree that for thirty days any man who petitions any god
or man except you, O king, will be thrown into the den of lions?”
The king replied, “According to the law of the Medes and Persians the
order stands, and it cannot be repealed.”
14 Then they told the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, shows
no regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed. He still
makes his petition three times a day.”
15 As soon as the king heard this, he was deeply distressed and set his
mind on delivering Daniel, and he labored until sundown to rescue him.
16 Then the men approached the king together and said to him,
“Remember, O king, that by the law of the Medes and Persians no decree
or ordinance established by the king can be changed.”
17 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him
into the den of lions.
The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually,
deliver you!”
18 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the
king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so
that nothing concerning Daniel could be changed.
19 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting. No
entertainment was brought before him, and sleep fled from him.
20 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the den of
lions.
21 When he reached the den, he cried out in a voice of anguish, “O
Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve
continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”
22 Then Daniel replied, “O king, may you live forever!
23 My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not
hurt me, for I was found innocent in his sight, and I have done no wrong
against you, O king.”
24 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den,
and when Daniel was lifted out of the den, no wounds whatsoever were
found on him, because he had trusted in his God.
25 At the command of the king, the men who had falsely accused Daniel
were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they and their children
and wives. And before they had reached the bottom of the den, the lions
overpowered them and crushed all their bones.
26 Then King Darius wrote to the people of every nation and language
throughout the land: “May your prosperity abound.
27 I hereby decree that in every part of my kingdom, men are to tremble
in fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God,
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his dominion will never end.
28 He delivers and rescues;

he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth,
for he has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."
29 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of
Cyrus* the Persian.

7

1 In the first year of the reign of Belshazzar over Babylon, Daniel had a
dream, and visions passed through his mind as he lay on his bed. He
wrote down the dream, and this is the summary of his account.
2 Daniel declared: "In my vision in the night I looked, and suddenly the
four winds of heaven were churning up the great sea.*
3 Then four great beasts came up out of the sea, each one different from
the others:

4 The first beast was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I
watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted up from the
ground and made to stand on two feet like a man and given the mind
of a man.
5 Suddenly another beast appeared, a second one, which looked like a
bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its
mouth between its teeth. So it was told, 'Get up and gorge yourself on
flesh!'
6 Next, as I watched, suddenly another beast appeared. It was like a
leopard, and on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. The
beast also had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.
7 After this, as I watched in my vision in the night, suddenly a fourth
beast appeared, and it was terrifying—dreadful and extremely
strong—with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed; then it
trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the
beasts before it, and it had ten horns.
8 While I was contemplating the horns, suddenly another horn, a little
one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted
before it. This horn had eyes like those of a man and a mouth that spoke
words of arrogance.
9 As I continued to watch,

thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head was like pure wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.
10 A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from his presence.
Thousands upon thousands attended him,
and myriads upon myriads stood before him.
The court was convened,
and the books were opened.

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* **6:29 6:29** Or *prospered during the reign of Darius, that is, the reign of Cyrus the Great Sea*, that is, the Mediterranean Sea * **7:2 7:2** Perhaps

11 Then I kept watching because of the arrogant words the horn was
speaking. As I continued to watch, the beast was slain, and its body was
destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.
12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was removed, but they
were granted an extension of life for a season and a time.
13 In my vision in the night I continued to watch,

and I saw one like a son of man
coming with the clouds of heaven.
He approached the Ancient of Days
and was led into his presence.
14 And he was given dominion,
glory, and kingship,
that the people of every nation and language
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that will not pass away,
and his kingdom is one
that will never be destroyed.

15 I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit, and the visions in my mind
alarmed me.
16 I approached one of those who were standing there, and I asked him
the true meaning of all this.
So he told me the interpretation of these things:
17 'These four great beasts are four kings who will arise from the earth.
18 But the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and
possess it forever—yes, forever and ever.'
19 Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which
was different from all the others—extremely terrifying—devouring and
crushing with iron teeth and bronze claws, then trampling underfoot
whatever was left.
20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and the other
horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn whose
appearance was more imposing than the others, with eyes and with a
mouth that spoke words of arrogance.
21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy ones and
prevailing against them,
22 until the Ancient of Days arrived and pronounced judgment in favor
of the holy ones of the Most High, and the time came for them to possess
the kingdom.
23 This is what he said: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will
appear on the earth, different from all the other kingdoms, and it will
devour the whole earth, trample it down, and crush it.
24 And the ten horns are ten kings who will rise from this kingdom.
After them another king, different from the earlier ones, will rise and
subdue three kings.
25 He will speak out against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of
the Most High, intending to change the appointed times and laws; and the
holy ones will be given into his hand for a time, and times, and half a time.
26 But the court will convene, and his dominion will be taken away and
completely destroyed forever.

27 Then the sovereignty, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under
all of heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High.
His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and
obey him.'
28 Thus ends the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts troubled me
greatly, and my face turned pale. But I kept the matter to myself."

8

1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar, a vision appeared to
me, Daniel, subsequent to the one that had appeared to me earlier.
2 And in the vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa, in the province of
Elam. I saw in the vision that I was beside the Ulai Canal.
3 Then I lifted up my eyes and saw a ram with two horns standing beside
the canal. The horns were long, but one was longer than the other, and the
longer one grew up later.
4 I saw the ram charging toward the west and the north and the south.
No animal could stand against him, and there was no deliverance from his
power. He did as he pleased and became great.
5 As I was contemplating all this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn
between his eyes came out of the west, crossing the surface of the entire
earth without touching the ground.
6 He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the
canal and rushed at him with furious power.
7 I saw him approach the ram in a rage against him, and he struck the
ram and shattered his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against
him, and the goat threw him to the ground and trampled him, and no one
could deliver the ram from his power.
8 Thus the goat became very great, but at the height of his power, his
large horn was broken off, and four prominent horns came up in its place,
pointing toward the four winds of heaven.
9 From one of these horns a little horn emerged and grew extensively
toward the south and the east and toward the Beautiful Land.
10 It grew as high as the host of heaven, and it cast down some of the
host and some of the stars to the earth and trampled them.
11 It magnified itself, even to the Prince of the host; the daily sacrifice
was taken away from him,* and the place of his sanctuary was thrown
down.
12 And in the rebellion,† the host and the daily sacrifice were given over
to the horn, and it flung truth to the ground and prospered in whatever it
did.
13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him,
"How long until the fulfillment of the vision of the daily sacrifice, the
rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and
of the host to be trampled?"
14 He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the
sanctuary will be properly restored."
15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it,
there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.
16 And I heard the voice of a man calling from between the banks of the
Ulai: "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man."

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* **8:11 8:11** Qere; Ketiv *it took away the daily sacrifice* † **8:12 8:12** Or *on account of transgression*

17 As he came near to where I stood, I was terrified and fell facedown.
"Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."
18 While he was speaking with me, I fell into a deep sleep, with my face to the ground.
Then he touched me, helped me to my feet,
19 and said, "Behold, I will make known to you what will happen in the latter time of wrath, because it concerns the appointed time of the end.
20 The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.
21 The shaggy goat represents the king of Greece,‡ and the large horn between his eyes is the first king.
22 The four horns that replaced the broken one represent four kingdoms that will rise from that nation but will not have the same power.
23 In the latter part of their reign, when the rebellion has reached its full measure, an insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne.
24 His power will be great, but it will not be his own. He will cause terrible destruction and succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men along with the holy people.
25 Through his craft and by his hand, he will cause deceit to prosper, and in his own mind he will make himself great. In a time of peace he will destroy many, and he will even stand against the prince of princes. Yet he will be broken off, but not by human hands.
26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been spoken is true. Now you must seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."
27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was confounded by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

9

1 In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus, a Mede by descent, who was made ruler over the kingdom of the Chaldeans*—
2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the sacred books, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.†
3 So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.
4 And I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed, "O, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of loving devotion‡ to those who love him and keep his commandments,
5 we have sinned and done wrong. We have acted wickedly and rebelled. We have turned away from your commandments and ordinances.
6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, leaders, fathers, and all the people of the land.
7 To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but this day we are covered with shame—the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, and all Israel near and far, in all the countries to which you have driven us because of our unfaithfulness to you.

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‡ **8:21 8:21** Hebrew *of Javan* * **9:1 9:1** That is, the Babylonians † **9:2 9:2** See Jeremiah 25:11–12 and Jeremiah 29:10. ‡ **9:4 9:4** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

8 O LORD, we are covered with shame—our kings, our leaders, and our
fathers—because we have sinned against you.
9 To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, even though
we have rebelled against him
10 and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God to walk in his
laws, which he set before us through his servants the prophets.
11 All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey
your voice; so the oath and the curse written in the Teaching of Moses the
servant of God has been poured out on us, because we have sinned
against him.
12 You have carried out the word§ spoken against us and against our
rulers by bringing upon us a great disaster. For under all of heaven,
nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.
13 Just as it is written in the Teaching of Moses, all this disaster has come
upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning
from our iniquities and giving attention to your truth.
14 Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it
upon us. For the LORD our God is righteous in all he does; yet we have not
obeyed his voice.
15 Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of
Egypt with a mighty hand, and who made for yourself a name renowned
to this day, we have sinned; we have acted wickedly.
16 O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, I pray that your anger
and wrath may turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain;
for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and
your people are a reproach to all around us.
17 So now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For
your sake, O Lord, cause your face to shine upon your desolate sanctuary.
18 Incline your ear, O my God, and hear; open your eyes and see our
desolations and the city that bears your name. For we are not presenting
our petitions before you because of our righteous acts, but because of
your great compassion.
19 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O
my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your name.”
20 While I was speaking, praying, confessing my sin and that of my
people Israel, and presenting my petition before the LORD my God
concerning his holy mountain—
21 while I was still praying, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier
vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.
22 He instructed me and spoke with me, saying: “O Daniel, I have come
now to give you insight and understanding.
23 At the beginning of your petitions, an answer went out, and I have
come to tell you, for you are highly precious. So consider the message and
understand the vision:
24 Seventy weeks* are decreed for your people and your holy city to stop
their transgression, to put an end to sin,† to make atonement for iniquity,
to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and
to anoint the Holy of Holies.‡

§ **9:12 9:12** Qere; Ketiv *words* * **9:24 9:24** Or *Seventy sevens*; also twice in verse 25 and once in verse 26 † **9:24 9:24** Qere; Ketiv *to seal up sins* ‡ **9:24 9:24** Or *the Most Holy Place*; literally *the Most Holy*

25 Know and understand this: From the issuance of the decree to restore
and rebuild Jerusalem until an anointed one, a prince,§ there will be
seven weeks; and for sixty-two weeks it will be rebuilt with streets and a
trench, but in times of distress.*
26 Then after the sixty-two weeks† an anointed one will be cut off and
will have nothing.
Then the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and
the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood, and until the end there will
be war; desolations have been decreed.
27 And he will confirm a covenant with many for one week,‡ but in the
middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the
wing will come the abomination that causes desolation,§ until the decreed
destruction is poured out upon him.*"

10

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a message was revealed to
Daniel, who was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, and it
concerned a great conflict.* And the understanding of the message was
given to him in a vision.
2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three full weeks.
3 I ate no rich food, no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I did not
anoint myself with oil until the three weeks were completed.
4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the
bank of the great river, the Tigris,
5 I lifted up my eyes, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in
linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.
6 His body was like beryl, his face like the brilliance of lightning, his eyes
like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of polished bronze,
and his voice like the sound of a multitude.
7 Only I, Daniel, saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but a
great terror fell upon them, and they ran and hid themselves.
8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision. No strength remained in
me; my face grew deathly pale, and I was powerless.
9 I heard the sound of his words, and as I listened, I fell into a deep
sleep, with my face to the ground.
10 Suddenly, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and
knees.
11 He said to me, "Daniel, you are a man who is highly precious.
Consider carefully the words that I am about to say to you. Stand up, for I
have now been sent to you."
And when he had said this to me, I stood up trembling.
12 "Do not be afraid, Daniel," he said, "for from the first day that you
purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your
words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

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§ **9:25 9:25** Or *until the anointed one, the prince* * **9:25 9:25** So the Masoretic accents (atnach after *seven weeks*); others read *there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will be rebuilt …* † **9:26 9:26** Hebrew *Then after sixty-two sevens* ‡ **9:27 9:27** Or *for one seven*; similarly again in this verse § **9:27 9:27** Or *And on the wing of abominations will come one who causes desolation*; LXX *And on the temple will come the abomination* * **9:27 9:27** Literally *until the decreed consummation is poured out upon (him who) is desolate.* * **10:1 10:1** Or *true and greatly burdensome*

13 However, the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for
twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me,
for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.
14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in
the latter days, for the vision concerns those days."

15 While he was speaking these words to me, I set my face toward the
ground and became speechless.
16 And suddenly one with the likeness of a man† touched my lips, and I
opened my mouth and said to the one standing before me, "My lord,
because of the vision, I am overcome with anguish, and I have no strength.
17 How can I, your servant, speak with you, my lord? Now I have no
strength, nor is any breath left in me."

18 Again the one with the likeness of a man touched me and
strengthened me.
19 "Do not be afraid, you who are highly precious," he said. "Peace be
with you! Be strong now; be very strong!"

As he spoke with me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, for
you have strengthened me."

20 "Do you know why I have come to you?" he said. "I must return at
once to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I have gone forth,
behold, the prince of Greece‡ will come.
21 But first I will tell you what is inscribed in the Book of Truth. Yet no
one has the courage to support me against these, except Michael your
prince.

11

1 "And I, in the first year of Darius the Mede, stood up to strengthen and
protect him.

2 Now then, I will tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in
Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. By the
power of his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of
Greece.*
3 Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great authority and
do as he pleases.
4 But as soon as he is established, his kingdom will be broken up and
parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his
descendants, nor will it have the authority with which he ruled, because
his kingdom will be uprooted and given to others.

5 The king of the South will grow strong, but one of his commanders will
grow even stronger and will rule his own kingdom with great authority.

6 After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the
king of the South will go to the king of the North to seal the agreement.
But his daughter will not retain her position of power, nor will his
strength† endure. At that time she will be given up, along with her royal
escort and her father‡ and the one who supported her.

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† **10:16 10:16** Most MT manuscripts; literally *with the likeness of sons of man*; DSS, LXX, and one MT manuscript *with the likeness of the hand of a man* ‡ **10:20 10:20** Hebrew *of Javan* * **11:2 11:2** Hebrew *of Javan* † **11:6 11:6** Or *offspring* ‡ **11:6 11:6** Or *child*; see Vulgate and Syriac.

7 But a branch from her roots§ will rise up in his place, come against the
army of the king of the North, and enter his fortress, fighting and
prevailing.
8 He will take even their gods captive to Egypt, with their metal images
and their precious vessels of silver and gold. For some years he will stay
away from the king of the North,
9 who will invade the realm of the king of the South and then return to
his own land.
10 But his sons* will stir up strife and assemble a great army, which will
advance forcefully, sweeping through like a flood, and will again carry the
battle† as far as his fortress.
11 In a rage, the king of the South will march out to fight the king of the
North, who will raise a large army, but it will be delivered into the hand of
his enemy.
12 When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be proud in
heart and will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not triumph.
13 For the king of the North will raise another army, larger than the first,
and after some years‡ he will advance with a great army and many
supplies.
14 In those times many will rise up against the king of the South. Violent
ones among your own people will exalt themselves in fulfillment of the
vision, but they will fail.
15 Then the king of the North will come, build up a siege ramp, and
capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will not stand; even their
best troops will not be able to resist.
16 The invader will do as he pleases, and no one will stand against him.
He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his
hand.
17 He will resolve to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and
will reach an agreement with the king of the South. He will give him a
daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plan will
not succeed or help him.§
18 Then he will set his face toward the coastlands* and capture many of
them. But a commander will put an end to his reproach and will turn it
back upon him.
19 After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own land, but
he will stumble and fall and be no more.
20 In his place one will arise who will send out a tax collector for the
glory of the kingdom; but within a few days he will be destroyed, though
not in anger or in battle.
21 In his place a despicable person will arise; royal honors will not be
given to him, but he will come in a time of peace and seize the kingdom by
intrigue.
22 Then a flood of forces will be swept away before him and destroyed,
along with a prince of the covenant.
23 After an alliance is made with him, he will act deceitfully; for he will
rise to power with only a few people.

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§ **11:7 11:7** Or *one from her family line* * **11:10 11:10** Qere; Ketiv *his son* † **11:10 11:10** Qere; Ketiv *they will again wage war* ‡ **11:13 11:13** Hebrew *at the end of the times* § **11:17 11:17** Or *but she will not stand with him or support him* * **11:18 11:18** Qere; Ketiv *turn his face*

24 In a time of peace, he will invade the richest provinces and do what
his fathers and forefathers never did. He will lavish plunder, loot, and
wealth on his followers, and he will plot against the strongholds—but only
for a time.
25 And with a large army he will stir up his power and his courage
against the king of the South, who will mobilize a very large and powerful
army but will not withstand the plots devised against him.
26 Those who eat from his provisions will seek to destroy him; his army
will be swept away, and many will fall slain.
27 And the two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will speak lies at the
same table, but to no avail, for still the end will come at the appointed
time.
28 The king of the North will return to his land with great wealth, but his
heart will be set against the holy covenant; so he will do damage and
return to his own land.
29 At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time
will not be like the first.
30 Ships of Kittim† will come against him, and he will lose heart. Then he
will turn back and rage against the holy covenant and do damage. So he
will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.
31 His forces will rise up and desecrate the temple fortress. They will
abolish the daily sacrifice and set up the abomination of desolation.
32 With flattery he will corrupt those who violate the covenant, but the
people who know their God will firmly resist him.
33 Those with insight will instruct many, though for a time they will fall
by sword or flame, or be captured or plundered.
34 Now when they fall, they will be granted a little help, but many will
join them insincerely.
35 Some of the wise will fall so that they may be refined, purified, and
made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the
appointed time.
36 Then the king will do as he pleases and will exalt and magnify himself
above every god, and he will speak monstrous things against the God of
gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what
has been decreed must be accomplished.
37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers, nor for the one
desired by women, nor for any other god, because he will magnify himself
above them all.
38 And in their place, he will honor a god of fortresses—a god his fathers
did not know—with gold, silver, precious stones, and riches.
39 He will attack the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god
and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him, making them rulers
over many and distributing the land for a price.‡
40 At the time of the end, the king of the South will engage him in
battle,§ but the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots,
horsemen, and many ships, invading many countries and sweeping
through them like a flood.
41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall.
But these will be delivered from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the leaders of
the Ammonites.

† **11:30 11:30** Or *western coastlands* or *Mediterranean islands* ‡ **11:39 11:39** Or *for a reward*
§ **11:40 11:40** Hebrew *will thrust at him*

42 He will extend his power over many countries, and not even the land
of Egypt will escape.
43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and over all the
riches of Egypt, and the Libyans and Cushites* will also submit to him.
44 But news from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will go
out with great fury to destroy many and devote them to destruction.†
45 He will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful holy
mountain, but he will meet his end with no one to help him.

12

1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your
people, will rise up. There will be a time of distress, the likes of which will
not have occurred from the beginning of nations until that time. But at
that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the
book—will be delivered.
2 And many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to
everlasting life, but others to shame and everlasting contempt.
3 Then the wise will shine like the brightness of the expanse,* and those
who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.
4 But you, Daniel, shut up these words and seal the book until the time of
the end. Many will roam to and fro, and knowledge will increase."
5 Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing there, one on this
bank of the river and one on the opposite bank.
6 One of them said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the
waters of the river, "How long until the fulfillment of these wonders?"
7 And the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river,
raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him
swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, and times,
and half a time. When the power of the holy people has finally been
shattered, all these things will be completed."
8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will be the
outcome of these things?"
9 "Go on your way, Daniel," he replied, "for the words are closed up and
sealed until the time of the end.
10 Many will be purified, made spotless, and refined, but the wicked will
continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked will understand, but the wise
will understand.
11 And from the time the daily sacrifice is abolished and the
abomination of desolation set up, there will be 1,290 days.
12 Blessed is he who waits and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.
13 But as for you, go on your way until the end. You will rest, and then
you will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

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* **11:43 11:43** That is, people from the upper Nile region † **11:44 11:44** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **12:3 12:3** Or *heavens* or *firmament*; see also Genesis 1:6–8.

Ezra

1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD
spoken through Jeremiah, the LORD stirred the spirit of Cyrus king of
Persia to send a proclamation throughout his kingdom and to put it in
writing as follows:
2 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:
'The LORD, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms of the
earth, has appointed me to build a house for him at Jerusalem in Judah.
3 Whoever among you belongs to his people, may his God be with him,
and may he go to Jerusalem in Judah and build the house of the LORD, the
God of Israel; he is the God who is in Jerusalem.
4 And let every survivor, wherever he lives, be assisted by the men of
that region with silver, gold, goods, and livestock, along with a freewill
offering for the house of God in Jerusalem.' "
5 So the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, along with the priests and
Levites—everyone whose spirit God had stirred—prepared to go up and
rebuild the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.
6 And all their neighbors supported them with articles of silver and gold,
with goods and livestock, and with valuables, in addition to all their
freewill offerings.
7 King Cyrus also brought out the articles belonging to the house of the
LORD that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed
in the temple of his gods.
8 Cyrus king of Persia had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath
the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.*
9 This was the inventory:

30 gold basins,†
1,000 silver basins,
29 utensils,
10 30 gold bowls,
410 matching silver bowls,
and 1,000 other articles.
11 In all, there were 5,400 gold and silver articles. Sheshbazzar brought
all these along when the exiles went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2

1 Now these are the people of the province who came up from the
captivity of the exiles carried away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar its
king. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town,
2 accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah,
Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.*
This is the count of the men of Israel:

3 the descendants of Parosh, 2,172;
4 the descendants of Shephatiah, 372;

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* **1:8 1:8** That is, the leader of the exiles returning to Judah † **1:9 1:9** Or *dishes*; twice in this verse

* **2:2 2:2** Parallel text at Nehemiah 7:7 *accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah*

5 the descendants of Arah, 775;
6 the descendants of Pahath-moab (through the line of Jeshua and Joab),
2,812;
7 the descendants of Elam, 1,254;
8 the descendants of Zattu, 945;
9 the descendants of Zaccai, 760;
10 the descendants of Bani,† 642;
11 the descendants of Bebai, 623;
12 the descendants of Azgad, 1,222;
13 the descendants of Adonikam, 666;
14 the descendants of Bigvai, 2,056;
15 the descendants of Adin, 454;
16 the descendants of Ater (through Hezekiah), 98;
17 the descendants of Bezai, 323;
18 the descendants of Jorah,‡ 112;
19 the descendants of Hashum, 223;
20 the descendants of Gibbar,§ 95;
21 the men* of Bethlehem, 123;
22 the men of Netophah, 56;
23 the men of Anathoth, 128;
24 the descendants of Azmaveth,† 42;
25 the men of Kiriath-arim,‡ Chephirah, and Beeroth, 743;
26 the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;
27 the men of Michmash, 122;
28 the men of Bethel and Ai, 223;
29 the descendants of Nebo, 52;
30 the descendants of Magbish, 156;
31 the descendants of the other Elam,§ 1,254;
32 the descendants of Harim, 320;
33 the men of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 725;
34 the men of Jericho, 345;
35 and the descendants of Senaah, 3,630.
36 The priests:

The descendants of Jedaiah (through the house of Jeshua), 973;
37 the descendants of Immer, 1,052;
38 the descendants of Pashhur, 1,247;
39 and the descendants of Harim, 1,017.
40 The Levites:

the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel (through the line of Hodaviah*),
74.
41 The singers:

the descendants of Asaph, 128.
42 The gatekeepers:

† **2:10 2:10** *Bani* is a variant of *Binnui*; see Nehemiah 7:15. ‡ **2:18 2:18** *Jorah* is a variant of *Hariph*; see Nehemiah 7:24. § **2:20 2:20** *Gibbar* is a variant of *Gibeon*; see Nehemiah 7:25. * **2:21 2:21** Literally *the sons*; here and in verses 25, 26, 33, and 34 † **2:24 2:24** *Azmaveth* is a variant of *Beth-azmaveth*; see Nehemiah 7:28. ‡ **2:25 2:25** LXX (see also Nehemiah 7:29) *Kiriath-jearim* § **2:31 2:31** Or *of West Elam* * **2:40 2:40** *Hodaviah* is a variant of *Hodevah*; see Nehemiah 7:43.

the descendants of Shallum,
the descendants of Ater,
the descendants of Talmon,
the descendants of Akkub,
the descendants of Hatita,
and the descendants of Shobai,
139 in all.
43 The temple servants:†

the descendants of Ziha,
the descendants of Hasupha,
the descendants of Tabbaoth,
44 the descendants of Keros,
the descendants of Siaha,‡
the descendants of Padon,
45 the descendants of Lebanah,
the descendants of Hagabah,
the descendants of Akkub,
46 the descendants of Hagab,
the descendants of Shalmai,§
the descendants of Hanan,
47 the descendants of Giddel,
the descendants of Gahar,
the descendants of Reaiah,
48 the descendants of Rezin,
the descendants of Nekoda,
the descendants of Gazzam,
49 the descendants of Uzza,
the descendants of Paseah,
the descendants of Besai,
50 the descendants of Asnah,
the descendants of Meunim,
the descendants of Nephusim,*
51 the descendants of Bakbuk,
the descendants of Hakupha,
the descendants of Harhur,
52 the descendants of Bazluth,†
the descendants of Mehida,
the descendants of Harsha,
53 the descendants of Barkos,
the descendants of Sisera,
the descendants of Temah,
54 the descendants of Neziah,
and the descendants of Hatipha.
55 The descendants of the servants of Solomon:

the descendants of Sotai,
the descendants of Hassophereth,
the descendants of Peruda,‡
56 the descendants of Jaala,

† **2:43 2:43** Hebrew *The Nethinim*; also in verses 58 and 70 ‡ **2:44 2:44** *Siaha* is a variant of *Sia*; see Nehemiah 7:47. § **2:46 2:46** Qere (see also Nehemiah 7:48); Ketiv *Shamlai* * **2:50 2:50** *Nephusim* is a variant of *Nephushesim*; see Nehemiah 7:52. † **2:52 2:52** *Bazluth* is a variant of *Bazlith*; see Nehemiah 7:54. ‡ **2:55 2:55** *Peruda* is a variant of *Perida*; see Nehemiah 7:57.

the descendants of Darkon,
the descendants of Giddel,
57 the descendants of Shephatiah,
the descendants of Hattil,
the descendants of Pochereth-hazzebaim,
and the descendants of Ami.§
58 The temple servants and descendants of the servants of Solomon
numbered 392 in all.
59 The following came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan,*
and Immer, but they could not prove that their families were descended
from Israel:

60 the descendants of Delaiah,
the descendants of Tobiah,
and the descendants of Nekoda,
652 in all.

61 And from among the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah,
the descendants of Hakkoz,
and the descendants of Barzillai (who had married a daughter of
Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name).

62 These men searched for their family records, but they could not find
them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.
63 The governor ordered them not to eat the most holy things until there
was a priest to consult the Urim and Thummim.†
64 The whole assembly numbered 42,360,
65 in addition to their 7,337 male and female slaves, as well as their 200
male and female singers.
66 They had 736 horses, 245 mules,
67 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.
68 When they arrived at the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, some of the
heads of the families gave freewill offerings to rebuild the house of God on
its original site.
69 According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for this work
61,000 gold drachmas,‡ 5,000 minas of silver,§ and 100 priestly garments.
70 So the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple
servants, along with some of the people, settled in their own towns; and
all Israel* settled in their towns.

3

1 By the seventh month, the Israelites had settled in their towns, and the
people assembled as one man in Jerusalem.
2 Then Jeshua son of Jozadak* and his fellow priests, along with
Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates, began to build the altar of
the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the
Teaching of Moses the man of God.

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§ **2:57 2:57** *Ami* is a variant of *Amon*; see Nehemiah 7:59. * **2:59 2:59** *Addan* is a variant of *Addon*; see Nehemiah 7:61. † **2:63 2:63** Literally *Lights and Perfections* ‡ **2:69 2:69** Or *61,000 darics of gold*; that is, approximately 1,129.7 pounds or 512.4 kilograms of gold coins § **2:69 2:69** *5,000 minas* is approximately 3.14 tons or 2.85 metric tons of silver. * **2:70 2:70** Or *the rest of the Israelites*
* **3:2 3:2** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; also in verse 8; see 1 Chronicles 5:40.

3 They set up the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings
on it to the LORD—both the morning and evening burnt offerings—even
though they feared the people of the land.
4 They also celebrated the Feast of Booths† in accordance with what is
written, and they offered burnt offerings daily based on the number
prescribed for each day.
5 After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings and those for
New Moons and for all the appointed sacred feasts of the LORD, as well as
all the freewill offerings brought to the LORD.
6 On the first day of the seventh month, the Israelites began to offer
burnt offerings to the LORD, although the foundation of the temple of the
LORD had not been laid.
7 They gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food and drink
and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre to bring cedar logs from Lebanon
to Joppa by sea, as authorized by Cyrus king of Persia.
8 In the second month of the second year after they had arrived at the
house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of
Jozadak, and the rest of their associates including the priests, the Levites,
and all who had returned to Jerusalem from the captivity, began the work.
They appointed Levites twenty years of age or older to supervise the
construction of the house of the LORD.
9 So Jeshua and his sons and brothers, Kadmiel and his sons
(descendants of Yehudah),‡ and the sons of Henadad and their sons and
brothers—all Levites—joined together to supervise those working on the
house of God.
10 When the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD,
the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of
Asaph) with cymbals, took their positions to praise the LORD, as David
king of Israel had prescribed.
11 And they sang responsively with praise and thanksgiving to the LORD:

“For he is good;
for his loving devotion§ to Israel endures forever.”

Then all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the
foundation of the house of the LORD had been laid.
12 But many of the older priests, Levites, and family heads who had seen
the first temple wept loudly when they saw the foundation of this temple.
Still, many others shouted joyfully.
13 The people could not distinguish the shouts of joy from the sound of
weeping, because the people were making so much noise. And the sound
was heard from afar.

4

1 When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were
building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel,

† **3:4 3:4** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22). ‡ **3:9 3:9** Hebrew *sons of Judah*; that is, most likely, *sons of Yehudah*, another name for *Hodevah* or *Hodaviah*; see Ezra 2:40 and Nehemiah 7:43. § **3:11 3:11** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

2 they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of the families, saying, “Let
us build with you because, like you, we seek your God and have been
sacrificing to him* since the time of King Esar-haddon of Assyria, who
brought us here.”
3 But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other heads of the families of Israel
replied, “You have no part with us in building a house for our God, since
we alone must build it for the LORD, the God of Israel, as Cyrus king of
Persia has commanded us.”
4 Then the people of the land set out to discourage the people of Judah
and make them afraid to build.
5 They hired counselors against them to frustrate their plans throughout
the reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of
Persia.
6 At the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus,† an accusation was lodged
against the people of Judah and Jerusalem.
7 And in the days of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Bishlam, Mithredath,
Tabeel, and the rest of his associates‡ wrote a letter to Artaxerxes. It was
written in Aramaic and then translated.§
8 Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote the letter
against Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes as follows:
9 From Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their
associates—the judges and officials over Tripolis, Persia, Erech and
Babylon, the Elamites of Susa,
10 and the rest of the peoples whom the great and honorable
Ashurbanipal* deported and settled in the city† of Samaria and elsewhere
west of the Euphrates.‡
11 (This is the text of the letter they sent to him.)
To King Artaxerxes,
From your servants, the men west of the Euphrates:
12 Let it be known to the king that the Jews who came from you to us
have returned to Jerusalem and are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked
city. They are restoring its walls and repairing its foundations.
13 Let it now be known to the king that if that city is rebuilt and its walls
are restored, they will not pay tribute, duty, or toll, and the royal treasury
will suffer.
14 Now because the salt of the palace is our salt§ and it is not fitting for
us to allow the king to be dishonored, we have sent to inform the king
15 that a search should be made of the record books of your fathers. In
these books you will discover and verify that the city is a rebellious city,
harmful to kings and provinces, inciting sedition from ancient times. That
is why this city was destroyed.
16 We advise the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are restored,
you will have no dominion west of the Euphrates.
17 Then the king sent this reply:
To Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of your
associates living in Samaria and elsewhere in the region west of the
Euphrates:

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* **4:2 4:2** Qere; Ketiv *have not been sacrificing* † **4:6 4:6** Generally identified as Xerxes I of Persia ‡ **4:7 4:7** Qere; Ketiv *his associate* § **4:7 4:7** The original text of Ezra 4:8 through Ezra 6:18 is in Aramaic. * **4:10 4:10** Aramaic *Osnappar*, another name for *Ashurbanipal* † **4:10 4:10** LXX *cities* ‡ **4:10 4:10** Aramaic *beyond the River*; also in verses 11, 16, 17, and 20 § **4:14 4:14** Or *because we are in the service of the palace*

Greetings.
18 The letter you sent us has been translated and read in my presence.
19 I issued a decree, and a search was conducted. It was discovered that this city has revolted against kings from ancient times, engaging in rebellion and sedition.
20 And mighty kings have ruled over Jerusalem and exercised authority over the whole region west of the Euphrates; and tribute, duty, and toll were paid to them.
21 Now, therefore, issue an order for these men to stop, so that this city will not be rebuilt until I so order.
22 See that you do not neglect this matter. Why allow this threat to increase and the royal interests to suffer?
23 When the text of the letter from King Artaxerxes was read to Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their associates, they went immediately to the Jews in Jerusalem and forcibly stopped them.
24 Thus the construction of the house of God in Jerusalem ceased, and it remained at a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

5

1 Later, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.
2 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak* rose up and began to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, helping them.
3 At that time Tattenai the governor of the region west of the Euphrates,† Shethar-bozenai, and their associates went to the Jews and asked, “Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and restore this structure?”
4 Then we told them,‡ “What are the names of the men who are constructing this building?”
5 But the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews, so that they were not stopped until a report was sent to Darius and written instructions about this matter were returned.
6 This is the text of the letter that Tattenai the governor of the region west of the Euphrates, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates, the officials in the region, sent to King Darius.
7 The report they sent him read as follows:
To King Darius:
All peace.
8 Let it be known to the king that we went into the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. The people are rebuilding it with large stones and placing timbers in the walls. This work is being carried out diligently and is prospering in their hands.
9 So we questioned the elders and asked, “Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and restore this structure?”
10 We also asked for their names, so that we could write down the names of their leaders§ for your information.
11 And this is the answer they returned:

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* **5:2 5:2** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; see 1 Chronicles 5:40. † **5:3 5:3** Aramaic *the governor beyond the River*; also in verse 6 ‡ **5:4 5:4** LXX and Syriac *They also asked,* § **5:10 5:10** Aramaic *the names of the men at their heads*

"We are servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding
the temple that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel
built and completed.
12 But since our fathers angered the God of heaven, he delivered them
into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean who
destroyed this temple and carried away the people to Babylon.
13 In the first year of his reign, however, Cyrus king of Babylon issued a
decree to rebuild this house of God.
14 He also removed from the temple* of Babylon the gold and silver
articles belonging to the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken
and carried there from the temple in Jerusalem. King Cyrus gave these
articles to a man named Sheshbazzar, whom he appointed governor
15 and instructed, 'Take these articles, put them in the temple in
Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its original site.'
16 So this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundation of the house of God
in Jerusalem, and from that time until now it has been under construction,
but it has not yet been completed."
17 Now, therefore, if it pleases the king, let a search be made of the royal
archives in Babylon to see if King Cyrus did indeed issue a decree to
rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. Then let the king send us his
decision in this matter.

6

1 Thus King Darius ordered a search of the archives stored in the
treasury of Babylon.
2 And a scroll was found in the fortress of Ecbatana, in the province of
Media, with the following written on it:
Memorandum:
3 In the first year of King Cyrus, he issued a decree concerning the house
of God in Jerusalem:
Let the house be rebuilt as a place for offering sacrifices, and let its
foundations be firmly laid. It is to be sixty cubits high and sixty cubits
wide,*
4 with three layers of cut stones and a layer of new timber.† The costs
are to be paid from the royal treasury.
5 Furthermore, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which
Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and carried to
Babylon, must also be returned to the temple in Jerusalem and deposited
in the house of God.
6 Now therefore,
Tattenai governor of the region west of the Euphrates,‡ Shethar-bozenai,
and your associates and officials in the region,
you must stay away from that place!
7 Leave this work on the house of God alone. Let the governor and
elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its original site.
8 I hereby decree what you must do for these elders of the Jews who are
rebuilding this house of God:

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* **5:14 5:14** Or *palace* * **6:3 6:3** The house was to be approximately 90 feet or 27.4 meters in height and width; Syriac (see also 1 Kings 6:2) *It is to be sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high.* † **6:4 6:4** LXX *and one layer of timber* ‡ **6:6 6:6** Aramaic *governor beyond the River*; similarly in verses 8 and 13

The cost is to be paid in full to these men from the royal treasury out of
the taxes of the provinces west of the Euphrates, so that the work will not
be hindered.
9 Whatever is needed—young bulls, rams, and lambs for burnt offerings
to the God of heaven, as well as wheat, salt, wine, and oil, as requested by
the priests in Jerusalem—must be given to them daily without fail.
10 Then they will be able to offer sacrifices of a sweet aroma to the God
of heaven and to pray for the lives of the king and his sons.

11 I also decree that if any man interferes with this directive, a beam is
to be torn from his house and raised up, and he is to be impaled on it. And
his own house shall be made a pile of rubble for this offense.§
12 May God, who has caused his Name to dwell there, overthrow any
king or people who lifts a hand to alter this decree or to destroy this house
of God in Jerusalem.

I, Darius, have issued the decree. Let it be carried out with diligence.

13 In response, Tattenai the governor of the region west of the
Euphrates, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates diligently carried out
what King Darius had decreed.
14 So the Jewish elders built and prospered through the prophesying of
Haggai the prophet and Zechariah son of Iddo.

They finished building according to the command of the God of Israel
and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia.
15 And this temple was completed on the third day of the month of
Adar,* in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

16 Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the
exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy.

17 For the dedication of the house of God they offered a hundred bulls,
two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and a purification offering for all
Israel of twelve male goats, one for each tribe of Israel.

18 They also appointed the priests by their divisions and the Levites by
their groups to the service of God in Jerusalem, according to what is
written in the Book of Moses.
19 On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles kept the Passover.
20 All the priests and Levites had purified themselves and were
ceremonially clean.

And the Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for
their priestly brothers, and for themselves.
21 The Israelites who had returned from exile ate it, together with all
who had separated themselves from the uncleanness of the nations† of the
land to seek the LORD, the God of Israel.

22 For seven days they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread‡ with joy,
because the LORD had made them joyful and turned the heart of the king
of Assyria toward them to strengthen their hands in the work on the
house of the God of Israel.

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§ **6:11 6:11** Literally *shall be made a dunghill because of this* * **6:15 6:15** *Adar* is the twelfth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of February and March. † **6:21 6:21** Or *peoples* ‡ **6:22 6:22** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

7

1 After these things,* during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra
son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,
2 the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,
3 the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,
4 the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,
5 the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of
Aaron the chief priest—
6 this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a scribe skilled in the
Teaching of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given.
The king had granted Ezra all his requests, for the hand of the LORD his
God was upon him.
7 So in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes, he went up to Jerusalem
with some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers,
and temple servants.†
8 Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the
king.
9 He had begun the journey from Babylon on the first day of the first
month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for
the gracious hand of his God was upon him.
10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the Teaching of the LORD, to
practice it, and to teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.
11 This is the text of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the
priest and scribe, an expert in the commandments and statutes of the
LORD to Israel:‡
12 Artaxerxes, king of kings.
To Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven:
Greetings.§
13 I hereby decree that any volunteers among the Israelites in my
kingdom, including the priests and Levites, may go up with you to
Jerusalem.
14 You are sent by the king and his seven counselors to evaluate Judah
and Jerusalem according to the law of your God, which is in your hand.
15 Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king
and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling
is in Jerusalem,
16 together with all the silver and gold you may find in all the province
of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests to the
house of their God in Jerusalem.
17 With this money, therefore, you are to buy as many bulls, rams, and
lambs as needed, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings,
and offer them on the altar at the house of your God in Jerusalem.
18 You and your brothers may do whatever seems best with the rest of
the silver and gold, according to the will of your God.
19 You must deliver to the God of Jerusalem all the articles given to you
for the service of the house of your God.
20 And if anything else is needed for the house of your God that you may
have occasion to supply, you may pay for it from the royal treasury.

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* **7:1 7:1** Or *Many years later* † **7:7 7:7** Hebrew *Nethinim*; also in verse 24 ‡ **7:11 7:11** The original text of Ezra 7:12–26 is in Aramaic. § **7:12 7:12** Aramaic *Perfect now* (probably a greeting)

21 I, King Artaxerxes, decree to all the treasurers west of the Euphrates:* Whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, may require of you, it must be provided promptly,
22 up to a hundred talents of silver,† a hundred cors of wheat,‡ a hundred baths of wine,§ a hundred baths of olive oil,* and salt without limit.
23 Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven must be done diligently for his house. For why should wrath fall on the realm of the king and his sons?
24 And be advised that you have no authority to impose tribute, duty, or toll on any of the priests, Levites, singers, doorkeepers, temple servants, or other servants of this house of God.
25 And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God, which you possess, are to appoint magistrates and judges to judge all the people west of the Euphrates—all who know the laws of your God. And you are to teach these laws to anyone who does not know them.
26 If anyone does not keep the law of your God and the law of the king, let a strict judgment be executed against him, whether death, banishment, confiscation of property, or imprisonment.
27 Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put into the heart of the king to so honor the house of the LORD in Jerusalem,
28 and who has shown me favor before the king, his counselors, and all his powerful officials.
And because the hand of the LORD my God was upon me, I took courage and gathered the leaders of Israel to return with me.

8

1 These are the family heads and genealogical records of those who returned with me from Babylon during the reign of King Artaxerxes:

2 from the descendants of Phinehas, Gershom;
from the descendants of Ithamar, Daniel;
from the descendants of David, Hattush
3 of the descendants of Shecaniah;
from the descendants of Parosh, Zechariah, and with him were registered 150 men;
4 from the descendants of Pahath-Moab, Eliehoenai son of Zerahiah, and with him 200 men;
5 from the descendants of Shecaniah, the son of Jahaziel,* and with him 300 men;
6 from the descendants of Adin, Ebed son of Jonathan, and with him 50 men;
7 from the descendants of Elam, Jeshaiah son of Athaliah, and with him 70 men;
8 from the descendants of Shephatiah, Zebadiah son of Michael, and with him 80 men;
9 from the descendants of Joab, Obadiah son of Jehiel, and with him 218 men;

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* **7:21 7:21** Aramaic *beyond the River*; also in verse 25 † **7:22 7:22** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. ‡ **7:22 7:22** *100 cors* is approximately 624 bushels or 22,000 liters (probably about 19.2 tons or 17.4 metric tons of wheat). § **7:22 7:22** *100 baths* is approximately 580 gallons or 2,200 liters of wine. * **7:22 7:22** Or *100 baths of oil*; that is, approximately 580 gallons or 2,200 liters * **8:5 8:5** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Esdras 8:32) *from the descendants of Zattu, Shecaniah son of Jahaziel*

10 from the descendants of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah,† and with
him 160 men;
11 from the descendants of Bebai, Zechariah son of Bebai, and with him
28 men;
12 from the descendants of Azgad, Johanan son of Hakkatan, and with
him 110 men;
13 from the later‡ descendants of Adonikam, these were their names:
Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them 60 men;
14 and from the descendants of Bigvai, both Uthai and Zaccur,§ and with
them 70 men.
15 Now I assembled these exiles at the canal that flows to Ahava, and we
camped there three days. And when I searched among the people and
priests, I found no Levites there.
16 Then I summoned the leaders: Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan,*
Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, as well as the
teachers Joiarib and Elnathan.
17 And I instructed them to go to Iddo,† the leader at Casiphia, with a
message for him and his kinsmen, the temple servants‡ at Casiphia, that
they should bring to us ministers for the house of our God.
18 And since the gracious hand of our God was upon us, they brought us
Sherebiah—a man of insight from the descendants of Mahli son of Levi,
the son of Israel—along with his sons and brothers, 18 men;
19 also Hashabiah, together with Jeshaiah, from the descendants of
Merari, and his brothers and their sons, 20 men.
20 They also brought 220 of the temple servants, all designated by name.
David and the officials had appointed them to assist the Levites.
21 And there by the Ahava Canal I proclaimed a fast, so that we might
humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us
and our children, with all our possessions.
22 For I was ashamed to ask the king for an escort of soldiers and
horsemen to protect us from our enemies on the road, since we had told
him, “The hand of our God is gracious to all who seek him, but his great
anger is against all who forsake him.”
23 So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he granted our
request.
24 Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, together with Sherebiah,
Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers,
25 and I weighed out to them the contribution of silver and gold and the
articles that the king, his counselors, his leaders, and all the Israelites
there had offered for the house of our God.
26 I weighed out into their hands 650 talents of silver,§ articles of silver
weighing 100 talents,* 100 talents of gold,†
27 20 gold bowls valued at 1,000 darics,‡ and two articles of fine polished
bronze, as precious as gold.

† **8:10 8:10** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Esdras 8:36) *from the descendants of Bani, Shelomith son of Josiphiah* ‡ **8:13 8:13** Or *the last* § **8:14 8:14** Qere (see also LXX and Syriac); Ketiv *Zabbud*
* **8:16 8:16** *Elnathan* appears three times in verse, either as a repetition for emphasis or as a record of multiple men with this name. † **8:17 8:17** Qere; Ketiv *I sent them out* ‡ **8:17 8:17** Hebrew *the Nethinim*; also in verse 20 § **8:26 8:26** *650 talents* is approximately 24.5 tons or 22.2 metric tons of silver. * **8:26 8:26** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver articles.
† **8:26 8:26** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of gold. ‡ **8:27 8:27** Or *worth 1,000 drachmas*; that is, approximately 18.5 pounds or 8.4 kilograms of gold

28 Then I told them, “You are holy to the LORD, and these articles are
holy. The silver and gold are a freewill offering to the LORD, the God of
your fathers.
29 Guard them carefully until you weigh them out in the chambers of the
house of the LORD in Jerusalem before the leading priests, Levites, and
heads of the Israelite families.”
30 So the priests and Levites took charge of the silver and gold and
sacred articles that had been weighed out to be taken to the house of our
God in Jerusalem.
31 On the twelfth day of the first month we set out from the Ahava Canal
to go to Jerusalem, and the hand of our God was upon us to protect us
from the hands of the enemies and bandits along the way.
32 So we arrived at Jerusalem and rested there for three days.
33 On the fourth day, in the house of our God, we weighed out the silver
and gold and sacred articles into the hand of Meremoth son of Uriah, the
priest. Eleazar son of Phinehas was with him, along with the Levites
Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui.
34 Everything was verified by number and weight, and the total weight
was recorded at that time.
35 Then the exiles who had returned from captivity sacrificed burnt
offerings to the God of Israel: 12 bulls for all Israel, 96 rams, 77 lambs, and
a purification offering of 12 male goats. All this was a burnt offering to the
LORD.
36 They also delivered the king’s edicts to the royal satraps§ and
governors of the region west of the Euphrates,* who proceeded to assist
the people and the house of God.

9

1 After these things had been accomplished, the leaders approached me
and said, “The people of Israel, including the priests and Levites, have not
kept themselves separate from the surrounding peoples whose
abominations are like those of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites,
Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians, and Amorites.
2 Indeed, the Israelites have taken some of their daughters as wives for
themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed has been mixed with the
people of the land. And the leaders and officials have taken the lead in this
unfaithfulness!”
3 When I heard this report, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled out some
hair from my head and beard, and sat down in horror.
4 Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel
gathered around me because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles, while I sat
there in horror until the evening offering.
5 At the evening offering, I got up from my humiliation with my tunic
and cloak torn, and I fell on my knees, spread out my hands to the LORD
my God,
6 and said:
“O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to you, my
God, because our iniquities are higher than our heads, and our guilt has
reached the heavens.
7 From the days of our fathers to this day, our guilt has been great.
Because of our iniquities, we and our kings and priests have been

§ **8:36 8:36** A *satrap* was a Persian official. * **8:36 8:36** Hebrew *governors beyond the River*

delivered into the hands of the kings of the earth and subjected to the
sword and to captivity, to pillage and humiliation, as we are this day.
8 But now, for a brief moment, grace has come from the LORD our God
to preserve for us a remnant and to give us a stake* in his holy place.
Even in our bondage, our God has given us new life and light to our eyes.
9 Though we are slaves, our God has not forsaken us in our bondage, but
he has extended to us grace in the sight of the kings of Persia, giving us
new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and giving us
a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.
10 And now, our God, what can we say after this? For we have forsaken
the commandments
11 that you gave through your servants the prophets, saying: 'The land
that you are entering to possess is a land polluted by the impurity of its
peoples and the abominations with which they have filled it from end to
end with their uncleanness.
12 Now, therefore, do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons
or take their daughters for your sons. Never seek their peace or
prosperity, so that you may be strong and may eat the good things of the
land, leaving it as an inheritance to your sons forever.'
13 After all that has come upon us because of our evil deeds and our
great guilt (though you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities
deserve and have given us such a remnant as this),
14 shall we again break your commandments and intermarry with the
peoples who commit these abominations? Would you not become so
angry with us as to wipe us out, leaving no remnant or survivor?
15 O LORD, God of Israel, you are righteous! For we remain this day as a
remnant. Here we are before you in our guilt, though because of it no one
can stand before you."

10

1 While Ezra prayed and made this confession, weeping and falling
facedown before the house of God, a very large assembly of
Israelites—men, women, and children—gathered around him, and the
people wept bitterly as well.
2 Then Shecaniah son of Jehiel, an Elamite, said to Ezra: "We have been
unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the people of the
land, yet in spite of this, there is hope for Israel.
3 So now let us make a covenant before our God to send away all the
foreign wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and
of those who tremble at the command of our God. Let it be done according
to the Teaching.
4 Get up, for this matter is your responsibility, and we will support you.
Be strong and take action!"
5 So Ezra got up and made the leading priests, Levites, and all Israel take
an oath to do what had been said. And they took the oath.
6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and walked to the
chamber of Jehohanan son of Eliashib. And when he went there,* he ate
no food and drank no water, because he was mourning over the
unfaithfulness of the exiles.

* **9:8 9:8** Or *nail* or *foothold* * **10:6 10:6** Some read *And he spent the night there*; compare 1 Esdras 9:2

7 And a proclamation was issued throughout Judah and Jerusalem that
all the exiles should gather at Jerusalem.
8 Whoever failed to appear within three days would forfeit all his
property, according to the counsel of the leaders and elders, and would
himself be expelled from the assembly of the exiles.
9 So within the three days, all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled
in Jerusalem, and on the twentieth day of the ninth month, all the people
sat in the square at the house of God, trembling regarding this matter and
because of the heavy rain.
10 Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have been
unfaithful by marrying foreign women, adding to the guilt of Israel.
11 Now, therefore, make a confession to the LORD, the God of your
fathers, and do his will. Separate yourselves from the people of the land
and from your foreign wives.”
12 And the whole assembly responded in a loud voice: “Truly we must do
as you say!
13 But there are many people here, and it is the rainy season. We are not
able to stay out in the open. Nor is this the work of one or two days, for we
have transgressed greatly in this matter.
14 Let our leaders represent the whole assembly. Then let everyone in
our towns who has married a foreign woman come at an appointed time,
together with the elders and judges of each town, until the fierce anger of
our God in this matter is turned away from us.”
15 (Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah, supported
by Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite, opposed this plan.)
16 So the exiles did as proposed. Ezra the priest and men who were
family heads were set apart,† each of them identified by name, to
represent their families. On the first day of the tenth month they launched
the investigation,
17 and by the first day of the first month they had dealt with all the men
who had married foreign women.
18 Among the descendants of the priests who had married foreign
women were found these descendants of Jeshua son of Jozadak‡ and his
brothers:

Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah.
19 They pledged to send their wives away, and for their guilt they
presented a ram from the flock as a guilt offering.
20 From the descendants of Immer:

Hanani and Zebadiah.
21 From the descendants of Harim:

Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uzziah.
22 From the descendants of Pashhur:

Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah.
23 Among the Levites:

Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is, Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

† **10:16 10:16** 1 Esdras 9:16 and Syriac *Ezra the priest selected men who were family heads* ‡ **10:18 10:18** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; see 1 Chronicles 5:40.

24 From the singers:

Eliashib.
From the gatekeepers:

Shallum, Telem, and Uri.
25 And among the other Israelites, from the descendants of Parosh:

Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchijah,§ and Benaiah.
26 From the descendants of Elam:

Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah.
27 From the descendants of Zattu:

Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza.
28 From the descendants of Bebai:

Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.
29 From the descendants of Bani:

Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Ramoth.*
30 From the descendants of Pahath-moab:

Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and
Manasseh.
31 From the descendants of Harim:

Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,
32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah.
33 From the descendants of Hashum:

Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei.
34 From the descendants of Bani:

Maadai, Amram, Uel,
35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhu,†
36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,
37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasai.‡
38 Bani, Binnui, Shimei,§
39 Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,
40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,
41 Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,
42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph.
43 And from the descendants of Nebo:

Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai,* Joel, and Benaiah.
44 All these men had married foreign women, and some of them had children by these wives.†

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§ **10:25 10:25** LXX *Hashabiah* * **10:29 10:29** Qere; Ketiv *Jeremoth* † **10:35 10:35** Qere; Ketiv *Cheluhi* ‡ **10:37 10:37** Qere; Ketiv *Jaasu* § **10:38 10:38** LXX *From the descendants of Binnui: Shimei* * **10:43 10:43** Qere; Ketiv *Jaddu* † **10:44 10:44** By emendation (compare 1 Esdras 9:36) *and they sent them away with their children*

Nehemiah

1 These are the words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:
In the month of Chislev,* in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel
of Susa,
2 Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah. So I
questioned them about the remnant of the Jews who had survived the
exile, and also about Jerusalem.
3 And they told me, “The remnant who survived the exile are there in
the province, in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is
broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”
4 When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for days,
fasting and praying before the God of heaven.
5 Then I said:
“O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his
covenant of loving devotion† with those who love him and keep his
commandments,
6 let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to hear the prayer that I,
your servant, now pray before you day and night for your servants, the
Israelites.
I confess the sins that we Israelites have committed against you. Both I
and my father’s house have sinned.
7 We have behaved corruptly against you and have not kept the
commandments, statutes, and ordinances that you gave your servant
Moses.
8 Remember, I pray, the word that you commanded your servant Moses
when you said, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,
9 but if you return to me and keep and practice my commandments,
then even if your exiles have been banished to the farthest horizon,‡ I will
gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a
dwelling for my Name.’§
10 They are your servants and your people. You redeemed them by your
great power and mighty hand.
11 O Lord, may your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to
the prayer of your servants* who delight to revere your name. Give your
servant success this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this
man.”
(At that time I was the cupbearer to the king.)

2

1 Now in the month of Nisan,* in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes,
when wine was set before him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I
had never been sad in his presence,

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* **1:1 1:1** *Chislev* is the ninth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of November and December. † **1:5 1:5** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. ‡ **1:9 1:9** Or *to the extremity of the heavens* § **1:9 1:9** Deuteronomy 30:1–4 * **1:11 1:11** Or *to my prayer and to the prayers of your servants* * **2:1 2:1** *Nisan* is the first month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April.

2 so the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, though you are not ill?
This could only be sadness of the heart.”
I was overwhelmed with fear
3 and replied to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should I not be
sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates
have been destroyed by fire?”
4 “What is your request?” replied the king.
So I prayed to the God of heaven
5 and answered the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has
found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city
where my fathers are buried, so that I may rebuild it.”
6 Then the king, with the queen seated beside him, asked me, “How long
will your journey take, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king
to send me, and I set a time.
7 I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may letters be given to me for
the governors west of the Euphrates,† so that they will grant me safe
passage until I reach Judah.
8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king’s forest, so that he
will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel to the
temple, for the city wall, and for the house I will occupy.”
And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king
granted my requests.
9 Then I went to the governors west of the Euphrates and gave them the
king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.
10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official
heard about this, they were deeply disturbed that someone had come to
seek the well-being of the Israelites.
11 After I had arrived in Jerusalem and had been there three days,
12 I set out at night with a few men. I did not tell anyone what my God
had laid on my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal with me was
the one on which I was riding.
13 So I went out at night through the Valley Gate toward the Well of the
Jackal‡ and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had
been broken down and the gates that had been destroyed by fire.
14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was
no room for the animal under me to get through;
15 so I went up the valley by night and inspected the wall. Then I headed
back and reentered through the Valley Gate.
16 The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I
had not yet told the Jews or priests or nobles or officials or any other
workers.
17 Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in
ruins, and its gates have been burned down. Come, let us rebuild the wall
of Jerusalem, so that we will no longer be a disgrace.”
18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me, and
what the king had said to me.
“Let us start rebuilding,” they replied, and they set their hands to this
good work.

† **2:7 2:7** Hebrew *beyond the River*; also in verse 9 ‡ **2:13 2:13** Or *Dragon* or *Serpent*

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and
Geshem the Arab heard about this, they mocked us and ridiculed us,
saying, “What is this you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”
20 So I answered them and said, “The God of heaven is the One who will
grant us success. We, his servants, will start rebuilding, but you have no
portion, right, or claim in Jerusalem.”

3

1 At the Sheep Gate, Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests began
rebuilding. They dedicated it and installed its doors. After building as far
as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel, they dedicated
the wall.
2 The men of Jericho built next to Eliashib, and Zaccur son of Imri built
next to them.
3 The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its
beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.
4 Next to them, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, made repairs.
Next to him, Meshullam son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made
repairs; and next to him, Zadok son of Baana made repairs as well.
5 Next to him, the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not put
their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.*
6 The Jeshanah Gate† was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and
Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and installed its doors,
bolts, and bars.
7 Next to them, repairs were made by Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the
Meronothite, and the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, who were under the
authority of the governor of the region west of the Euphrates.‡
8 Next to them, Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made
repairs. And next to him, Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs.
They fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.
9 Next to them, Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem,
made repairs;
10 next to him, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs across from his
house; and next to him, Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs.
11 Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab repaired
another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens.
12 And next to them, Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of the other
half-district of Jerusalem, made repairs, with the help of his daughters.
13 The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah.
They rebuilt it, installed its doors, bolts, and bars, and repaired a thousand
cubits§ of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.
14 The Dung Gate was repaired by Malchijah son of Rechab, ruler of the
district of Beth-haccherem. He rebuilt it and installed its doors, bolts, and
bars.
15 The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun* son of Col-hozeh, ruler of
the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofed it, and installed† its doors,
bolts, and bars. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah‡ near the
king’s garden, as far as the stairs that descend from the City of David.

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* **3:5 3:5** Or *their Lord* or *the governor* † **3:6 3:6** Or *The Old City Gate* ‡ **3:7 3:7** Hebrew *the governor beyond the River* § **3:13 3:13** *1,000 cubits* is approximately 1,500 feet or 457.2 meters.
* **3:15 3:15** Syriac *Shallum* † **3:15 3:15** Qere; Ketiv *they installed* ‡ **3:15 3:15** *Pool of Shelah* is another name for the Pool of Siloam.

16 Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of
Beth-zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as
the artificial pool and the House of the Mighty.
17 Next to him, the Levites made repairs under Rehum son of Bani, and
next to him, Hashabiah, ruler of a half-district of Keilah, made repairs for
his district.
18 Next to him, their countrymen made repairs under Bavvai§ son of
Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah.
19 And next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another
section opposite the ascent to the armory, near the angle in the wall.
20 Next to him, Baruch son of Zaccai* diligently repaired another section,
from the angle to the doorway of the house of Eliashib the high priest.
21 Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired
another section, from the doorway of the house of Eliashib to the end of
the house.
22 And next to him, the priests from the surrounding area made repairs.
23 Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their
house, and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah,
made repairs beside his house.
24 After him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from the
house of Azariah to the angle and the corner,
25 and Palal son of Uzai made repairs opposite the angle and the tower
that juts out from the upper palace of the king near the courtyard of the
guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh
26 and the temple servants† living on the hill of Ophel made repairs
opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the tower that juts out.
27 And next to them, the Tekoites repaired another section, from a point
opposite the great tower that juts out to the wall of Ophel.
28 Above the Horse Gate, each of the priests made repairs in front of his
own house.
29 Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house,
and next to him, Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the guard of the East Gate,
made repairs.
30 Next to him,‡ Hananiah son of Shelemiah, as well as Hanun the sixth
son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of
Berechiah made repairs opposite his own quarters.
31 Next to him,§ Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as
the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the
Inspection Gate, and as far as the upper room above the corner.
32 And between the upper room above the corner and the Sheep Gate,
the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.
33 Now when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he was
furious and filled with indignation. He ridiculed the Jews
34 before his associates and the army of Samaria, saying, “What are these
feeble Jews doing? Can they restore the wall by themselves?* Will they
offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Can they bring these burnt
stones back to life from the mounds of rubble?”

§ **3:18 3:18** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; two Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac (see also LXX and Nehemiah 3:24) *Binnui* * **3:20 3:20** Qere; Ketiv *Zabbai* † **3:26 3:26** Hebrew *the Nethinim*; also in verse 31 ‡ **3:30 3:30** Qere; Ketiv *Next to me* § **3:31 3:31** Qere; Ketiv *Next to me* * **3:34 3:34** Or *Will they commit themselves to God?*

35 Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, “If even a fox
were to climb up on what they are building, it would break down their
wall of stones!”
36 Hear us, O God, for we are despised. Turn their scorn back upon their
own heads, and let them be taken as plunder to a land of captivity.
37 Do not cover up their iniquity or let their sin be blotted out from your
sight, for they have provoked the builders.†
38 So we rebuilt the wall until all of it was joined together up to half its
height, for the people had a mind to work.

4

1 When Sanballat and Tobiah, together with the Arabs, Ammonites, and
Ashdodites, heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was
progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they were furious,
2 and all of them conspired to come and fight against Jerusalem and
create a hindrance.
3 So we prayed to our God and posted a guard against them day and
night.
4 Meanwhile, the people of Judah said:*

“The strength of the laborer fails,
and there is so much rubble
that we will never be able
to rebuild the wall.”
5 And our enemies said, “Before they know or see a thing, we will come
into their midst, kill them, and put an end to the work.”
6 At that time the Jews who lived nearby came and told us ten times
over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”
7 So I stationed men behind the lowest sections of the wall, at the
vulnerable areas. I stationed them by families with their swords, spears,
and bows.
8 After I had made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the
officials, and the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember
the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your
sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”
9 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their scheme and that
God had frustrated it, each of us returned to his own work on the wall.
10 And from that day on, half of my servants did the work while the
other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor.
The officers stationed themselves behind all the people of Judah
11 who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried materials
worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other.
12 And each of the builders worked with his sword strapped at his side.
But the trumpeter stayed beside me.
13 Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people: “The
work is great and extensive, and we are spread out far from one another
along the wall.
14 Wherever you hear the sound of the horn, rally to us there. Our God
will fight for us!”
15 So we continued the work, while half of the men held spears from the
break of dawn until the stars came out.

† **3:37 3:37** Or *have provoked you to anger before the builders* * **4:4 4:4** Or *Meanwhile, Judah said*

16 At that time I also said to the people, “Let every man and his servant
spend the night inside Jerusalem, so that they can stand guard by night
and work by day.”
17 So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the guards with me
changed out of our clothes; each carried his weapon, even to go for water.†

5

1 About that time there was a great outcry from the people and their
wives against their fellow Jews.
2 Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous. We
must get grain in order to eat and stay alive.”
3 Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and
our homes to get grain during the famine.”
4 Still others were saying, “We have borrowed money to pay the king’s
tax on our fields and vineyards.
5 We and our children are just like our countrymen and their children,
yet we are subjecting our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our
daughters are already enslaved, but we are powerless to redeem them
because our fields and vineyards belong to others.”
6 When I heard their outcry and these complaints, I became extremely
angry,
7 and after serious thought I rebuked the nobles and officials, saying,
“You are exacting usury from your own brothers!”
So I called a large assembly against them
8 and said, “We have done our best to buy back our Jewish brothers who
were sold to foreigners, but now you are selling your own brothers, that
they may be sold back to us!”
But they remained silent, for they could find nothing to say.
9 So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in
the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our foreign enemies?
10 I, as well as my brothers and my servants, have been lending the
people money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury.
11 Please restore to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive
groves, and houses, along with the percentage of the money, grain, new
wine, and oil that you have been assessing them.”
12 “We will restore it,” they replied, “and will require nothing more from
them. We will do as you say.”
So I summoned the priests and required of the nobles and officials an
oath that they would do what they had promised.
13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “May God likewise
shake out of his house and possessions every man who does not keep this
promise. May such a man be shaken out and have nothing!”
The whole assembly said, “Amen,” and they praised the LORD. And the
people did as they had promised.
14 Furthermore, from the day King Artaxerxes appointed me to be their
governor in the land of Judah, from his twentieth year until his
thirty-second year (twelve years total), neither I nor my brothers ate the
food allotted to the governor.

† **4:17 4:17** By emendation *each carried his weapon in his right hand*

15 The governors before me had heavily burdened the people, taking
from them bread and wine plus forty shekels of silver.* Their servants
also oppressed the people. But I did not do this, because of my fear of God.
16 Instead, I devoted myself to the construction of the wall, and all my
servants were gathered there for the work; we did not acquire any land.
17 There were 150 Jews and officials at my table, besides the guests from
the surrounding nations.
18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep, and some fowl were prepared for
me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine was
provided. But I did not demand the food allotted to the governor, because
the burden on the people was so heavy.
19 Remember me favorably, O my God, for all that I have done for this
people.

6

1 When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies
heard that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left—though to that
time I had not yet installed the doors in the gates—
2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet
together in Kephirim* in the valley† of Ono."
But they were planning to harm me.
3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and
cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to go down
to you?"
4 Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave the
same reply.
5 The fifth time, Sanballat sent me this same message by his young
servant, who had in his hand an unsealed letter
6 that read:
"It is reported among the nations—and Geshem‡ agrees—that you and
the Jews are plotting to revolt, and this is why you are building the wall.
According to these reports, you are to become their king,
7 and you have even appointed prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim on
your behalf: 'There is a king in Judah.' Soon these rumors will reach the
ears of the king. So come, let us confer together."
8 Then I sent him this reply: "There is nothing to these rumors you are
spreading; you are inventing them in your own mind."
9 For they were all trying to frighten us, saying, "Their hands will be
weakened in the work, and it will never be finished."
But now, strengthen my hands.
10 Later, I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of
Mehetabel, who was confined to his house. He said:

"Let us meet at the house of God
inside the temple.
Let us shut the temple doors
because they are coming to kill you—
by night they are coming to kill you!"

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* **5:15 5:15** *40 shekels* is approximately 1 pound or 453.6 grams of silver. * **6:2 6:2** Or *in one of the villages* † **6:2 6:2** Or *on the plain* ‡ **6:6 6:6** Hebrew *Gashmu*, a variant of *Geshem*; see verse 1.

11 But I replied, “Should a man like me run away? Should one like me go
into the temple to save his own life? I will not go!”
12 I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had uttered this
prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.
13 He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would sin by doing as he
suggested, so they could give me a bad name in order to discredit me.
14 O my God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat for what they have done,
and also Noadiah the prophetess and the other prophets who tried to
intimidate me.
15 So the wall was completed in fifty-two days, on the twenty-fifth of
Elul.§
16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations
saw it* and were disheartened, for they realized that this task had been
accomplished by our God.
17 Also in those days, the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah,
and Tobiah’s letters kept coming to them.
18 For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, since he was a
son-in-law of Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married
the daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah.
19 Moreover, these nobles kept reporting to me Tobiah’s good deeds, and
they relayed my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

7

1 When the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the
gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed.
2 Then I put my brother Hanani in charge of Jerusalem, along with
Hananiah the commander of the fortress, because he was a faithful man
who feared God more than most.
3 And I told them, “Do not open the gates of Jerusalem until the sun is
hot. While the guards are on duty, keep the doors shut and securely
fastened. And appoint the residents of Jerusalem as guards, some at their
posts and some at their own homes.”
4 Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it,
and the houses had not yet been rebuilt.
5 Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials,
and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. I found the genealogical
register of those who had first returned, and I found the following written
in it:
6 These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity
of the exiles carried away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar its king. They
returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town,
7 accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah,
Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah.*
This is the count of the men of Israel:

8 the descendants of Parosh, 2,172;
9 the descendants of Shephatiah, 372;
10 the descendants of Arah, 652;

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§ **6:15 6:15** *Elul* is the sixth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of August and September. * **6:16 6:16** With a different vocalization *were afraid* * **7:7 7:7** Parallel text at Ezra 2:2 *accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah*

11 the descendants of Pahath-moab (through the line of Jeshua and Joab),
2,818;
12 the descendants of Elam, 1,254;
13 the descendants of Zattu, 845;
14 the descendants of Zaccai, 760;
15 the descendants of Binnui,† 648;
16 the descendants of Bebai, 628;
17 the descendants of Azgad, 2,322;
18 the descendants of Adonikam, 667;
19 the descendants of Bigvai, 2,067;
20 the descendants of Adin, 655;
21 the descendants of Ater (through Hezekiah), 98;
22 the descendants of Hashum, 328;
23 the descendants of Bezai, 324;
24 the descendants of Hariph,‡ 112;
25 the descendants of Gibeon,§ 95;
26 the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188;
27 the men of Anathoth, 128;
28 the men of Beth-azmaveth,* 42;
29 the men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, 743;
30 the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;
31 the men of Michmash, 122;
32 the men of Bethel and Ai, 123;
33 the men of the other Nebo,† 52;
34 the descendants of the other Elam,‡ 1,254;
35 the descendants of Harim, 320;
36 the men§ of Jericho, 345;
37 the men of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 721;
38 and the descendants of Senaah, 3,930.
39 The priests:
the descendants of Jedaiah (through the house of Jeshua), 973;
40 the descendants of Immer, 1,052;
41 the descendants of Pashhur, 1,247;
42 and the descendants of Harim, 1,017.
43 The Levites:
the descendants of Jeshua (through Kadmiel, through the line of
Hodevah*), 74.
44 The singers:
the descendants of Asaph, 148.
45 The gatekeepers:
the descendants of Shallum,
the descendants of Ater,
the descendants of Talmon,
the descendants of Akkub,
the descendants of Hatita,
and the descendants of Shobai,
138 in all.
46 The temple servants:†

† **7:15 7:15** *Binnui* is a variant of *Bani*; see Ezra 2:10. ‡ **7:24 7:24** *Hariph* is a variant of *Jorah*; see Ezra 2:18. § **7:25 7:25** *Gibeon* is a variant of *Gibbar*; see Ezra 2:20. * **7:28 7:28** *Beth-azmaveth* is a variant of *Azmaveth*; see Ezra 2:24. † **7:33 7:33** Or *of West Nebo* ‡ **7:34 7:34** Or *of West Elam* § **7:36 7:36** Literally *the sons*; here and in verse 37 * **7:43 7:43** *Hodevah* is a variant of *Hodaviah*; see Ezra 2:40. † **7:46 7:46** Hebrew *The Nethinim*; also in verses 60 and 73

the descendants of Ziha,
the descendants of Hasupha,
the descendants of Tabbaoth,
47 the descendants of Keros,
the descendants of Sia,‡
the descendants of Padon,
48 the descendants of Lebanah,
the descendants of Hagabah,
the descendants of Shalmai,
49 the descendants of Hanan,
the descendants of Giddel,
the descendants of Gahar,
50 the descendants of Reaiah,
the descendants of Rezin,
the descendants of Nekoda,
51 the descendants of Gazzam,
the descendants of Uzza,
the descendants of Paseah,
52 the descendants of Besai,
the descendants of Meunim,
the descendants of Nephushesim,§
53 the descendants of Bakbuk,
the descendants of Hakupha,
the descendants of Harhur,
54 the descendants of Bazlith,*
the descendants of Mehida,
the descendants of Harsha,
55 the descendants of Barkos,
the descendants of Sisera,
the descendants of Temah,
56 the descendants of Neziah,
and the descendants of Hatipha.
57 The descendants of the servants of Solomon:

the descendants of Sotai,
the descendants of Sophereth,
the descendants of Perida,†
58 the descendants of Jaala,
the descendants of Darkon,
the descendants of Giddel,
59 the descendants of Shephatiah,
the descendants of Hattil,
the descendants of Pochereth-hazzebaim,
and the descendants of Amon.‡
60 The temple servants and descendants of the servants of Solomon numbered 392 in all.
61 The following came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon,§ and Immer, but they could not prove that their families were descended from Israel:
62 the descendants of Delaiah,

‡ **7:47 7:47** *Sia* is a variant of *Siaha*; see Ezra 2:44. § **7:52 7:52** *Nephushesim* is a variant of *Nephusim*; see Ezra 2:50. * **7:54 7:54** *Bazlith* is a variant of *Bazluth*; see Ezra 2:52. † **7:57 7:57** *Perida* is a variant of *Peruda*; see Ezra 2:55. ‡ **7:59 7:59** *Amon* is a variant of *Ami*; see Ezra 2:57. § **7:61 7:61** *Addon* is a variant of *Addan*; see Ezra 2:59.

the descendants of Tobiah,
and the descendants of Nekoda,
642 in all.

63 And from among the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah,
the descendants of Hakkoz,
and the descendants of Barzillai (who had married a daughter of
Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name).

64 These men searched for their family records, but they could not find
them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.
65 The governor ordered them not to eat the most holy things until there
was a priest to consult the Urim and Thummim.*
66 The whole assembly numbered 42,360,
67 in addition to their 7,337 male and female slaves, as well as their 245
male and female singers.
68 They had 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.†
69 Some of the heads of the families contributed to the project. The
governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas,‡ 50 bowls, and 530
priestly garments.
70 And some of the heads of the families gave to the treasury for the
project 20,000 gold drachmas§ and 2,200 minas of silver.*
71 The rest of the people gave a total of 20,000 gold drachmas, 2,000
minas of silver,† and 67 priestly garments.
72 So the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, and temple servants,
along with some of the people and the rest of the Israelites, settled in their
own towns. And by the seventh month the Israelites had settled in their
towns.

8

1 At that time all the people gathered together in the square before the
Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the
Teaching of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.
2 On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the
Teaching before the assembly of men and women and all who could listen
and understand.
3 So Ezra read it aloud from daybreak until noon as he faced the square
before the Water Gate, in front of the men and women and those who
could understand.
And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Teaching.
4 Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for this
occasion. At his right side stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah,
and Maaseiah, and at his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum,
Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.
5 Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people, since he was
standing above them all, and as he opened it, all the people stood up.

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* **7:65 7:65** Literally *Lights and Perfections* † **7:68 7:68** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts (see also Ezra 2:66) begin *They had 736 horses, 245 mules,* ‡ **7:69 7:69** Or *1,000 darics of gold*; that is, approximately 18.5 pounds or 8.4 kilograms of gold coins § **7:70 7:70** Or *20,000 darics of gold*; that is, approximately 370.4 pounds or 168 kilograms of gold coins; also in verse 71 * **7:70 7:70** Or *2,200 silver minas*; that is, approximately 1.38 tons or 1.25 metric tons of silver † **7:71 7:71** Or *2,000 silver minas*; that is, approximately 1.26 tons or 1.14 metric tons of silver

6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and with their hands
uplifted, all the people said, “Amen, Amen!” Then they bowed down and
worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai,
Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and
Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Teaching as they stood in their
places.
8 So they read from the Book of the Teaching of God, translating it* and
giving insight, so that the people could understand what was being read.
9 Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites
who were instructing the people said to all of them, “This day is holy to the
LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.”
For all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the Teaching.
10 Then Nehemiah told them, “Go and eat what is rich, drink what is
sweet, and send out portions to those who have nothing prepared, since
today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your
strength.”
11 And the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, since today is
holy. Do not grieve.”
12 Then all the people began to eat and drink, to send out portions, and
to rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that had been made
known to them.
13 On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along
with the priests and Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to study the
words of the Teaching.
14 And they found written in the Teaching, which the LORD had
commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to dwell in booths†
during the feast of the seventh month,
15 and that they should proclaim this message and spread it throughout
their towns and in Jerusalem, saying, “Go out to the hill country and bring
back branches of olive, pine,‡ myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees, to make
booths, as it is written.”§
16 And the people went out, brought back branches, and made booths on
their own rooftops, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God,
and in the squares by the Water Gate and by the Gate of Ephraim.
17 The whole assembly that had returned from exile made booths and
lived in them. From the days of Joshua* son of Nun until that day, the
Israelites had not celebrated like this. And there was very great rejoicing.
18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of
the Teaching of God. The Israelites kept the feast for seven days, and on
the eighth day they held an assembly, according to the ordinance.

9

1 On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered
together, fasting and wearing sackcloth, with dust on their heads.
2 Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all the foreigners,
and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

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* **8:8 8:8** Or *explaining it* or *paragraph by paragraph* † **8:14 8:14** Or *tabernacles* or *shelters*; also in verses 15, 16, and 17 ‡ **8:15 8:15** Or *wild olive*; literally *oil tree* § **8:15 8:15** See Leviticus 23:37–40.
* **8:17 8:17** Hebrew *Jeshua*, a variant of *Joshua*

3 While they stood in their places, they read from the Book of the
Teaching of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and they spent
another quarter of the day in confession and worship of the LORD their
God.
4 And the Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah,
Bani, and Chenani—stood on the raised platform and cried out in a loud
voice to the LORD their God.
5 Then the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah,
Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah—said, "Stand up and bless the LORD
your God from everlasting to everlasting:

Blessed be your glorious name,
and may it be exalted
above all blessing and praise.
6 You alone are the LORD.
You created the heavens,
the highest heavens with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them.
You give life to all things,
and the host of heaven worships you.

7 You are the LORD,
the God who chose Abram,
who brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans
and gave him the name Abraham.
8 You found his heart faithful before you,
and made a covenant with him
to give the land of the Canaanites and Hittites,
of the Amorites and Perizzites,
of the Jebusites and Girgashites—
to give it to his descendants.
You have kept your promise,
because you are righteous.

9 You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt;
you heard their cry at the Sea of Reeds.*
10 You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh,
all his officials, and all the people of his land,
for you knew they had acted with arrogance
against our fathers.
You made a name for yourself
that endures to this day.
11 You divided the sea before them,
and they crossed through it on dry ground.
You hurled their pursuers into the depths
like a stone into raging waters.

12 You led them with a pillar of cloud by day
and a pillar of fire by night,
to light for them the way
in which they should travel.

* **9:9 9:9** Or *the Red Sea*

13 You came down on Mount Sinai
and spoke with them from heaven.
You gave them just ordinances, true laws,
and good statutes and commandments.
14 You revealed to them your holy Sabbath
and gave them commandments and statutes and laws
through your servant Moses.
15 In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven;
in their thirst you brought them water from the rock.
You told them to go in and possess the land
that you had sworn to give them.

16 But they and our fathers became arrogant and stiff-necked
and did not obey your commandments.
17 They refused to listen and failed to remember
the wonders you performed among them.
They stiffened their necks and appointed a leader
to return them to their bondage in their rebellion.†
But you are a forgiving God,
gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in loving devotion,
and you did not forsake them.

18 Even when they cast for themselves
an image of a calf and said,
'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,'
and when they committed terrible blasphemies,
19 you in your great compassion
did not forsake them in the wilderness.
By day the pillar of cloud never turned away
from guiding them on their path;
and by the night the pillar of fire
illuminated the way they should go.
20 You gave your good spirit to instruct them.
You did not withhold your manna from their mouths,
and you gave them water for their thirst.
21 For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness,
so that they lacked nothing.
Their clothes did not wear out
and their feet did not swell.

22 You gave them kingdoms and peoples
and allotted to them every corner of the land.
So they took the land of Sihon, the land of the king of Heshbon,‡
and of Og king of Bashan.
23 You multiplied their descendants
like the stars of heaven
and brought them to the land
you had told their fathers to enter and possess.
24 So their descendants went in and possessed the land;

† **9:17 9:17** LXX and a few Hebrew manuscripts *in Egypt* ‡ **9:22 9:22** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript and LXX *the land of Sihon king of Heshbon*

you subdued before them the Canaanites dwelling in the land.
You delivered into their hands the kings and peoples of the land,
to do with them as they wished.
25 They captured fortified cities and fertile land
and took houses full of all goods,
wells already dug,
vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance.
So they ate and were filled;
they grew fat and delighted in your great goodness.

26 But they were disobedient and rebelled against you;
they flung your law behind their backs.
They killed your prophets,
who had admonished them to return to you.
They committed terrible blasphemies.
27 So you delivered them into the hands
of enemies who oppressed them,
and in their time of distress they cried out to you.
From heaven you heard them,
and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers
who saved them from the hands of their enemies.
28 But as soon as they had rest,
they again did evil in your sight.
So you abandoned them to the hands of their enemies,
who had dominion over them.
When they cried out to you again,
you heard from heaven,
and you delivered them many times
in your compassion.

29 You admonished them to turn back to your law,
but they were arrogant and disobeyed your commandments.
They sinned against your ordinances,
by which a man will live if he practices them.
They turned a stubborn shoulder;
they stiffened their necks and would not obey.
30 You were patient with them for many years,
and your spirit admonished them through your prophets.
Yet they would not listen,
so you gave them into the hands of the peoples of the lands.§
31 But in your great compassion,
you did not put an end to them;
nor did you forsake them,
for you are a gracious and compassionate God.

32 So now, our God, the great and mighty and awesome God
who keeps his gracious covenant,
do not view lightly all the hardship
that has come upon us,
and upon our kings and leaders,

§ **9:30 9:30** Or *into the hands of the neighboring peoples*

our priests and prophets,
our ancestors and all your people,
from the days of the kings of Assyria until today.
33 You are just in all that has befallen us,
because you have acted faithfully,
while we have acted wickedly.
34 Our kings and leaders and priests and fathers
did not obey your law
or listen to your commandments
and warnings that you gave them.
35 For even while they were in their kingdom,
with the abundant goodness
that you had given them,
and in the spacious and fertile land
that you had set before them,
they would not serve you
or turn from their wicked ways.

36 So here we are today as slaves
in the land you gave our fathers to enjoy its fruit and goodness—
here we are as slaves!
37 Its abundant harvest goes to the kings
you have set over us because of our sins.
And they rule over our bodies and our livestock as they please.
We are in great distress.

10

1 In view of all this, we make a binding agreement, putting it in writing;
and on the sealed document are our leaders, Levites, and priests."
2 Now these were the ones who sealed the document:

Nehemiah the governor, son of Hacaliah,
and also Zedekiah,
3 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
4 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,
5 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
6 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
7 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
8 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
9 Maaziah, Bilgai,* and Shemaiah.
These were the priests.
10 The Levites:

Jeshua son of Azaniah,
Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel,
11 and their associates: Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
12 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,
13 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
14 Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu.
15 And the leaders of the people:

* **10:9 10:9** *Bilgai* is a variant of *Bilgah*; see Nehemiah 12:5.

Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
16 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
17 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
18 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
19 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,
20 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
21 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
22 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
23 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
24 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
25 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
26 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
27 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
28 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.
29 "The rest of the people—the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers,
temple servants,† and all who had separated themselves from the people
of the land to obey the Teaching of God—along with their wives and all
their sons and daughters who are able to understand,
30 hereby join with their noble brothers and commit themselves with a
sworn oath to follow the Teaching of God given through his servant Moses
and to obey carefully all the commandments, ordinances, and statutes of
the LORD our Lord.
31 We will not give our daughters in marriage to the people of the land,
and we will not take their daughters for our sons.
32 When the people of the land bring merchandise or any kind of grain
to sell on the Sabbath day, we will not buy from them on a Sabbath or holy
day. Every seventh year we will let the fields lie fallow and will cancel
every debt.
33 We also place ourselves under the obligation to contribute a third of a
shekel‡ yearly for the service of the house of our God:
34 for the showbread, for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings,
for the Sabbath offerings, for the New Moons and appointed feasts, for the
holy offerings, for the purification offerings to make atonement for Israel,
and for all the duties of the house of our God.
35 We have cast lots among the priests, Levites, and people for the
donation of wood by our families at the appointed times each year. They
are to bring it to the house of our God to burn on the altar of the LORD our
God, as it is written in the Teaching.
36 We will also bring the firstfruits of our land and of every fruit tree to
the house of the LORD year by year.
37 And we will bring the firstborn of our sons and our livestock, as it is
written in the Teaching, and will bring the firstborn of our herds and
flocks to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of
our God.
38 Moreover, we will bring to the priests at the storerooms of the house
of our God the firstfruits of our dough, of our grain offerings, of the fruit
of all our trees, and of our new wine and oil. A tenth of our produce
belongs to the Levites, so that they shall receive tithes in all the towns
where we labor.

† **10:29 10:29** Hebrew *Nethinim* ‡ **10:33 10:33** *A third of a shekel* is approximately 0.13 ounces or 3.8 grams, probably of silver.

39 A priest of Aaron's line is to accompany the Levites when they collect
the tenth, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of these tithes to the
storerooms of the treasury in the house of our God.
40 For the Israelites and the Levites are to bring the contributions of
grain, new wine, and oil to the storerooms where the articles of the
sanctuary are kept and where the ministering priests, the gatekeepers,
and the singers stay.
Thus we will not neglect the house of our God."

11

1 Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem, and the rest of the
people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in the holy city of Jerusalem,
while the remaining nine* were to dwell in their own towns.
2 And the people blessed all the men who volunteered to live in
Jerusalem.
3 These are the heads of the provinces who settled in Jerusalem. (In the
villages of Judah, however, each lived on his own property in their
towns—the Israelites, priests, Levites, temple servants,† and descendants
of Solomon's servants—
4 while some of the descendants of Judah and Benjamin settled in
Jerusalem.)
From the descendants of Judah:
Athaiah son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son
of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, a descendant of Perez;
5 and Maaseiah son of Baruch, the son of Col-hozeh, the son of Hazaiah,
the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, a descendant of
the Shilonite.‡
6 The descendants of Perez who settled in Jerusalem totaled 468 men of
valor.
7 From the descendants of Benjamin:
Sallu son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of
Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiah;
8 and his followers Gabbai and Sallai—928 men.
9 Joel son of Zichri was the officer over them, and Judah son of
Hassenuah was second in command of the city.§
10 From the priests:

Jedaiah son of Joiarib;* Jachin;
11 Seraiah son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the
son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the chief official of the house of God;
12 and their associates who did the work at the temple—822 men;
Adaiah son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of
Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah;
13 and his associates, the leaders of families—242 men;
Amashai son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the
son of Immer;
14 and their associates†—128 mighty men of valor. Zabdiel son of
Haggedolim was their overseer.

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* **11:1 11:1** Hebrew *nine hands* † **11:3 11:3** Hebrew *Nethinim*; also in verse 21 ‡ **11:5 11:5** Or *of Shelah* § **11:9 11:9** Or *was over the Second District of the city*, or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem * **11:10 11:10** Or *Jedaiah; the son of Joiarib;* † **11:14 11:14** Most LXX manuscripts *his associates*

15 From the Levites:
Shemaiah son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;
16 Shabbethai and Jozabad, two leaders of the Levites, who supervised the work outside the house of God;
17 Mattaniah son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who led in thanksgiving and prayer; Bakbukiah, second among his associates; and Abda son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.
18 The Levites in the holy city totaled 284.
19 And the gatekeepers:
Akkub, Talmon, and their associates, who kept watch at the gates—172 men.
20 The rest of the Israelites, with the priests and Levites, were in all the villages of Judah, each on his own inheritance.
21 The temple servants lived on the hill of Ophel, with Ziha and Gishpa over them.
22 Now the overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica.‡ He was one of Asaph's descendants, who were the singers in charge of the service of the house of God.
23 For there was a command from the king concerning the singers, an ordinance regulating their daily activities.
24 Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, a descendant of Zerah son of Judah, was the king's agent§ in every matter concerning the people.
25 As for the villages with their fields, some of the people of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba, Dibon, Jekabzeel, and their villages;
26 in Jeshua, Moladah, and Beth-pelet;
27 in Hazar-shual; in Beersheba and its villages;
28 in Ziklag; in Meconah and its villages;
29 in En-rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth,
30 Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages; in Lachish and its fields; and in Azekah and its villages. So they settled from Beersheba all the way to the Valley of Hinnom.
31 The descendants of Benjamin from Geba lived in Michmash, Aija, and Bethel with its villages;
32 in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,
33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,
34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,
35 Lod, and Ono; and in the Valley of the Craftsmen.*
36 And some divisions of the Levites of Judah settled in Benjamin.

12

1 Now these are the priests and Levites who went up with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and with Jeshua:

Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,
2 Amariah, Malluch,* Hattush,
3 Shecaniah, Rehum,† Meremoth,

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‡ **11:22 11:22** *Mica* is a variant of *Micaiah*; see Nehemiah 12:35. § **11:24 11:24** Hebrew *hand*
* **11:35 11:35** Hebrew *in Ge-harashim* * **12:2 12:2** *Malluch* is a variant of *Malluchi*; see verse 14. † **12:3 12:3** *Rehum* is a variant of *Harim*; see verse 15, Nehemiah 7:42, and Ezra 2:39.

4 Iddo, Ginnethoi,‡ Abijah,
5 Mijamin,§ Maadiah,* Bilgah,†
6 Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,
7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah.

These were the leaders of the priests and their associates in the days of Jeshua.
8 The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who, with his associates, led the songs of thanksgiving.
9 Bakbukiah and Unni,‡ their associates, stood across from them in the services.

10 Jeshua was the father of Joiakim,
Joiakim was the father of Eliashib,
Eliashib was the father of Joiada,
11 Joiada was the father of Jonathan,§
and Jonathan was the father of Jaddua.
12 In the days of Joiakim, these were the heads of the priestly families:

of the family of Seraiah, Meraiah;
of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
13 of Ezra, Meshullam;
of Amariah, Jehohanan;
14 of Melicu,* Jonathan;
of Shebaniah,† Joseph;
15 of Harim, Adna;
of Meraioth,‡ Helkai;
16 of Iddo, Zechariah;
of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
17 of Abijah, Zichri;
of Miniamin and of Moadiah,§ Piltai;
18 of Bilgah, Shammua;
of Shemaiah, Jonathan;
19 of Joiarib, Mattenai;
of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
20 of Sallai,* Kallai;
of Amok, Eber;
21 of Hilkiah, Hashabiah;
and of Jedaiah, Nethanel.
22 In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan,† and Jaddua, during the reign of Darius the Persian, the heads of the families of the Levites and priests were recorded.

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‡ **12:4 12:4** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate (see also verse 16) *Ginnethon* § **12:5 12:5** *Mijamin* is a variant of *Miniamin*; see verse 17. * **12:5 12:5** *Maadiah* is a variant of *Moadiah*; see verse 17. † **12:5 12:5** *Bilgah* is a variant of *Bilgai*; also in verse 18; see Nehemiah 10:9. ‡ **12:9 12:9** Qere; Ketiv *Unno* § **12:11 12:11** *Jonathan* is a variant of *Johanan*; see verse 22. * **12:14 12:14** Qere; Ketiv *Malluchi*, a variant of *Malluch*; see verse 2 † **12:14 12:14** *Shebaniah* is a variant of *Shecaniah*; see verse 3; see also Syriac and some Hebrew and LXX manuscripts. ‡ **12:15 12:15** *Meraioth* is a variant of *Meremoth*; see verse 3 and also some LXX manuscripts. § **12:17 12:17** *Moadiah* is a variant of *Maadiah*; see verse 5. * **12:20 12:20** *Sallai* is a variant of *Sallu*; see verse 7. † **12:22 12:22** *Johanan* is a variant of *Jonathan*; see verse 11.

23 As for the descendants of Levi, the family heads up to the days of
Johanan son of Eliashib were recorded in the Book of the Chronicles.‡
24 The leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua son
of Kadmiel,§ along with their associates, who stood across from them to
give praise and thanksgiving as one section alternated with the other, as
prescribed by David the man of God.
25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were
gatekeepers who guarded the storerooms at the gates.
26 They served in the days of Joiakim son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak,*
and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe.
27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out
from all their homes and brought to Jerusalem to celebrate the joyous
dedication with thanksgiving and singing, accompanied by cymbals,
harps, and lyres.
28 The singers were also assembled from the region around Jerusalem,
from the villages of the Netophathites,
29 from Beth-gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth, for they
had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem.
30 After the priests and Levites had purified themselves, they purified
the people, the gates, and the wall.
31 Then I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and I appointed
two great thanksgiving choirs. One was to proceed along the top of the
wall† to the right, toward the Dung Gate.
32 Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah followed,
33 along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,
34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,
35 and some of the priests with trumpets, and also Zechariah son of
Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah,‡
the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph,
36 and his associates—Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel,
Judah, and Hanani—with the musical instruments prescribed by David
the man of God. Ezra the scribe led the procession.
37 At the Fountain Gate they went directly up the steps of the City of
David on the ascent to the wall and passed above the house of David to the
Water Gate on the east.
38 The second thanksgiving choir proceeded in the opposite direction,§
and I followed it with half the people along the top of the wall, past the
Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall,
39 over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah Gate,* the Fish Gate, the
Tower of Hananel, and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate.
And they stopped at the Gate of the Guard.
40 The two thanksgiving choirs then stood in the house of God, as did I,
along with the half of the officials accompanying me,
41 as well as the priests with their trumpets—Eliakim, Maaseiah,
Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah—

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‡ **12:23 12:23** Or *the Book of the Annals* or *the Book of the Historical Events* § **12:24 12:24** By emendation (compare verse 8) *Sherebiah, Jeshua, Binnui, and Kadmiel* * **12:26 12:26** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; see 1 Chronicles 5:40. † **12:31 12:31** Or *alongside the wall*; also in verse 38 ‡ **12:35 12:35** *Micaiah* is a variant of *Mica*; see Nehemiah 11:22. § **12:38 12:38** Or, by emendation, *proceeded to the left* * **12:39 12:39** Or *the Old City Gate*

42 and also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah,
Elam, and Ezer. Then the choirs sang out under the direction of Jezrahiah.
43 On that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had
given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced, so that the
joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar.
44 And on that same day men were appointed over the rooms that
housed the supplies, contributions, firstfruits, and tithes. The portions
specified by the Teaching for the priests and Levites were gathered into
these storerooms from the fields of the villages, because Judah rejoiced
over the priests and Levites who were serving.
45 They performed the service of their God and the service of
purification, along with the singers and gatekeepers, as David and his son
Solomon had prescribed.
46 For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there were directors† for
the singers and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.
47 So in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah, all Israel contributed the
daily portions for the singers and gatekeepers. They also set aside daily
portions for the Levites, and the Levites set aside daily portions for the
descendants of Aaron.

13

1 At that time the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the
people, and in it they found the passage stating that no Ammonite or
Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,*
2 because they had not met the Israelites with food and water, but had
hired Balaam to call down a curse against them (although our God had
turned the curse into a blessing).
3 As soon as the people heard this law, they excluded from Israel all of
foreign descent.
4 Now before this, Eliashib the priest, a relative of Tobiah, had been put
in charge of the storerooms of the house of our God
5 and had prepared for Tobiah a large room where they had previously
stored the grain offerings, the frankincense, the temple articles, and the
tithes of grain, new wine, and oil prescribed for the Levites, singers, and
gatekeepers, along with the contributions for the priests.
6 While all this was happening, I was not in Jerusalem, because I had
returned to Artaxerxes king of Babylon† in the thirty-second year of his
reign. Some time later I obtained leave from the king
7 to return to Jerusalem. Then I discovered the evil that Eliashib had
done on behalf of Tobiah by providing him a room in the courts of the
house of God.
8 And I was greatly displeased and threw all of Tobiah's household goods
out of the room.
9 Then I ordered that the rooms be purified, and I had the articles of the
house of God restored to them, along with the grain offerings and
frankincense.
10 I also learned that because the portions for the Levites had not been
given to them, all the Levites and singers responsible for performing the
service had gone back to their own fields.

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† **12:46 12:46** Qere; Ketiv *there was a director* * **13:1 13:1** See Deuteronomy 23:4–7. † **13:6 13:6** Artaxerxes king of Persia is identified here as the king of Babylon because Persia had conquered the Babylonian Empire.

11 So I rebuked the officials and asked, “Why has the house of God been
neglected?”
Then I gathered the Levites and singers together and stationed them at
their posts,
12 and all Judah brought a tenth of the grain, new wine, and oil into the
storerooms.
13 I appointed as treasurers over the storerooms Shelemiah the priest,
Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, with Hanan son of Zaccur,
the son of Mattaniah, to assist them, because they were considered
trustworthy. They were responsible for distributing the supplies to their
fellow Levites.
14 Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out my deeds of
loving devotion for the house of my God and for its services.
15 In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the
Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, along with wine,
grapes, and figs. All kinds of goods were being brought into Jerusalem on
the Sabbath day. So I warned them against selling food on that day.
16 Additionally, men of Tyre who lived there were importing fish and all
kinds of merchandise and selling them on the Sabbath to the people of
Judah, and in Jerusalem.
17 Then I rebuked the nobles of Judah and asked, “What is this evil you
are doing—profaning the Sabbath day?
18 Did not your forefathers do the same things, so that our God brought
all this disaster on us and on this city? And now you are rekindling his
wrath against Israel by profaning the Sabbath!”
19 When the evening shadows began to fall on the gates of Jerusalem,
just before the Sabbath, I ordered that the gates be shut and not opened
until after the Sabbath. I posted some of my servants at the gates so that
no load could enter on the Sabbath day.
20 Once or twice, the merchants and those who sell all kinds of goods
camped outside Jerusalem,
21 but I warned them, “Why are you camping in front of the wall? If you
do it again, I will lay hands on you.” From that time on, they did not return
on the Sabbath.
22 Then I instructed the Levites to purify themselves and guard the gates
in order to keep the Sabbath day holy.
Remember me for this as well, O my God, and show me mercy according
to your abundant loving devotion.
23 In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod,
Ammon, and Moab.
24 Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or of the other
peoples, but could not speak the language of Judah.
25 I rebuked them and called down curses on them. I beat some of these
men and pulled out their hair.
Then I made them take an oath before God and said, “You must not give
your daughters in marriage to their sons or take their daughters as wives
for your sons or for yourselves!
26 Did not King Solomon of Israel sin in matters like this? There was not
a king like him among many nations, and he was loved by his God, who
made him king over all Israel—yet foreign women drew him into sin.
27 Must we now hear that you too are doing all this terrible evil and
acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?”

28 Even one of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest had
become a son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I drove him
away from me.
29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood
and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.
30 Thus I purified the priests and Levites from everything foreign, and I
assigned specific duties to each of the priests and Levites.
31 I also arranged for contributions of wood at the appointed times, and
for the firstfruits.
Remember me, O my God, with favor.

1 Chronicles

1 Adam, Seth, Enosh,
2 Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared,
3 Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,
4 Noah,

Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

5 The sons of Japheth:
Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.
6 The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Diphath,† and Togarmah.
7 And the sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites, and the Rodanites.

8 The sons of Ham:
Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.
9 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabta,‡ Raamah, and Sabteca.
The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.
10 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who began to be a mighty one§ on the earth.
11 Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, the Anamites, the Lehabites, the Naphtuhites,
12 the Pathrusites, the Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came), and the Caphtorites.*
13 And Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn,† and of the Hittites,‡
14 the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,
15 the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,
16 the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.

17 The sons of Shem:
Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram,§
Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.*
18 Arpachshad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah was the father of Eber.
19 Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg,† because in his days the earth was divided, and his brother was named Joktan.
20 And Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,
21 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,
22 Ebal,‡ Abimael, Sheba,

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* **1:4 1:4** LXX *Noah. The sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth*; see Genesis 5:32. † **1:6 1:6** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate (see also LXX and Genesis 10:3) *Riphath* ‡ **1:9 1:9** *Sabta* is a variant of *Sabtah*; see Genesis 10:7. § **1:10 1:10** Or *who established himself as a mighty warrior* * **1:12 1:12** Some translators adjust the Hebrew word order to *the Casluhites, and the Caphtorites (from whom the Philistines came)*; see also Jeremiah 47:4 and Amos 9:7. † **1:13 1:13** Or *of the Sidonians, the foremost* ‡ **1:13 1:13** Hebrew *and of Heth* § **1:17 1:17** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript and some LXX manuscripts (see also Genesis 10:23) add *The sons of Aram:* * **1:17 1:17** *Meshech* is a variant of *Mash*; see Genesis 10:23. † **1:19 1:19** *Peleg* means *division*. ‡ **1:22 1:22** LXX and Syriac (see also Genesis 10:28) *Obal*

23 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.
24 Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah;§
25 Eber, Peleg, Reu,
26 Serug, Nahor, Terah,
27 and Abram (that is, Abraham).
28 The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael.
29 These are their genealogies:

Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,
30 Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,
31 Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael.

32 The sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine:
Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

The sons of Jokshan:
Sheba and Dedan.

33 The sons of Midian:
Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.
All of these were Keturah's sons.

34 Abraham was the father of Isaac. The sons of Isaac:
Esau and Israel.
35 The sons of Esau:
Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.
36 The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zephi,* Gatam, Kenaz, Timna,
and Amalek.†
37 The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.
38 The sons of Seir:
Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.
39 The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam.‡ Timna was Lotan's sister.
40 The sons of Shobal: Alian,§ Manahath, Ebal, Shephi,* and Onam.
The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah.
41 The son† of Anah: Dishon.
The sons of Dishon: Hamran,‡ Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.
42 The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Jaakan.§
The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.
43 These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king
reigned over the Israelites:*

Bela son of Beor. His city was named Dinhabah.

44 When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah reigned in his place.

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§ **1:24 1:24** Or *So from Shem came Arpachshad, Shelah*; some LXX manuscripts *Shem, Arpachshad, Cainan, Shelah*; see also Genesis 10:24 LXX. * **1:36 1:36** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also Genesis 36:11) *Zepho* † **1:36 1:36** Some LXX manuscripts (see Genesis 36:12) *Gatam, and Kenaz; and by Timna, Amalek* ‡ **1:39 1:39** *Homam* is a variant of *Hemam*; see Genesis 36:22. § **1:40 1:40** LXX (see also Genesis 36:23) *Alvan* * **1:40 1:40** LXX (see also Genesis 36:23) *Shepho* † **1:41 1:41** Hebrew *sons* ‡ **1:41 1:41** LXX (see also Genesis 36:26) *Hemdan* § **1:42 1:42** LXX (see also Genesis 36:27) *Akan* * **1:43 1:43** Or *before an Israelite king ruled over them*

45 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites reigned in
his place.

46 When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the
country of Moab, reigned in his place. And the name of his city was
Avith.

47 When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah reigned in his place.

48 When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the Euphrates† reigned
in his place.

49 When Shaul died, Baal-hanan son of Achbor reigned in his place.

50 When Baal-hanan died, Hadad reigned in his place. His city was
named Pai,‡ and his wife's name was Mehetabel daughter of Matred,
the daughter of Me-zahab.

51 Then Hadad died.
Now the chiefs of Edom were Timna, Alvah,§ Jetheth,
52 Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,
53 Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,
54 Magdiel, and Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom.

2

1 These were the sons of Israel:

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun,
2 Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

3 The sons of Judah:
Er, Onan, and Shelah. These three were born to him by Bath-shua the
Canaanite. Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the
LORD. So the LORD put him to death.
4 Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law, bore to him Perez and Zerah. Judah
had five sons in all.

5 The sons of Perez:
Hezron and Hamul.

6 The sons of Zerah:
Zimri,* Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara†—five in all.

7 The son‡ of Carmi:
Achar,§ who brought trouble upon Israel by violating the ban on
devoted things.

8 The son of Ethan:

† **1:48 1:48** Hebrew *the River* ‡ **1:50 1:50** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many MT manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also Genesis 36:39) *Pau* § **1:51 1:51** Qere; Ketiv *Aliah* * **2:6 2:6** *Zimri* is a variant of *Zabdi*; see Joshua 7:1. † **2:6 2:6** Most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also 1 Kings 5:11) *Darda* ‡ **2:7 2:7** Hebrew *sons* § **2:7 2:7** *Achar* means *troubler*; also called *Achan* in Joshua 7 and Joshua 22.

Azariah.

9 The sons who were born to Hezron:
Jerahmeel, Ram, and Caleb.*

10 Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab was the father of
Nahshon, a leader of the descendants of Judah.

11 Nahshon was the father of Salma,† and Salma was the father of Boaz.

12 Boaz was the father of Obed, and Obed was the father of Jesse.

13 Jesse was the father of Eliab his firstborn; Abinadab was born second,
Shimea‡ third,
14 Nethanel fourth, Raddai fifth,
15 Ozem sixth, and David seventh.
16 Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. And the three sons of Zeruiah
were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel.
17 Abigail was the mother of Amasa, whose father was Jether§ the
Ishmaelite.

18 Caleb son of Hezron had children by his wife Azubah and by Jerioth.
These were the sons of Azubah: Jesher, Shobab, and Ardon.
19 When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath,* who bore to him Hur.
20 Hur was the father of Uri, and Uri was the father of Bezalel.

21 Later, Hezron slept with the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead.
He had married her when he was sixty years old, and she bore to him
Segub.
22 Segub was the father of Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of
Gilead.
23 But Geshur and Aram captured Havvoth-jair,† along with Kenath and
its sixty surrounding villages. All these were descendants of Machir the
father of Gilead.

24 After Hezron died in Caleb-ephrathah, his wife Abijah bore‡ to him
Ashhur the father§ of Tekoa.

25 The sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron:
Ram his firstborn, Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah.
26 Jerahmeel had another wife named Atarah, who was the mother of
Onam.

27 The sons of Ram the firstborn of Jerahmeel:
Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

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* **2:9 2:9** Hebrew *Chelubai*, a variant of *Caleb*; see verse 18. † **2:11 2:11** LXX (see also Ruth 4:20–21) *Salmon*; twice in this verse ‡ **2:13 2:13** *Shimea* is a variant of *Shammah*, *Shimeah*, and *Shimei*; see 1 Samuel 16:9, 2 Samuel 13:3, and 2 Samuel 21:21. § **2:17 2:17** *Jether* is a variant of *Ithra*; see 2 Samuel 17:25. * **2:19 2:19** *Ephrath* is a variant of *Ephrathah*; see verse 50. † **2:23 2:23** Or *the villages of Jair* ‡ **2:24 2:24** Or *After Hezron died, Caleb had relations with Ephrathah, the wife of Hezron his father, and she bore*; see also LXX. § **2:24 2:24** Or *the founder*; also in verses 42, 45, 49, and possibly elsewhere

28 The sons of Onam:
Shammai and Jada.

The sons of Shammai:
Nadab and Abishur.
29 Abishur's wife was named Abihail, and she bore to him Ahban and
Molid.

30 The sons of Nadab:
Seled and Appaim. Seled died without children.

31 The son* of Appaim:
Ishi.

The son of Ishi:
Sheshan.

The son of Sheshan:
Ahlai.

32 The sons of Jada the brother of Shammai:
Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without children.

33 The sons of Jonathan:
Peleth and Zaza.

These were the descendants of Jerahmeel.

34 Sheshan had no sons, but only daughters. He also had an Egyptian
slave named Jarha.
35 Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage to his slave Jarha, and she
bore to him Attai.

36 Attai was the father of Nathan, Nathan was the father of Zabad,
37 Zabad was the father of Ephlal, Ephlal was the father of Obed,
38 Obed was the father of Jehu, Jehu was the father of Azariah,
39 Azariah was the father of Helez, Helez was the father of Elasah,
40 Elasah was the father of Sismai, Sismai was the father of Shallum,
41 Shallum was the father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah was the father of
Elishama.

42 The sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel:
Mesha† his firstborn, who was the father of Ziph, and the sons of
Mareshah the father of Hebron.‡

43 The sons of Hebron:
Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema.
44 Shema was the father of Raham the father of Jorkeam, and Rekem
was the father of Shammai.
45 The son of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the father of
Beth-zur.

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* **2:31 2:31** Hebrew *sons*; three times in this verse † **2:42 2:42** LXX *Mareshah* ‡ **2:42 2:42** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; others read *and Mareshah his second son, who was the father of Hebron*

46 Caleb's concubine Ephah was the mother of Haran, Moza, and Gazez.
Haran was the father of Gazez.

47 The sons of Jahdai:
Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

48 Caleb's concubine Maacah was the mother of Sheber and Tirhanah.
49 She was also the mother of Shaaph father of Madmannah, and of
Sheva father of Machbenah and Gibea. Caleb's daughter was Acsah.
50 These were the descendants of Caleb.

The son§ of Hur the firstborn of Ephrathah:*
Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim,
51 Salma the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth-gader.

52 These were the descendants of Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim:
Haroeh, half the Manahathites,
53 and the clans of Kiriath-jearim—the Ithrites, Puthites, Shumathites,
and Mishraites. From these descended the Zorathites and Eshtaolites.

54 The descendants of Salma:
Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth-beth-joab, half the
Manahathites, the Zorites,
55 and the clans of the scribes† who lived at Jabez—the Tirathites,
Shimeathites, and Sucathites. These are the Kenites who came from
Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.‡

3

1 These were the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron:

The firstborn was Amnon by Ahinoam of Jezreel;

the second was Daniel by Abigail of Carmel;

2 the third was Absalom the son of Maacah daughter of King Talmai of
Geshur;

the fourth was Adonijah the son of Haggith;

3 the fifth was Shephatiah by Abital;

and the sixth was Ithream by his wife Eglah.

4 These six sons were born to David in Hebron, where he reigned seven
years and six months.
And David reigned in Jerusalem thirty-three years,
5 and these sons were born to him in Jerusalem:

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§ **2:50 2:50** LXX and Vulgate *The sons* * **2:50 2:50** *Ephrathah* is a variant of *Ephrath*; see verse 19.
† **2:55 2:55** Or *of the Sopherites* ‡ **2:55 2:55** Or *the father of Beth-rekab* or *the founder of the house of Rechab*

Shimea,* Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. These four were born to him
by Bath-shua† daughter of Ammiel.‡

6 And Ibhar, Elishama,§ Eliphelet,
7 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,
8 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet—nine in all.

9 These were all the sons of David, besides the sons by his concubines.
And Tamar was their sister.
10 Solomon's son was Rehoboam:
Abijah was his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,
11 Joram* his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,
12 Amaziah his son, Azariah† his son, Jotham his son,
13 Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son,
14 Amon his son, and Josiah his son.

15 The sons of Josiah:
Johanan was the firstborn, Jehoiakim the second, Zedekiah the third,
and Shallum‡ the fourth.

16 The successors of Jehoiakim:
Jeconiah§ his son, and Zedekiah his son.
17 The descendants of Jeconiah the captive:
Shealtiel his son,
18 Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.

19 The sons of Pedaiah:
Zerubbabel and Shimei.

The children of Zerubbabel:
Meshullam and Hananiah, their sister Shelomith,
20 and five others: Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and
Jushab-hesed.

21 The descendants of Hananiah:
Pelatiah, Jeshaiah, and the sons of Rephaiah, of Arnan, of Obadiah,
and of Shecaniah.

22 The six descendants of Shecaniah were Shemaiah and his sons:
Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat.

23 The sons of Neariah:
Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam—three in all.

24 The sons of Elioenai:

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* **3:5 3:5** *Shimea* is a variant of *Shammua*; see 2 Samuel 5:14 and 1 Chronicles 14:4. † **3:5 3:5** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript and Vulgate (see also LXX and 2 Samuel 11:3) *Bathsheba* ‡ **3:5 3:5** *Ammiel* is a variant of *Eliam*; see 2 Samuel 11:3. § **3:6 3:6** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; two Hebrew manuscripts (see also 2 Samuel 5:15 and 1 Chronicles 14:5) *Elishua* * **3:11 3:11** *Joram* is a variant spelling of *Jehoram*. † **3:12 3:12** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; see 2 Chronicles 26:1. ‡ **3:15 3:15** *Shallum* is another name for *Jehoahaz*. § **3:16 3:16** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; also in verse 17; see 2 Kings 24:6.

Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and
Anani—seven in all.

4

1 The descendants of Judah:

Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal.

2 Reaiah son of Shobal was the father of Jahath, and Jahath was the
father of Ahumai and Lahad. These were the clans of the Zorathites.

3 These were of the father* of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash. And
their sister was named Hazzelelponi.
4 Penuel was the father† of Gedor, and Ezer was the father of Hushah.

These were the descendants of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah and the
father of Bethlehem.

5 Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah.
6 Naarah bore to him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni, and Haahashtari.
These were the descendants of Naarah.
7 The sons of Helah were Zereth, Zohar,‡ Ethnan,
8 and Koz, who was the father of Anub and Zobebah and of the clans
of Aharhel son of Harum.
9 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had
named him Jabez,§ saying, “Because I bore him in pain.”

10 And Jabez called out to the God of Israel, “If only you would bless me
and enlarge my territory! May your hand be with me and keep me
from harm, so that I will be free from pain.”

And God granted the request of Jabez.
11 Chelub the brother of Shuhah was the father of Mehir, who was the
father of Eshton.
12 Eshton was the father of Beth-rapha, of Paseah, and of Tehinnah the
father of Ir-nahash. These were the men of Recah.

13 The sons of Kenaz:
Othniel and Seraiah.

The sons of Othniel:
Hathath.*
14 Meonothai was the father of Ophrah, and Seraiah was the father of
Joab, the father of those living in Ge-harashim, which was given this
name because its people were craftsmen.†

15 The sons of Caleb son of Jephunneh:
Iru, Elah, and Naam.

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* **4:3 4:3** LXX (see also Vulgate) *These were the sons* † **4:4 4:4** Or *the founder*; also in verses 5, 12, 14, 17, 18, and possibly elsewhere ‡ **4:7 4:7** Qere; Ketiv *Izhar* § **4:9 4:9** *Jabez* sounds like the Hebrew for *pain* or *distress.* * **4:13 4:13** Vulgate and some LXX manuscripts add *and Meonothai* † **4:14 4:14** Literally *Ge-harashim, for they were craftsmen.* The Hebrew *Ge-harashim* means *valley of craftsmen.*

The son‡ of Elah:
Kenaz.

16 The sons of Jehallelel:
Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

17 The sons of Ezrah:
Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon.
And she gave birth§ to Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.
18 These were the children of Pharaoh's daughter Bithiah.*
Mered also took a Judahite† wife, who gave birth to Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.

19 The sons of Hodiah's wife, the sister of Naham, were the fathers of Keilah the Garmite and of Eshtemoa the Maacathite.‡

20 The sons of Shimon:
Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-hanan, and Tilon.

The descendants of Ishi:
Zoheth and Ben-zoheth.

21 The sons of Shelah son of Judah:
Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah and the clans of the linen workers at Beth-ashbea,
22 Jokim, the men of Cozeba, and Joash and Saraph, who ruled in Moab and Jashubi-lehem. (These names are from ancient records.)
23 These were the potters who lived at Netaim and Gederah. They lived there in the service of the king.
24 The descendants of Simeon:

Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah,§ and Shaul.

25 Shallum was Shaul's son, Mibsam his son, and Mishma his son.

26 The descendants of Mishma:
Hammuel his son, Zaccur his son, and Shimei his son.

27 Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters, but his brothers did not have many children, so their whole clan did not become as numerous as the sons of Judah.
28 They lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar-shual,
29 Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,
30 Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,
31 Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-biri, and Shaaraim. These were their cities until the reign of David.
32 And their villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan—five towns—

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‡ **4:15 4:15** Hebrew *sons* § **4:17 4:17** Hebrew *she conceived*; probably Mered's wife Bithiah (see verse 18) * **4:18 4:18** This statement is at the end of verse 18 in the Hebrew. † **4:18 4:18** Or *Judean* ‡ **4:19 4:19** Or *were the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite* § **4:24 4:24** *Zerah* is a variant of *Zohar*; see Genesis 46:10 and Exodus 6:15.

33 and all their surrounding villages as far as Baal.* These were their
settlements, and they kept a genealogical record:
34 Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah son of Amaziah,
35 Joel, Jehu son of Joshibiah (son of Seraiah, son of Asiel),
36 Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah,
37 and Ziza son of Shiphi (son of Allon, son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri,
son of Shemaiah).

38 These men listed by name were the leaders of their clans. Their
families increased greatly,
39 and they journeyed to the entrance of Gedor, to the east side of the
valley, in search of pasture for their flocks.
40 There they found rich, good pasture, and the land was spacious,
peaceful, and quiet; for some Hamites had lived there formerly.

41 These who were noted by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of
Judah. They attacked the Hamites in their dwellings as well as the
Meunites who were there, devoting them to destruction† even to this
day. Then they settled in their place, because there was pasture for
their flocks.
42 And five hundred of these Simeonites led by Pelatiah, Neariah,
Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi, went to Mount Seir
43 and struck down the remnant of the Amalekites who had escaped.
And they have lived there to this day.

5

1 These were the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel. Though he was
the firstborn, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph son of Israel,
because Reuben defiled his father's bed. So he is not reckoned according
to birthright.
2 And though Judah prevailed over his brothers and a ruler came from
him, the birthright belonged to Joseph.
3 The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel:

Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

4 The descendants of Joel:
Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son,
5 Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son,
6 and Beerah his son, whom Tiglath-pileser* king of Assyria carried
into exile.

Beerah was a leader of the Reubenites.
7 His relatives by their clans are recorded in their genealogy:
Jeiel the chief, Zechariah,
8 and Bela son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel. They settled
in Aroer and as far as Nebo and Baal-meon.

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* **4:33 4:33** Some LXX manuscripts (see also Joshua 19:8) *Baalath* † **4:41 4:41** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **5:6 5:6** Hebrew *Tilgath-pilneser*, a variant spelling of *Tiglath-pileser*; also in verse 26

9 They also settled in the east as far as the edge of the desert that
extends to the Euphrates River, because their livestock had increased in
the land of Gilead.
10 During the days of Saul they waged war against the Hagrites, who
were defeated at their hands, and they occupied the dwellings of the
Hagrites throughout the region east of Gilead.

11 The descendants of Gad lived next to the Reubenites in the land of
Bashan, as far as Salecah:

12 Joel was the chief, Shapham the second, then Jaanai and Shaphat, who
lived in Bashan.

13 Their kinsmen by families were Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai,
Jacan, Zia, and Eber—seven in all.
14 These were the sons of Abihail son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son
of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son
of Buz.
15 Ahi son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, was head of their family.

16 They lived in Gilead, in Bashan and its towns, and throughout the
pasturelands of Sharon.
17 All of them were recorded in the genealogies during the reigns of
Jotham king of Judah and Jeroboam king of Israel.

18 The Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had
44,760 warriors—valiant men who carried the shield and sword, drew
the bow, and were trained for battle.
19 They waged war against the Hagrites, as well as Jetur, Naphish, and
Nodab.

20 And because they cried out to God in battle, they were helped against
their enemies, and the Hagrites and all their allies were delivered into
their hands. Because they put their trust in God, he answered their
prayers.
21 They seized the livestock of the Hagrites—50,000 camels, 250,000
sheep, and 2,000 donkeys. They also took 100,000 captives,
22 and many others fell slain, because the battle belonged to God. And
they occupied the land until the exile.

23 Now the people of the half-tribe of Manasseh were numerous. They
settled in the land from Bashan to Baal-hermon and Senir and Mount
Hermon.†
24 These were the heads of their families:

Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel.

They were mighty men of valor, famous men, and heads of their
families.
25 But they were unfaithful to the God of their fathers, and they
prostituted themselves with the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God
had destroyed before them.

† **5:23 5:23** Or *from Bashan to Baal-hermon (that is, Senir, also known as Mount Hermon)*

26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria (that is,
Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria) to take the Reubenites, the Gadites, and
the half-tribe of Manasseh into exile. And he brought them to Halah,
Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan, where they remain to this day.
27 The sons of Levi:

Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

28 The sons of Kohath:
Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

29 The children of Amram:
Aaron, Moses, and Miriam.

The sons of Aaron:
Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
30 Eleazar was the father of Phinehas,
Phinehas was the father of Abishua,
31 Abishua was the father of Bukki,
Bukki was the father of Uzzi,
32 Uzzi was the father of Zerahiah,
Zerahiah was the father of Meraioth,
33 Meraioth was the father of Amariah,
Amariah was the father of Ahitub,
34 Ahitub was the father of Zadok,
Zadok was the father of Ahimaaz,
35 Ahimaaz was the father of Azariah,
Azariah was the father of Johanan,
36 Johanan was the father of Azariah, who served as priest in the
temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem,
37 Azariah was the father of Amariah,
Amariah was the father of Ahitub,
38 Ahitub was the father of Zadok,
Zadok was the father of Shallum,
39 Shallum was the father of Hilkiah,
Hilkiah was the father of Azariah,
40 Azariah was the father of Seraiah,
and Seraiah was the father of Jehozadak.‡

41 Jehozadak went into captivity when the LORD sent Judah and
Jerusalem into exile by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

6

1 The sons of Levi:

Gershom,* Kohath, and Merari.

2 These are the names of the sons of Gershom:
Libni and Shimei.

3 The sons of Kohath:
Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

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‡ **5:40 5:40** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; also in verse 41; see Ezra 3:2. * **6:1 6:1** *Gershom* is a variant of *Gershon*; similarly in verses 2, 5, 28, 47, and 56; see 5:27.

4 The sons of Merari:
Mahli and Mushi.
These are the clans of the Levites listed according to their fathers:

5 Of Gershom:
Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son,
6 Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, and Jeatherai his son.

7 The descendants of Kohath:
Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son,
8 Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph† his son, Assir his son,
9 Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uzziah his son, and Shaul his son.

10 The descendants of Elkanah:
Amasai, Ahimoth,
11 Elkanah his son,‡ Zophai his son, Nahath his son,
12 Eliab§ his son, Jeroham his son, and Elkanah his son.*

13 The sons of Samuel:
the firstborn Vashni, then Abijah.†

14 The descendants of Merari:
Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,
15 Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, and Asaiah his son.
16 These are the men David put in charge of the music in the house of the LORD after the ark rested there.
17 They ministered with song before the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, until Solomon built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. And they performed their duties according to the regulations given them.
18 These are the men who served, together with their sons.

From the Kohathites:
Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,
19 the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel,‡ the son of Toah,
20 the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,
21 the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,
22 the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,
23 the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.

24 Heman's kinsman was Asaph, who served at his right hand:
Asaph the son of Berechiah, the son of Shimea,
25 the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah,§ the son of Malchijah,

† **6:8 6:8** *Ebiasaph* is a variant of *Abiasaph*; also in verse 22; see Exodus 6:24. ‡ **6:11 6:11** Ketiv (the Hebrew repeats *Elkanah*); Qere *Elkanah. The sons of Elkanah:* § **6:12 6:12** *Eliab* is also called *Eliel*; see verse 19. Both of these are other names for *Elihu*; see 1 Samuel 1:1. * **6:12 6:12** Some LXX manuscripts include *and Samuel his son*; see verses 18–19 and 1 Samuel 1:19–20. † **6:13 6:13** Syriac and some LXX manuscripts (see also verse 18 and 1 Samuel 8:2) *Joel his firstborn and Abijah his second son* ‡ **6:19 6:19** *Eliel* is also called *Eliab*; see verse 12. Both of these are other names for *Elihu*; see 1 Samuel 1:1. § **6:25 6:25** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, one LXX manuscript, and Syriac *Maaseiah*

26 the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,
27 the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei,
28 the son of Jahath, the son of Gershom, the son of Levi.

29 On the left were their kinsmen, the sons of Merari:
Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch,
30 the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah,
31 the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shemer,
32 the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.
33 Their fellow Levites were assigned to every kind of service of the tabernacle, the house of God.
34 But Aaron and his sons did all the work of the Holy of Holies.* They presented the offerings on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

35 These were the descendants of Aaron:
Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,
36 Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,
37 Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,
38 Zadok his son, and Ahimaaz his son.
39 Now these were the territories assigned to the descendants of Aaron from the Kohathite clan for their settlements, because the lot fell to them:†

40 They were given Hebron in the land of Judah and its surrounding pasturelands.
41 But the fields and villages around the city were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh.
42 So the descendants of Aaron were given the cities of refuge: Hebron, Libnah,‡ Jattir, Eshtemoa,
43 Hilez,§ Debir,
44 Ashan,*† and Beth-shemesh, together with their pasturelands.

45 And from the tribe of Benjamin they were given‡ Geba, Alemeth, and Anathoth, together with their pasturelands. So they had thirteen cities in all among their families.

46 To the rest of the Kohathites, ten cities were allotted from the half-tribe of Manasseh.
47 The Gershomites,§ according to their clans, were allotted thirteen cities from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh in Bashan.
48 The Merarites, according to their clans, were allotted twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.
49 So the Israelites gave to the Levites these cities and their pasturelands.
50 They assigned by lot the cities named above from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

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* **6:34 6:34** Or *the Most Holy Place* † **6:39 6:39** Joshua 21:10 *the first lot* ‡ **6:42 6:42** The parallel text at Joshua 21:13 *Hebron (a city of refuge), Libnah* § **6:43 6:43** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts *Hilen* * **6:44 6:44** *Ashan* is a variant of *Ain*; see Joshua 21:16. † **6:44 6:44** Syriac and the parallel text at Joshua 21:16 add *Juttah,* ‡ **6:45 6:45** LXX, Syriac, and parallel text at Joshua 21:17 add *Gibeon,* § **6:47 6:47** *Gershomites* is a variant of *Gershonites*; also in verse 56; see 1 Chronicles 23:7.

51 And some of the clans of the Kohathites were given cities from the
tribe of Ephraim for their territory:

52 They were given the cities of refuge: Shechem* with its pasturelands
in the hill country of Ephraim, and Gezer,
53 Jokmeam, Beth-horon,
54 Aijalon, and Gath-rimmon, together with their pasturelands.

55 And from the half-tribe of Manasseh the rest of the clans of the
Kohathites were given Aner and Bileam, together with their
pasturelands.
56 The Gershomites received the following:

From the clan of the half-tribe of Manasseh they were given Golan in
Bashan and also Ashtaroth, together with their pasturelands.

57 From the tribe of Issachar they were given Kedesh, Daberath,
58 Ramoth, and Anem, together with their pasturelands.

59 From the tribe of Asher they were given Mashal, Abdon,
60 Hukok, and Rehob, together with their pasturelands.

61 And from the tribe of Naphtali they were given Kedesh in Galilee,
Hammon, and Kiriathaim, together with their pasturelands.
62 The Merarites (the rest of the Levites) received the following:

From the tribe of Zebulun they were given Rimmono and Tabor,†
together with their pasturelands.

63 From the tribe of Reuben east of the Jordan opposite Jericho they
were given Bezer in the wilderness, Jahzah,‡
64 Kedemoth, and Mephaath, together with their pasturelands.

65 And from the tribe of Gad they were given Ramoth in Gilead,
Mahanaim,
66 Heshbon, and Jazer, together with their pasturelands.

7

1 The sons of Issachar:

Tola, Puah,* Jashub, and Shimron—four in all.

2 The sons of Tola:
Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Shemuel, the heads of their
families. In the days of David, 22,600 descendants of Tola were
numbered in their genealogies as mighty men of valor.

3 The son† of Uzzi:

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* **6:52 6:52** The parallel text at Joshua 21:21 *Shechem (a city of refuge)* † **6:62 6:62** LXX *(they were given) Jokneam, Kartah, Rimmono, and Tabor*; see Joshua 21:34. ‡ **6:63 6:63** *Jahzah* is a variant of *Jahaz*; see Numbers 21:23. * **7:1 7:1** *Puah* is a variant of *Puvah*; see Genesis 46:13 and Numbers 26:23. † **7:3 7:3** Hebrew *sons*; also in verses 10 and 17

Izrahiah.

The sons of Izrahiah:
Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah. All five of them were chiefs.
4 In addition to them, according to their genealogy, they had 36,000
troops for battle, for they had many wives and children.

5 Their kinsmen belonging to all the families of Issachar who were
mighty men of valor totaled 87,000, as listed in their genealogies.
6 The three sons of Benjamin:

Bela, Becher, and Jediael.

7 The sons of Bela:
Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri, heads of their families—five in
all. There were 22,034 mighty men of valor listed in their
genealogies.

8 The sons of Becher:
Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth,
and Alemeth; all these were Becher's sons.
9 Their genealogies were recorded according to the heads of their
families—20,200 mighty men of valor.

10 The son of Jediael:
Bilhan.

The sons of Bilhan:
Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar.
11 All these sons of Jediael were heads of their families, mighty men of
valor; there were 17,200 fit for battle.
12 The Shuppites and Huppites were descendants of Ir, and the
Hushites were descendants of Aher.
13 The sons of Naphtali:

Jahziel,‡ Guni, Jezer, and Shallum§—the descendants of Bilhah.
14 The descendants of Manasseh: Asriel

through his Aramean concubine. She also gave birth to Machir the
father of Gilead.

15 Machir took a wife from among the Huppites and Shuppites. The
name of his sister was Maacah.

Another descendant was named Zelophehad, who had only daughters.

16 Machir's wife Maacah gave birth to a son, and she named him Peresh.
His brother was named Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rekem.

17 The son of Ulam:
Bedan.

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‡ **7:13 7:13** *Jahziel* is a variant of *Jahzeel*; see Genesis 46:24. § **7:13 7:13** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew and LXX manuscripts *Shillem*; see Genesis 46:24 and Numbers 26:49.

These were the sons of Gilead son of Machir, the son of Manasseh.
18 His sister Hammolecheth gave birth to Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

19 And these were the sons of Shemida:
Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.
20 The descendants of Ephraim:

Shuthelah, Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eleadah his son, Tahath his son,
21 Zabad his son, and Shuthelah his son.

Ezer and Elead were killed by the natives of Gath, because they went down to steal their livestock.

22 Their father Ephraim mourned for many days, and his relatives came to comfort him.
23 And again he slept with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. So he named him Beriah,* because tragedy had come upon his house.
24 His daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth-horon, as well as Uzzen-sheerah.

25 Additionally, Rephah was his son, Resheph,† Telah his son, Tahan his son,
26 Ladan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,
27 Non‡ his son, and Joshua his son.

28 Their holdings and settlements included Bethel and its villages, Naaran to the east, Gezer and its villages to the west, and Shechem and its villages as far as Ayyah§ and its villages.
29 And along the borders of Manasseh were Beth-shean,* Taanach, Megiddo, and Dor, together with their villages. The descendants of Joseph son of Israel lived in these towns.
30 The children of Asher:

Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah.

31 The sons of Beriah:
Heber, as well as Malchiel, who was the father of Birzaith.

32 Heber was the father of Japhlet, Shomer, and Hotham, and of their sister Shua.

33 The sons of Japhlet:
Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were Japhlet's sons.

34 The sons of Shemer:
Ahi, Rohgah,† Hubbah,‡ and Aram.

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* **7:23 7:23** *Beriah* sounds like the Hebrew for *tragedy* or *disaster*. † **7:25 7:25** Some LXX manuscripts add *his son* ‡ **7:27 7:27** Or *Nun* § **7:28 7:28** *Ayyah* is another name for *Gaza*; see also LXX. * **7:29 7:29** *Beth-shean* is a variant of *Beth-shan*; see 1 Samuel 31:10 and 2 Samuel 21:12. † **7:34 7:34** Or *The sons of his brother Shemer: Rohgah*; note that *Shemer* is a variant of *Shomer*; see verse 32. ‡ **7:34 7:34** Qere; Ketiv *Jehubbah*

35 The sons of his brother Helem:§
Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

36 The sons of Zophah:
Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah,
37 Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran,* and Beera.

38 The sons of Jether:
Jephunneh, Pispa, and Ara.

39 The sons of Ulla:
Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia.

40 All these were the descendants of Asher—heads of their families, choice and mighty men of valor, and chiefs among the leaders. The number of men fit for battle, recorded in their genealogies, was 26,000.

8

1 Benjamin was the father of Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, Aharah the third,
2 Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth.

3 The sons of Bela:
Addar, Gera, Abihud,*
4 Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,
5 Gera, Shephuphan, and Huram.

6 These were the descendants of Ehud who were the heads of the families living in Geba and were exiled to Manahath:
7 Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera, who carried them into exile and who was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.†

8 Shaharaim had sons in the country of Moab after he had divorced his wives Hushim and Baara.
9 His sons by his wife Hodesh:
Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,
10 Jeuz, Sachia, and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of families.

11 He also had sons by Hushim:
Abitub and Elpaal.

12 The sons of Elpaal:
Eber, Misham, Shemed (who built Ono and Lod with its villages),
13 and Beriah and Shema (who were the heads of families living in Aijalon and who drove out the inhabitants of Gath).

14 Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth,
15 Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,
16 Michael, Ishpah, and Joha were the sons of Beriah.

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§ **7:35 7:35** *Helem* is possibly another name for *Hotham*; see verse 32. * **7:37 7:37** *Ithran* is possibly a variant of *Jether*; see verse 38. * **8:3 8:3** Possibly *Gera the father of Ehud*; see verse 7. † **8:7 8:7** Or *and Gera, that is Heglam, who was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.*

17 Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,
18 Ishmerai, Izliah, and Jobab were the sons of Elpaal.

19 Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi,
20 Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel,
21 Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei.

22 Ishpan, Eber, Eliel,
23 Abdon, Zichri, Hanan,
24 Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah,
25 Iphdeiah, and Penuel were the sons of Shashak.

26 Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah,
27 Jaareshiah, Elijah, and Zichri were the sons of Jeroham.

28 All these were heads of families, the chiefs according to their genealogies, and they lived in Jerusalem.

29 The father of Gibeon lived‡ in Gibeon. His wife's name was Maacah,
30 and Abdon was his firstborn son, then Zur, Kish, Baal,§ Nadab,
31 Gedor, Ahio, Zecher,*
32 and Mikloth, who was the father of Shimeah.† They too lived alongside their relatives in Jerusalem.
33 Ner was the father of Kish, Kish was the father of Saul, and Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-baal.‡

34 The son of Jonathan:
Merib-baal,§ and Merib-baal was the father of Micah.*

35 The sons of Micah:
Pithon, Melech, Tarea,† and Ahaz.

36 Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah, Jehoaddah‡ was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri, and Zimri was the father of Moza.

37 Moza was the father of Binea. Raphah§ was his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son.

38 Azel had six sons, and these were their names:
Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel.

39 The sons of his brother Eshek:
Ulam was his firstborn, Jeush second, and Eliphelet third.

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‡ **8:29 8:29** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 9:35) *Jeiel the father of Gibeon lived* § **8:30 8:30** Some LXX manuscripts include *Ner*; see 1 Chronicles 9:36. * **8:31 8:31** *Zecher* is likely a variant of *Zechariah*; see 1 Chronicles 9:37. † **8:32 8:32** *Shimeah* is a variant of *Shimeam*; see 1 Chronicles 9:38. ‡ **8:33 8:33** *Esh-baal* is also called *Ish-bosheth*; see 2 Samuel 2:8. § **8:34 8:34** *Merib-baal* is also called *Mephibosheth*; see 2 Samuel 4:4. * **8:34 8:34** *Micah* is a variant of *Mica*; see 2 Samuel 9:12. † **8:35 8:35** *Tarea* is a variant of *Tahrea*; see 1 Chronicles 9:41. ‡ **8:36 8:36** *Jehoaddah* is a variant of *Jarah* or *Jadah*; see 1 Chronicles 9:42. § **8:37 8:37** *Raphah* is a variant of *Rephaiah*; see 1 Chronicles 9:43.

40 The sons of Ulam were mighty men of valor, archers, and they had
many sons and grandsons—150 in all.
All these were the descendants of Benjamin.

9

1 So all Israel was recorded in the genealogies written in the Book of the
Kings of Israel. But Judah was exiled to Babylon because of their
unfaithfulness.
2 Now the first to resettle their own property in their cities were
Israelites, priests, Levites, and temple servants.*
3 Some of the descendants of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh
lived in Jerusalem:

4 Uthai son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of
Bani, a descendant of Perez† son of Judah.

5 From the Shilonites:
Asaiah the firstborn and his sons.

6 From the Zerahites:
Jeuel and 690 relatives.

7 From the Benjamites:
Sallu son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah;
8 Ibneiah son of Jeroham;
Elah son of Uzzi, the son of Michri;
Meshullam son of Shephatiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah;
9 and 956 of their relatives according to their genealogy. All these men
were heads of their families.

10 From the priests:
Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, and Jachin;
11 Azariah son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the
son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the chief official of God's temple;
12 Adaiah son of Jeroham, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah;
Maasai son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the
son of Meshillemith,‡ the son of Immer;
13 and 1,760 of their relatives, the heads of their families, able men for
the work of the service of the house of God.

14 From the Levites:
Shemaiah son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, a
descendant of Merari;
15 Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah son of Mica, the son of
Zichri, the son of Asaph;
16 Obadiah son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun;
and Berechiah son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages
of the Netophathites.

17 These were the gatekeepers:
Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their relatives.

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* **9:2 9:2** Hebrew *Nethinim* † **9:4 9:4** Qere; Ketiv *the son of Benjamin, the sons of Perez* ‡ **9:12 9:12** *Meshillemith* is a variant of *Meshillemoth*; see Nehemiah 11:13.

Shallum was their chief;
18 he was previously stationed at the King's Gate on the east side.
These were the gatekeepers from the camp of the Levites.
19 Shallum son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph,§ the son of Korah, and his
relatives from the Korahites were assigned to guard the thresholds of the
Tent, just as their fathers had been assigned to guard the entrance to the
dwelling of the LORD.
20 In earlier times Phinehas son of Eleazar had been in charge of the
gatekeepers, and the LORD was with him.
21 Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the gatekeeper at the entrance
to the Tent of Meeting.
22 The number of those chosen to be gatekeepers at the thresholds was
212. They were registered by genealogy in their villages. David and
Samuel the seer had appointed them to their positions of trust.
23 So they and their descendants were assigned to guard the gates of the
house of the LORD—the house called the Tent.
24 The gatekeepers were stationed on the four sides: east, west, north,
and south.
25 Their relatives came from their villages at fixed times to serve with
them for seven-day periods.
26 But the four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted with
the rooms and the treasuries of the house of God.
27 They would spend the night stationed around the house of God,
because they were responsible for guarding it and opening it every
morning.
28 Some of them were in charge of the articles used in worship, to count
them whenever they were brought in or taken out.
29 Others were put in charge of the furnishings and other articles of the
sanctuary, as well as the fine flour, wine, oil, frankincense, and spices.
30 And some of the sons of the priests mixed the spices.
31 A Levite named Mattithiah, the firstborn son of Shallum the Korahite,
was entrusted with baking the bread.
32 Some of their Kohathite relatives were responsible for preparing the
rows of the showbread every Sabbath.
33 Those who were musicians, the heads of Levite families, stayed in the
temple chambers and were exempt from other duties because they were
on duty day and night.
34 All these were heads of Levite families, chiefs according to their
genealogies, and they lived in Jerusalem.
35 Jeiel the father* of Gibeon lived in Gibeon. His wife's name was
Maacah.

36 Abdon was his firstborn son, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab,
37 Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth.

38 Mikloth was the father of Shimeam.† They too lived alongside their
relatives in Jerusalem.

39 Ner was the father of Kish, Kish was the father of Saul, and Saul was
the father of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-baal.

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§ **9:19 9:19** *Ebiasaph* is a variant of *Abiasaph*; see Exodus 6:24. * **9:35 9:35** Or *the founder* † **9:38 9:38** *Shimeam* is a variant of *Shimeah*; see 1 Chronicles 8:32.

40 The son of Jonathan:
Merib-baal, who was the father of Micah.

41 The sons of Micah:
Pithon, Melech, and Tahrea.‡
42 Ahaz was the father of Jarah; Jarah§ was the father of Alemeth,
Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri was the father of Moza.
43 Moza was the father of Binea. Rephaiah* was his son, Elasah his
son, and Azel his son.

44 And Azel had six sons, and these were their names:
Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. These
were the sons of Azel.

10

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled
before them, and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa.
2 The Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed
Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua.
3 When the battle intensified against Saul, the archers overtook him and
wounded him.
4 Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me
through with it, or these uncircumcised men will come and torture me!"
But his armor-bearer was terrified and refused to do it. So Saul took his
own sword and fell on it.
5 When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his own
sword and died.
6 So Saul died together with his three sons and all his house.
7 When all the Israelites in the valley saw that the army had fled and
that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their cities and ran away.
So the Philistines came and occupied their cities.
8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found
Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.
9 They stripped Saul, cut off his head, took his armor, and sent
messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news to
their idols and to the people.*
10 They put his armor in the temple of their gods and hung his head in
the temple of Dagon.
11 When all the people of Jabesh-gilead heard about everything the
Philistines had done to Saul,
12 all their men of valor set out and retrieved the bodies of Saul and his
sons and brought them to Jabesh. And they buried their bones under the
oak† in Jabesh and fasted seven days.
13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness to the LORD, because he did not
keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance,
14 and he failed to inquire of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death
and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

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‡ **9:41 9:41** Vulgate and Syriac (see also LXX and 1 Chronicles 8:35) add *and Ahaz*; *Tahrea* is a variant of *Tarea*. § **9:42 9:42** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *Jadah; Jadah*; note that *Jarah* and *Jadah* are variants of *Jehoaddah*; see 1 Chronicles 8:36. * **9:43 9:43** *Rephaiah* is a variant of *Raphah*; see 1 Chronicles 8:37. * **10:9 10:9** Compare 1 Samuel 31:9, *in the temple of their idols and among the people* † **10:12 10:12** Or *terebinth* or *great tree*

11

1 Then all Israel came together to David at Hebron and said, “Here we
are, your own flesh and blood.
2 Even in times past,* while Saul was king, you were the one who led
Israel out and brought them back. And the LORD your God said, ‘You will
shepherd my people Israel, and you will be ruler over them.’ ”
3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, where David
made a covenant with them before the LORD. And they anointed him king
over Israel, according to the word of the LORD through Samuel.
4 Then David and all the Israelites marched to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus),
where the Jebusites inhabited the land.
5 The people of Jebus said to David, “You will never get in here.”
Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion (that is, the City of
David).
6 Now David had said, “Whoever is the first to strike down a Jebusite will
become chief commander.”
And Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and he became the chief.
7 So David took up residence in the fortress; that is why it was called the
City of David.
8 He built up the city around it, from the supporting terraces† to the
surrounding wall, while Joab restored the rest of the city.
9 And David became greater and greater, for the LORD of Hosts was with
him.
10 Now these were the chiefs of David’s mighty men, who, together with
all Israel, bolstered and strengthened his kingdom, according to the word
of the LORD concerning Israel.
11 This is the list of David’s mighty men:
Jashobeam son of Hachmoni was chief of the officers;‡ he wielded his
spear against three hundred men, whom he killed at one time.
12 Next in command was Eleazar son of Dodo§ the Ahohite, one of the
three mighty men.
13 He was with David at Pas-dammim when the Philistines gathered
there for battle. At a place with a field full of barley, the troops fled from
the Philistines.
14 But Eleazar and David stationed themselves* in the middle of the field
and defended it. They struck down the Philistines, and the LORD brought
about a great victory.
15 Three of the thirty chief men went down to David, to the rock at the
cave of Adullam, while a company of Philistines was encamped in the
Valley of Rephaim.
16 At that time David was in the stronghold, and the garrison of the
Philistines was at Bethlehem.
17 David longed for water and said, “Oh, that someone would get me a
drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!”
18 So the Three broke through the Philistine camp, drew water from the
well at the gate of Bethlehem, and brought it back to David. But he refused
to drink it; instead, he poured it out to the LORD,

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* **11:2 11:2** Or *For some time* † **11:8 11:8** Hebrew *the Millo* ‡ **11:11 11:11** Or *of the Thirty*; some LXX manuscripts *of the Three*; see 2 Samuel 23:8. § **11:12 11:12** *Dodo* is a variant of *Dodai*; see 1 Chronicles 27:4. * **11:14 11:14** Literally *But they stationed themselves*

19 saying, “Far be it from me, my God, to do this! How can I drink the
blood of these men who risked their lives?” Because they had brought it at
the risk of their lives, David refused to drink it.
Such were the exploits of the three mighty men.
20 Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, was chief of the Three,† and he
wielded his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a
name‡ along with the Three.
21 He was doubly honored above the Three, and he became their
commander, even though he was not included among the Three.
22 And Benaiah son of Jehoiada was the son of a man of valor from
Kabzeel, a man of many exploits. He struck down two sons of Ariel of
Moab,§ and on a snowy day he went down into a pit and killed a lion.
23 He also struck down an Egyptian, a huge man five cubits tall.*
Although the Egyptian had a spear like a weaver's beam in his hand,
Benaiah went against him with a club, snatched the spear from his hand,
and killed the Egyptian with his own spear.
24 These were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada, who won a name
along with the three mighty men.
25 He was most honored among the Thirty, but he did not become one of
the Three. And David appointed him over his guard.
26 Now these were the mighty men:

Asahel the brother of Joab,
Elhanan son of Dodo of Bethlehem,
27 Shammoth the Harorite,†
Helez the Pelonite,
28 Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,
Abiezer the Anathothite,
29 Sibbecai the Hushathite,
Ilai the Ahohite,
30 Maharai the Netophathite,
Heled son of Baanah the Netophathite,
31 Ithai‡ son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjamites,
Benaiah the Pirathonite,
32 Hurai§ from the brooks* of Gaash,
Abiel† the Arbathite,
33 Azmaveth the Baharumite,‡
Eliahba the Shaalbonite,
34 the sons of Hashem§ the Gizonite,
Jonathan son of Shagee the Hararite,
35 Ahiam son of Sachar* the Hararite,
Eliphal son of Ur,
36 Hepher the Mecherathite,
Ahijah the Pelonite,

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† **11:20 11:20** Syriac *the Thirty*; also in verse 21 ‡ **11:20 11:20** Qere; Ketiv *and did not win a name* § **11:22 11:22** Or *two champions of Moab* * **11:23 11:23** *5 cubits* is approximately 7 feet 6 inches or 229 centimeters tall. † **11:27 11:27** *Shammoth the Harorite* is a variant of *Shammah the Harodite*; see 2 Samuel 23:25. ‡ **11:31 11:31** *Ithai* is a variant of *Ittai*; see 2 Samuel 23:29. § **11:32 11:32** *Hurai* is a variant of *Hiddai*; see 2 Samuel 23:30. * **11:32 11:32** Or *from the ravines* † **11:32 11:32** *Abiel* is a variant of *Abi-albon*; see 2 Samuel 23:31. ‡ **11:33 11:33** *Baharumite* is a variant of *Barhumite*; see 2 Samuel 23:31. § **11:34 11:34** *Hashem* is a variant of *Jashen*; see LXX and 2 Samuel 23:32. * **11:35 11:35** *Sachar* is a variant of *Sharar*; see 2 Samuel 23:33.

37 Hezro the Carmelite,
Naarai son of Ezbai,
38 Joel the brother of Nathan,
Mibhar son of Hagri,
39 Zelek the Ammonite,
Naharai the Beerothite, the armor-bearer of Joab son of Zeruiah,
40 Ira the Ithrite,
Gareb the Ithrite,
41 Uriah the Hittite,
Zabad son of Ahlai,
42 Adina son of Shiza the Reubenite, chief of the Reubenites, and the thirty with him,
43 Hanan son of Maacah,
Joshaphat the Mithnite,
44 Uzzia the Ashterathite,
Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite,
45 Jediael son of Shimri and his brother Joha the Tizite,
46 Eliel the Mahavite,
Jeribai and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam,
Ithmah the Moabite,
47 Eliel, Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

12

1 Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he was still banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish (they were among the mighty men who helped him in battle;
2 they were archers using both the right and left hands to sling stones and shoot arrows; and they were Saul's kinsmen from Benjamin):

3 Ahiezer their chief and Joash, who were the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite;
Jeziel and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth;
Beracah;
Jehu the Anathothite;
4 Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the Thirty and a leader over the Thirty;
5 Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite;
6 Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite;
7 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, who were Korahites;
8 and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham from Gedor.

9 Some Gadites defected to David at his stronghold in the wilderness. They were mighty men of valor, trained for battle, experts with the shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions and who were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:
10 Ezer the chief, Obadiah the second in command, Eliab the third,
11 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,
12 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,
13 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,
14 Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbanai the eleventh.

15 These Gadites were army commanders, the least of whom was a match for a hundred, and the greatest for a thousand.

16 These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month when it
was overflowing all its banks, and they put to flight all those in the valleys,
both to the east and to the west.
17 Other Benjamites and some men from Judah also came to David in his
stronghold.
18 And David went out to meet them, saying, “If you have come to me in
peace to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if you have come
to betray me to my enemies when my hands are free of violence, may the
God of our fathers see it and judge you.”
19 Then the spirit came upon Amasai, the chief of the Thirty, and he said:

“We are yours, O David!
We are with you, O son of Jesse!
Peace, peace to you,
and peace to your helpers,
for your God helps you.”
So David received them and made them leaders of his troops.
20 Some from Manasseh defected to David when he went with the
Philistines to fight against Saul. (They did not help the Philistines because
the Philistine rulers consulted and sent David away, saying, “It will cost us
our heads if he defects to his master Saul.”)
21 When David went to Ziklag, these men of Manasseh defected to him:
Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, chiefs of
thousands in Manasseh.
22 They helped David against the raiders, for they were all mighty men
of valor and commanders in the army.
23 For at that time men came to David day after day to help him, until he
had a great army, like the army of God.
24 Now these are the numbers of men armed for battle who came to
David at Hebron to turn Saul’s kingdom over to him, in accordance with
the word of the LORD:
25 From Judah: 6,800 armed troops bearing shields and spears.
26 From Simeon: 7,100 mighty men of valor, ready for battle.
27 From Levi: 4,600,
28 including Jehoiada, leader of the house of Aaron, with 3,700 men,
29 and Zadok, a mighty young man of valor, with 22 commanders from
his own family.
30 From Benjamin, the kinsmen of Saul: 3,000, most of whom had
remained loyal to the house of Saul up to that time.
31 From Ephraim: 20,800 mighty men of valor, famous among their own
clans.
32 From the half-tribe of Manasseh:* 18,000 designated by name to come
and make David king.
33 From Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel
should do: 200 chiefs with all their kinsmen at their command.
34 From Zebulun: 50,000 fit for service, trained for battle with all kinds
of weapons of war, who with one purpose were devoted.†
35 From Naphtali: 1,000 commanders, accompanied by 37,000 men with
shield and spear.
36 From Dan: 28,600 prepared for battle.
37 From Asher: 40,000 fit for service, prepared for battle.

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* **12:32 12:32** That is, the half-tribe of Manasseh west of the Jordan † **12:34 12:34** LXX adds *to David*

38 And from east of the Jordan, from Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of
Manasseh there: 120,000 armed with every kind of weapon of war.
39 All these men of war, arrayed for battle, came to Hebron fully
determined to make David king over all Israel. And all the rest of the
Israelites were of one mind to make David king.
40 They spent three days there eating and drinking with David, for their
relatives had provided for them.
41 And their neighbors from as far away as Issachar, Zebulun, and
Naphtali came bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules, and
oxen—abundant supplies of flour, fig cakes and raisin cakes, wine and oil,
oxen and sheep. Indeed, there was joy in Israel.

13

1 Then David conferred with all his leaders, the commanders of
thousands and of hundreds.
2 And he said to the whole assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you,
and if this is of the LORD our God, let us send word far and wide to the
rest of our brothers in all the land of Israel, and also to the priests and
Levites in their cities and pasturelands, so that they may join us.
3 Then let us bring back the ark of our God, for we did not inquire of it*
in the days of Saul.”
4 And because this proposal seemed right to all the people, the whole
assembly agreed to it.
5 So David assembled all Israel, from the River Shihor† in Egypt to
Lebo-hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.
6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah of Judah (that is, Kiriath-jearim)
to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who is enthroned
between the cherubim—the ark that is called by the Name.‡
7 So they carried the ark of God from the house of Abinadab on a new
cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding the cart.
8 David and all the Israelites were celebrating before God with all their
might, with songs and on harps and lyres, with tambourines, cymbals, and
trumpets.
9 When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon,§ Uzzah reached out
and took hold of the ark, because the oxen had stumbled.
10 And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and he struck him
down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God.
11 Then David became angry because the LORD had burst forth against
Uzzah. So he named that place Perez-uzzah,* as it is called to this day.
12 That day David feared God and asked, “How can I ever bring the ark
of God to me?”
13 So he did not move the ark with him to the City of David; instead, he
took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.
14 Thus the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his
house for three months, and the LORD blessed his household and
everything he owned.

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* **13:3 13:3** Or *of him* † **13:5 13:5** Hebrew *from the Shihor* ‡ **13:6 13:6** Or *the ark of God, which is called by the Name of the LORD who is enthroned between the cherubim*; or *the ark of God, the LORD, who is enthroned between the cherubim, where his Name is called* § **13:9 13:9** *Chidon* is a variant of *Nacon*; see 2 Samuel 6:6. * **13:11 13:11** *Perez-uzzah* means *outbreak against Uzzah.*

14

1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs,
stonemasons, and carpenters, to build a palace for him.
2 And David realized that the LORD had established him as king over
Israel and had highly exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.
3 And David took more wives in Jerusalem and became the father of
more sons and daughters.
4 These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem:
Shammua,* Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,
5 Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,
6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,
7 Elishama, Beeliada,† and Eliphelet.
8 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all
Israel, they all went in search of him; but David learned of this and went
out to face them.
9 Now the Philistines had come and raided the Valley of Rephaim.
10 So David inquired of God, "Should I go up against the Philistines? Will
you deliver them into my hand?"
"Go," replied the LORD, "for I will deliver them into your hand."
11 So David and his men went up to Baal-perazim, where he defeated the
Philistines and said, "Like a bursting flood, God has burst out against my
enemies by my hand." So they called that place Baal-perazim.‡
12 There the Philistines abandoned their gods, and David ordered that
they be burned in the fire.
13 Once again the Philistines raided the valley.
14 So David again inquired of God, who answered him, "Do not march up
after them, but circle around them and attack them in front of the balsam
trees.§
15 As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam
trees, move out to battle, because this will mean that God has gone out
before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."
16 So David did as God had commanded him, and they struck down the
army of the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.
17 And David's fame went out into every land, and the LORD caused all
nations to fear him.

15

1 David constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, and he
prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it.
2 Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God,
because the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of the LORD and to
minister before him forever."
3 And David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the
LORD to the place he had prepared for it.
4 Then he gathered together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites:

5 From the Kohathites, Uriel the chief and 120 of his relatives;
6 from the Merarites, Asaiah the chief and 220 of his relatives;

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* **14:4 14:4** *Shammua* is a variant of *Shimea*; see 1 Chronicles 3:5. † **14:7 14:7** *Beeliada* is a variant of *Eliada*; see 2 Samuel 5:16. ‡ **14:11 14:11** *Baal-perazim* means *The Lord Bursts Out*. § **14:14 14:14** Or *aspen trees* or *poplar trees*; also in verse 15

7 from the Gershomites,* Joel the chief and 130 of his relatives;
8 from the Elizaphanites, Shemaiah the chief and 200 of his relatives;
9 from the Hebronites, Eliel the chief and 80 of his relatives;
10 and from the Uzzielites, Amminadab the chief and 112 of his relatives.
11 David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar and the Levites
Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.
12 And he said to them, “You are the heads of the Levitical families. You
and your relatives must consecrate yourselves so that you may bring the
ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it.
13 It was because you Levites were not with us the first time that the
LORD our God burst forth in anger against us. For we did not consult him
about the proper order.”
14 So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark
of the LORD, the God of Israel.
15 And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the
poles, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD.
16 David also told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their relatives as
singers to lift up their voices with joy, accompanied by musical
instruments—harps, lyres, and cymbals.
17 So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his brothers, Asaph
son of Berechiah; from their brothers the Merarites, Ethan son of
Kushaiah;
18 and with them their brothers next in rank: Zechariah, Ben,† Jaaziel,
Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah,
Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, and the gatekeepers Obed-edom and Jeiel.‡
19 The musicians Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to sound the bronze
cymbals.
20 Zechariah, Aziel,§ Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and
Benaiah were to play the harps according to Alamoth.*
21 And Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah
were to lead the music with lyres according to Sheminith.†
22 Chenaniah the head Levite was the director of the music because he
was highly skilled.
23 Berechiah and Elkanah were to be gatekeepers for the ark.‡
24 Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and
Eliezer—the priests—were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God.
Obed-edom and Jehiah were also to be gatekeepers for the ark.
25 So David, the elders of Israel, and the commanders of thousands went
with rejoicing to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house
of Obed-edom.
26 And because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the
covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.
27 Now David was dressed in a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites
who were carrying the ark, as well as the singers and Chenaniah, the
director of music for the singers. David also wore a linen ephod.

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* **15:7 15:7** *Gershomites* is a variant of *Gershonites*; see 1 Chronicles 23:7. † **15:18 15:18** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; several Hebrew manuscripts and most LXX manuscripts (see also verse 20 and 1 Chronicles 16:5) *Zechariah* ‡ **15:18 15:18** Some LXX manuscripts *Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah* or *Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Ozias* § **15:20 15:20** *Aziel* is a variant of *Jaaziel*; see verse 18. * **15:20 15:20** *Alamoth* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalm 46:1. † **15:21 15:21** *Sheminith* is probably a musical term; here and in Psalm 6:1 and Psalm 12:1. ‡ **15:23 15:23** Or *guardians*; also in verse 24

28 So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with
shouting, with the sounding of rams' horns and trumpets, and with
cymbals and the music of harps and lyres.
29 As the ark of the covenant of the LORD was entering the City of David,
Saul's daughter Michal looked down from a window and saw King David
dancing and celebrating, and she despised him in her heart.

16

1 So they brought the ark of God and placed it inside the tent that David
had pitched for it. And they presented burnt offerings and peace offerings
before God.
2 When David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and peace
offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.
3 Then he distributed to every man and woman of Israel a loaf of bread,
a date cake,* and a raisin cake.
4 David appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the
LORD, to celebrate, to give thanks, and to praise the LORD, the God of
Israel.
5 Asaph was the chief, Zechariah was second, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth,
Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel. They were to play
the harps and lyres, while Asaph sounded the cymbals
6 and the priests Benaiah and Jahaziel blew the trumpets regularly
before the ark of the covenant of God.
7 On that day David first committed to Asaph and his associates this song
of thanksgiving to the LORD:

8 "Give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the nations.
9 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonders.
10 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
11 Seek out the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.
12 Remember the wonders he has done,
his marvels, and the judgments he has pronounced,
13 O offspring of his servant Israel,
O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones.

14 He is the LORD our God;
his judgments carry throughout the earth.
15 Remember† his covenant forever,
the word he ordained for a thousand generations—
16 the covenant he made with Abraham,
and the oath he swore to Isaac.
17 He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
18 'I will give you the land of Canaan
as the portion of your inheritance.'

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* **16:3 16:3** Or *a portion of meat* † **16:15 16:15** Some LXX manuscripts *he remembers*; see Psalm 105:8.

19 When you were‡ few in number,
few indeed, and strangers in the land,
20 they wandered from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another.
21 He let no man oppress them;
he rebuked kings on their behalf:
22 ‘Do not touch my anointed ones!
Do no harm to my prophets!’
23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Proclaim his deliverance day after day.
24 Declare his glory among the nations,
his wonders among all peoples.

25 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
26 For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
27 Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and joy fill his dwelling.

28 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
29 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him.
Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;
30 tremble before him, all the earth.
The world is firmly established;
it cannot be moved.

31 Let the heavens be glad,
and the earth rejoice.
Let them say among the nations,
‘The LORD reigns!’
32 Let the sea resound,
and all that fills it;
let the fields exult,
and all that is in them.
33 Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his loving devotion§ endures forever.
35 Then cry out: ‘Save us, O God of our deliverance;
gather and deliver us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name,
that we may glory in your praise.’

36 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.”

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‡ **16:19 16:19** Psalm 105:12 *they were*

§ **16:34 16:34** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

Then all the people said, “Amen!” and “Praise the LORD!”
37 So David left Asaph and his associates there before the ark of the
covenant of the LORD, to minister there regularly according to the daily
requirements,
38 along with Obed-edom and his sixty-eight relatives. Obed-edom son of
Jeduthun, and also Hosah, were to be gatekeepers.
39 And David left Zadok the priest and his fellow priests before the
tabernacle of the LORD at the high place in Gibeon
40 to regularly present burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt
offerings, morning and evening, according to all that was written in the
Teaching of the LORD, which he had commanded Israel to keep.
41 With them were Heman, Jeduthun, and the rest of those chosen and
designated by name to give thanks to the LORD, for “His loving devotion
endures forever.”
42 Heman and Jeduthun had with them trumpets and cymbals for the
music and instruments for the songs of God.* And the sons of Jeduthun
were stationed at the gate.
43 Then all the people departed for their homes, and David returned
home to bless his household.

17

1 After David had settled into his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet,
“Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the
LORD is under a tent.”
2 And Nathan replied to David, “Do all that is in your heart, for God is
with you.”
3 But that night the word of God came to Nathan, saying,
4 “Go and tell my servant David that this is what the LORD says: You are
not the one to build me a house in which to dwell.
5 For I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up* until
this day, but I have moved from tent to tent and dwelling to dwelling.
6 In all my journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever asked any of the
judges† I appointed to shepherd my people, ‘Why haven’t you built me a
house of cedar?’
7 Now then, you are to tell my servant David that this is what the LORD
of Hosts says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be
the ruler over my people Israel.
8 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all
your enemies from before you. Now I will make for you a name like that
of the greatest in the land.
9 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so
that they may dwell in a place of their own and be disturbed no more. No
longer will the sons of wickedness oppress them as they did at the
beginning
10 and have done since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel.
And I will subdue all your enemies.
Moreover, I declare to you that the LORD will build a house for you.
11 And when your days are fulfilled and you go to be with your fathers, I
will raise up your descendant after you, one of your own sons, and I will
establish his kingdom.

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* **16:42 16:42** Or *instruments for the sacred music* * **17:5 17:5** 2 Samuel 7:6 *brought Israel up out of Egypt* † **17:6 17:6** Or *leaders*; see verse 10.

12 He will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever.
13 I will be his Father, and he will be my son. And I will never remove
my loving devotion from him as I removed it from your predecessor.
14 But I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever, and his
throne will be established forever."
15 So Nathan relayed to David all the words of this entire revelation.
16 Then King David went in, sat before the LORD, and said, "Who am I, O
LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far?
17 And as if this was a small thing in your eyes, O God, you have spoken
about the future of the house of your servant and have regarded me as a
man of great distinction,‡ O LORD God.
18 What more can David say to you for honoring your servant? For you
know your servant,
19 O LORD, for the sake of your servant and according to your own
heart, you have accomplished this great thing and made known all these
great promises.
20 O LORD, there is none like you, and there is no God but you, according
to everything we have heard with our own ears.
21 And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth whom
God went out to redeem as a people for himself? You made a name for
yourself through great and awesome wonders by driving out nations from
before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt.
22 For you have made your people Israel your very own forever, and
you, O LORD, have become their God.
23 And now, O LORD, let the word you have spoken concerning your
servant and his house be established forever. Do as you have promised,
24 so that your name will be established and magnified forever when it
is said, 'The LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, is God over Israel.' And may
the house of your servant David be established before you.
25 For you, my God, have revealed to your servant§ that you will build a
house for him. Therefore your servant has found the courage to pray
before you.
26 And now, O LORD, you are God! And you have promised this goodness
to your servant.
27 So now you have been pleased to bless the house of your servant, that
it may continue forever before you. For you, O LORD, have blessed it, and
it will be blessed forever."

18

1 Some time later, David defeated the Philistines, subdued them, and
took Gath and its villages from the hand of the Philistines.
2 David also defeated the Moabites, and they became subject to David
and brought him tribute.
3 As far as Hamath, David also defeated King Hadadezer of Zobah, who
had marched out to establish his dominion* along the Euphrates River.
4 David captured from him a thousand chariots, seven thousand
charioteers, and twenty thousand foot soldiers, and he hamstrung all the
horses except a hundred he kept for the chariots.

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‡ **17:17 17:17** Or *and have shown me future generations* § **17:25 17:25** Literally *have uncovered the ear of your servant* * **18:3 18:3** Hebrew *his hand*

5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to help King Hadadezer of
Zobah, David struck down twenty-two thousand of their men.
6 Then David placed garrisons† in Aram of Damascus, and the Arameans
became subject to David and brought him tribute. So the LORD made
David victorious‡ wherever he went.
7 And David took the gold shields that belonged to the officers of
Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem.
8 And from Tibhath§ and Cun, cities of Hadadezer, David took a large
amount of bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze Sea, the pillars,
and various bronze articles.
9 When King Tou* of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire
army of Hadadezer king of Zobah,
10 he sent his son Hadoram† to greet King David and bless him for
fighting and defeating Hadadezer, who had been at war with Tou.
Hadoram brought all kinds of articles of gold and silver and bronze,
11 and King David dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and
gold he had carried off from all these nations—from Edom and Moab, and
from the Ammonites, Philistines, and Amalekites.
12 Moreover, Abishai son of Zeruiah struck down eighteen thousand
Edomites in the Valley of Salt.
13 He placed garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites were subject to
David. So the LORD made David victorious wherever he went.
14 Thus David reigned over all Israel and administered justice and
righteousness for all his people:

15 Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army;
Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the recorder;
16 Zadok son of Ahitub and Abimelech‡ son of Abiathar were priests;
Shavsha§ was the scribe;
17 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and Pelethites;
and David's sons were chief officials at the king's side.

19

1 Some time later, Nahash king of the Ammonites died and was
succeeded by his son.
2 And David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun son of Nahash, because
his father showed kindness to me."
So David sent messengers to console Hanun concerning his father. But
when David's servants arrived in the land of the Ammonites to console
him,
3 the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun, "Just because David has
sent you comforters, do you really believe he is showing respect for your
father? Have not his servants come to you to explore the land, spy it out,
and overthrow it?"
4 So Hanun took David's servants, shaved their beards, cut off their
garments at the hips, and sent them away.

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† **18:6 18:6** Hebrew does not include *garrisons*; supplied from 2 Samuel 8:6, as also in LXX and Vulgate. ‡ **18:6 18:6** Or *the LORD saved David*; also in verse 13 § **18:8 18:8** *Tibhath* is a variant of *Tebah*; see 2 Samuel 8:8 LXX. * **18:9 18:9** *Tou* is a variant of *Toi*; also in verse 10; see 2 Samuel 8:9. † **18:10 18:10** *Hadoram* is a variant of *Joram*; see 2 Samuel 8:10. ‡ **18:16 18:16** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also 2 Samuel 8:17) *Ahimelech* § **18:16 18:16** *Shavsha* is also called *Seraiah*, *Sheva*, and *Shisha*; see 2 Samuel 8:17, 2 Samuel 20:25, and 1 Kings 4:3.

5 When someone came and told David about his men, he sent
messengers to meet them, since the men had been thoroughly humiliated.
The king told them, “Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown back,
and then return.”
6 When the Ammonites realized that they had become a stench to David,
Hanun and the Ammonites sent a thousand talents of silver* to hire for
themselves chariots and horsemen from Aram-naharaim,† Aram-maacah,
and Zobah.
7 So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, as well as
the king of Maacah with his troops, who came and camped near Medeba
while the Ammonites were mustered from their cities and marched out
for battle.
8 On hearing this, David sent Joab and the entire army of mighty men.
9 The Ammonites marched out and arrayed themselves for battle at the
entrance to the city, while the kings who had come stayed by themselves
in the open country.
10 When Joab saw the battle lines before him and behind him, he
selected some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the
Arameans.
11 And he placed the rest of the troops under the command of his
brother Abishai, who arrayed them against the Ammonites.
12 “If the Arameans are too strong for me,” said Joab, “then you will come
to my rescue. And if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will
come to your rescue.
13 Be strong and let us fight bravely for our people and for the cities of
our God. May the LORD do what is good in his sight.”
14 So Joab and his troops advanced to fight the Arameans, who fled
before him.
15 When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they too fled
before Joab’s brother Abishai, and they entered the city. So Joab went back
to Jerusalem.
16 When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they
sent messengers to bring more Arameans from beyond the Euphrates,‡
with Shophach§ the commander of Hadadezer’s army leading them.
17 When this was reported to David, he gathered all Israel, crossed the
Jordan, advanced toward the Arameans, and arrayed for battle against
them. When David lined up to engage them in battle, they fought against
him.
18 But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed seven thousand
of their charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers. He also killed
Shophach the commander of their army.
19 When Hadadezer’s subjects saw that they had been defeated by Israel,
they made peace with David and became subject to him. So the Arameans
were unwilling to help the Ammonites anymore.

20

1 At the turn of the year,* at the time when kings march out to war, Joab
led out the army and ravaged the land of the Ammonites. He came to

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* **19:6 19:6** *1,000 talents* is approximately 37.7 tons or 34.2 metric tons of silver. † **19:6 19:6** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia. ‡ **19:16 19:16** Hebrew *the River* § **19:16 19:16** *Shophach* is a variant of *Shobach*; also in verse 18; see 2 Samuel 10:16. * **20:1 20:1** Or *In the spring*

Rabbah and besieged it, but David remained in Jerusalem. And Joab attacked Rabbah and demolished it.
2 Then David took the crown from the head of their king.† It was found to weigh a talent of gold‡ and was set with precious stones, and it was placed on David's head. And David took a great amount of plunder from the city.
3 David brought out the people who were there and cut them§ with saws, iron picks, and saws.* And he did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all his troops returned to Jerusalem.
4 Some time later, war broke out with the Philistines at Gezer. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai,† a descendant of the Rephaim,‡ and the Philistines were subdued.
5 Once again there was a battle with the Philistines, and Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother§ of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.
6 And there was also a battle at Gath, where there was a man of great stature with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—twenty-four in all. He too was descended from Rapha,
7 and when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of David's brother Shimea* killed him.
8 So these descendants of Rapha in Gath fell at the hands of David and his servants.

21

1 Then Satan* rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.
2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan and bring me a report, so that I may know their number."
3 But Joab replied, "May the LORD multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all servants of my lord? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?"
4 Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab. So Joab departed and traveled throughout Israel, and then he returned to Jerusalem.
5 And Joab reported to David the total number of the troops. In all Israel there were 1,100,000 men who drew the sword, including 470,000 in Judah.
6 But Joab did not include Levi and Benjamin in the count, because the king's command was detestable to him.
7 This command was also evil in the sight of God; so he struck Israel.
8 Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly because I have done this thing. Now I beg you to take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly."
9 And the LORD instructed Gad, David's seer,
10 "Go and tell David that this is what the LORD says: 'I am offering you three options. Choose one of them, and I will carry it out against you.' "

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† **20:2 20:2** Or *from the head of Milcom.* Milcom, also called Molech, was god of the Ammonites; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7. ‡ **20:2 20:2** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold. § **20:3 20:3** Or *put them to work* * **20:3 20:3** Compare 2 Samuel 12:31, *axes* † **20:4 20:4** *Sippai* is a variant of *Saph*; see 2 Samuel 21:18. ‡ **20:4 20:4** Or *the giants*; see also *descendants of Rapha* in verses 6 and 8. § **20:5 20:5** Or *Elhanan son of Jair the Bethlehemite killed the brother*; see 2 Samuel 21:19. * **20:7 20:7** 2 Samuel 21:21 *Shimei* * **21:1 21:1** That is, *the Accuser* or *the Adversary*

11 So Gad went and said to David, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You must choose
12 between three years of famine, three months of being swept away† before your enemies and overtaken by their swords, or three days of the sword of the LORD—days of plague upon the land, with the angel of the LORD ravaging every part of Israel.’ Now then, decide how I should reply to him who sent me.”
13 David answered Gad, “I am deeply distressed. Please, let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men.”
14 So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead.
15 Then God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem, but as the angel was doing so, the LORD saw it and relented from the calamity, and he said to the destroying angel, “Enough! Withdraw your hand now!”
At that time the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan‡ the Jebusite.
16 When David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between heaven and earth, with a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem, David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell facedown.
17 And David said to God, “Was it not I who gave the order to count the people? I§ am the one who has sinned and acted wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? O LORD my God, please let your hand fall upon me and my father’s house, but do not let this plague remain upon your people.”
18 Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
19 So David went up at the word that Gad had spoken in the name of the LORD.
20 Now Ornan was threshing wheat when he turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves.
21 David came to Ornan, and when Ornan looked out and saw David, he left the threshing floor and bowed facedown before David.
22 Then David said to Ornan, “Grant me the site of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar to the LORD. Sell it to me for the full price, so that the plague upon the people may be halted.”
23 Ornan said to David, “Take it! May my lord the king do whatever seems good to him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering—I will give it all.”
24 “No,” replied King David, “I insist on paying the full price, for I will not take for the LORD what belongs to you, nor will I offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”
25 So David paid Ornan six hundred shekels of gold* for the site.
26 And there he built an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. He called upon the LORD, who answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.
27 Then the LORD spoke to the angel, who put his sword back into its sheath.

† **21:12 21:12** LXX and Vulgate *of fleeing*; see 2 Samuel 24:13. ‡ **21:15 21:15** *Ornan* is a variant of *Araunah*; also in verses 18–28; see 2 Samuel 24:16. § **21:17 21:17** Or *I, the shepherd,* see 2 Samuel 24:17 DSS and LXX. * **21:25 21:25** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold.

28 At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him at the
threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there.
29 For the tabernacle of the LORD that Moses had made in the wilderness
and the altar of burnt offering were presently at the high place in Gibeon,
30 but David could not go before it to inquire of God, because he was
afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

22

1 Then David said, “Here shall be the house of the LORD God, as well as
the altar of burnt offering for Israel.”
2 So David gave orders to gather the foreigners in the land of Israel,
from whom he appointed stonecutters to prepare finished stones for
building the house of God.
3 David provided a large quantity of iron to make the nails for the doors
of the gateways and for the fittings, together with more bronze than could
be weighed
4 and more cedar logs than could be counted; for the Sidonians and
Tyrians had brought a large quantity of cedar logs to David.
5 And David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the
house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent—famous
and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore I must make preparations for
it.” So David made lavish preparations before his death.
6 Then David called for his son Solomon and instructed him to build a
house for the LORD, the God of Israel.
7 “My son,”* said David to Solomon, “it was in my heart to build a house
for the Name of the LORD my God,
8 but this word of the LORD came to me: ‘You have shed much blood and
waged great wars. You are not to build a house for my Name because you
have shed so much blood on the ground before me.
9 But a son will be born to you who will be a man of rest. I will give him
rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name will be Solomon,†
and I will grant to Israel peace and quiet during his reign.
10 He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son,
and I will be his Father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom
over Israel forever.’
11 Now, my son, may the LORD be with you, and may you succeed in
building the house of the LORD your God, as he said you would.
12 Above all, may the LORD give you insight and understanding when he
puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the Teaching of
the LORD your God.
13 Then you will succeed, if you carefully follow the statutes and
ordinances that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and
courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.
14 Now behold, I have taken great pains to provide for the house of the
LORD—100,000 talents of gold,‡ 1,000,000 talents of silver,§ and bronze
and iron too great to be weighed. I have also provided timber and stone,
and you may add to them.

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* **22:7 22:7** Qere; Ketiv *David said to Solomon his son* † **22:9 22:9** *Solomon* sounds like and is probably derived from the Hebrew word for *peace*. ‡ **22:14 22:14** *100,000 talents* is approximately 3,770 tons or 3,420 metric tons of gold. § **22:14 22:14** *1,000,000 talents* is approximately 37,700 tons or 34,200 metric tons of silver.

15 You also have many workers: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and
men skilled in every kind of work—
16 in gold and silver, bronze and iron—craftsmen beyond number. Now
begin the work, and may the LORD be with you."
17 Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon:
18 "Is not the LORD your God with you, and has he not granted you rest
on every side? For he has given the inhabitants of the land into my hand,
and the land has been subdued before the LORD and his people.
19 Now set your heart and soul to seek the LORD your God. Begin
building the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of
the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the temple that
will be built for the Name of the LORD."

23

1 When David was old and full of years, he installed his son Solomon as
king over Israel.
2 Then he gathered all the leaders of Israel, as well as the priests and
Levites.
3 The Levites thirty years of age or older were counted, and the total
number of men was 38,000.
4 "Of these, 24,000 are to oversee the work of the house of the LORD,
6,000 are to be officers and judges,
5 4,000 are to be gatekeepers, and 4,000 are to praise the LORD with the
instruments I have made for giving praise."
6 Then David divided the Levites into divisions according to the sons of
Levi:

Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
7 The Gershonites: Ladan* and Shimei.
8 The sons of Ladan: Jehiel† the first, Zetham, and Joel—three in all.
9 The sons of Shimei: Shelomoth, Haziel, and Haran—three in all. These
were the heads of the families of Ladan.
10 And the sons of Shimei:‡ Jahath, Zina,§ Jeush, and Beriah. These were
the sons of Shimei—four in all.
11 Jahath was the first and Zizah was the second; but Jeush and Beriah
did not have many sons, so they were counted as one family and received
a single assignment.
12 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel—four in all.
13 The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron and his descendants
were set apart forever to consecrate the most holy things, to burn
incense before the LORD, to minister before him, and to pronounce
blessings in his name forever.
14 As for Moses the man of God, his sons were named among the tribe of
Levi.
15 The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer.
16 The descendants of Gershom: Shebuel was the first.
17 The descendants of Eliezer: Rehabiah was the first. Eliezer did not
have any other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah were very numerous.
18 The sons of Izhar: Shelomith was the first.

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* **23:7 23:7** *Ladan* is a variant of *Libni*; also in verses 8 and 9; see 1 Chronicles 6:2. † **23:8 23:8** *Jehiel* is a variant of *Jehieli*; see 1 Chronicles 26:21. ‡ **23:10 23:10** *Shimei* was possibly a son or grandson of the *Shimei* listed in verse 9. § **23:10 23:10** Most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript, LXX, and Vulgate (see also verse 11) *Zizah*

19 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah was the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel
the third, and Jekameam the fourth.
20 The sons of Uzziel: Micah was the first and Isshiah the second.
21 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi.
The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish.
22 Eleazar died without having any sons; he had only daughters. Their
cousins, the sons of Kish, married them.
23 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth*—three in all.
24 These were the descendants of Levi by their families—the heads of
families, registered individually by name—those twenty years of age or
older who worked in the service of the house of the LORD.
25 For David had said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, has given rest to his
people and has come to dwell in Jerusalem forever.
26 So now the Levites no longer need to carry the tabernacle or any of
the articles for its service."
27 For according to the final instructions of David, the Levites twenty
years of age or older were counted,
28 but their duty was to assist the descendants of Aaron with the service
of the house of the LORD, being responsible for the courts and chambers,
the purification of all the holy things, and the work of the service of the
house of God,
29 as well as for the rows of the showbread, the fine flour for the grain
offering, the wafers of unleavened bread, the baking, the mixing, and all
measurements of quantity and size.
30 They were also to stand every morning to give thanks and praise to
the LORD, and likewise in the evening.
31 Whenever burnt offerings were presented to the LORD on the
Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed feasts, they were to serve regularly
before the LORD in the numbers prescribed for them.
32 So the Levites were to carry out the responsibilities for the Tent of
Meeting and the Holy Place, and, under their brothers the descendants of
Aaron, the service of the house of the LORD.

24

1 These were the divisions of the descendants of Aaron. The sons of
Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no
sons; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests.
3 With the help of Eleazar's descendant Zadok and Ithamar's descendant
Ahimelech, David divided them according to the offices of their service.
4 Since more leaders were found among Eleazar's descendants than
those of Ithamar, they were divided accordingly. There were sixteen heads
of families from the descendants of Eleazar and eight from the
descendants of Ithamar.
5 Thus they were divided by lot, for there were officers of the sanctuary
and officers of God among both Eleazar's and Ithamar's descendants.
6 The scribe, Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded their names
in the presence of the king and of the officers: Zadok the priest, Ahimelech
son of Abiathar, and the heads of families of the priests and the
Levites—one family being taken from Eleazar, and then one from Ithamar.

* **23:23 23:23** *Jeremoth* is a variant of *Jerimoth*; see 1 Chronicles 24:30.

7 The first lot fell to Jehoiarib,
the second to Jedaiah,
8 the third to Harim,
the fourth to Seorim,
9 the fifth to Malchijah,
the sixth to Mijamin,
10 the seventh to Hakkoz,
the eighth to Abijah,
11 the ninth to Jeshua,
the tenth to Shecaniah,
12 the eleventh to Eliashib,
the twelfth to Jakim,
13 the thirteenth to Huppah,
the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,
14 the fifteenth to Bilgah,
the sixteenth to Immer,
15 the seventeenth to Hezir,
the eighteenth to Happizzez,
16 the nineteenth to Pethahiah,
the twentieth to Jehezkel,
17 the twenty-first to Jachin,
the twenty-second to Gamul,
18 the twenty-third to Delaiah,
and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.
19 This was their appointed order for service when they entered the house of the LORD, according to the regulations prescribed for them by their forefather Aaron, as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded him.
20 Now these were the rest of the descendants of Levi:

From the sons of Amram: Shubael;*
from the sons of Shubael: Jehdeiah.
21 As for Rehabiah, from his sons: The first was Isshiah.†
22 From the Izharites: Shelomoth;‡
from the sons of Shelomoth: Jahath.
23 The sons: Jeriah,§ Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.
24 From the sons of Uzziel: Micah;
from the sons of Micah: Shamir.
25 The brother of Micah: Isshiah;
from the sons of Isshiah: Zechariah.
26 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi.
The son of Jaaziah: Beno.
27 The descendants of Merari from Jaaziah: Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri.
28 From Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.
29 From Kish: Jerahmeel the son of Kish.
30 And the sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth.*

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* **24:20 24:20** *Shubael* (twice in this verse) is a variant of *Shebuel*; see 1 Chronicles 23:16 and 1 Chronicles 26:24. † **24:21 24:21** *Isshiah* is a variant of *Jeshaiah*; see 1 Chronicles 26:25. ‡ **24:22 24:22** *Shelomoth* (twice in this verse) is a variant of *Shelomith*; see 1 Chronicles 23:18. § **24:23 24:23** That is, the sons of Hebron; see 1 Chronicles 23:19, which adds *the first*. * **24:30 24:30** *Jerimoth* is a variant of *Jeremoth*; see 1 Chronicles 23:23.

These were the sons of the Levites, according to their families.
31 As their brothers the descendants of Aaron did, they also cast lots in
the presence of King David and of Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the
families of the priests and Levites—the family heads and their younger
brothers alike.

25

1 Additionally, David and the commanders of the army set apart some of
the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to prophesy with the
accompaniment of lyres, harps, and cymbals. The following is the list of
the men who performed this service:

2 From the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah.
These sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who
prophesied under the direction of the king.
3 From the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiah,* Hashabiah, and
Mattithiah—six in all—under the direction of their father Jeduthun,
who prophesied with the harp, giving thanks and praise to the LORD.
4 From the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel,†
Jerimoth,‡ Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-ezer,
Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.
5 All these sons of Heman the king's seer were given him through the
promises of God to exalt him, for God had given Heman fourteen sons and
three daughters.
6 All these were under the direction of their fathers for the music of the
house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, for the service of the
house of God.
Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the direction of the king.
7 Together with their relatives, who were all trained and skillful in the
songs of the LORD, they numbered 288.
8 They cast lots for their duties, young and old alike, teacher as well as
pupil.

9 The first lot, which was for Asaph, fell to Joseph;§
the second to Gedaliah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
10 the third to Zaccur, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
11 the fourth to Izri,* his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
12 the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
13 the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
14 the seventh to Jesarelah,† his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
15 the eighth to Jeshaiah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
16 the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
17 the tenth to Shimei, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
18 the eleventh to Azarel,‡ his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
19 the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
20 the thirteenth to Shubael, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
21 the fourteenth to Mattithiah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;

* **25:3 25:3** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript and some LXX manuscripts (see also verse 17) add *Shimei* † **25:4 25:4** *Shebuel* is a variant of *Shubael*; see verse 20. ‡ **25:4 25:4** *Jerimoth* is a variant of *Jeremoth*; see verse 22. § **25:9 25:9** LXX (see also the total in verse 7) adds *his sons, and his brothers—12 in all* * **25:11 25:11** *Izri* is a variant of *Zeri*; see verse 3. † **25:14 25:14** *Jesarelah* is a variant of *Asarelah*; see verse 2. ‡ **25:18 25:18** *Azarel* is a variant of *Uzziel*; see verse 4.

22 the fifteenth to Jeremoth,§ his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
23 the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
24 the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
25 the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
26 the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
27 the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
28 the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
29 the twenty-second to Giddalti, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
30 the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;
31 and the twenty-fourth to Romamti-ezer, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all.

26

1 These were the divisions of the gatekeepers:

From the Korahites: Meshelemiah son of Kore, one of the sons of Asaph.
2 Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediael the second,
Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,
3 Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, and Eliehoenai the seventh.
4 And Obed-edom also had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the
second, Joah the third, Sachar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,
5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, and Peullethai the eighth. For
God had blessed Obed-edom.
6 Also to his son Shemaiah were born sons who ruled over their families
because they were strong, capable men.
7 Shemaiah's sons were Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad; his brothers
were Elihu and Semachiah, also capable men.
8 All these were descendants of Obed-edom; they and their sons and
brothers were capable men with strength to do the work—62 in all from
Obed-edom.
9 Meshelemiah also had sons and brothers who were capable men—18
in all.
10 Hosah the Merarite also had sons: Shimri the first (although he was
not the firstborn, his father had appointed him as the first),
11 Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, and Zechariah the fourth. The
sons and brothers of Hosah numbered 13 in all.
12 These divisions of the gatekeepers, through their chief men, had
duties for ministering in the house of the LORD, just as their relatives did.
13 They cast lots for each gate, according to their families, young and old
alike.

14 The lot for the East Gate fell to Shelemiah.*
Then lots were cast for his son Zechariah, a wise counselor, and the lot
for the North Gate fell to him.
15 The lot for the South Gate fell to Obed-edom, and the lot for the
storehouses to his sons.
16 The lots for the West Gate and the Shallecheth Gate on the ascending
highway† fell to Shuppim and Hosah.
There were guards stationed at every watch.
17 Each day there were six Levites on the east, four on the north, four on
the south, and two pairs at the storehouse.

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§ **25:22 25:22** *Jeremoth* is a variant of *Jerimoth*; see verse 4. * **26:14 26:14** *Shelemiah* is a variant of *Meshelemiah*; see verse 2. † **26:16 26:16** Or *on the upper road*

18 As for the court‡ on the west, there were four at the highway and two
at the court.
19 These were the divisions of the gatekeepers who were descendants of
Korah and Merari.
20 As for the Levites, Ahijah was§ in charge of the treasuries of the house
of God and the treasuries of the dedicated things.
21 From the descendants of Ladan, who were Gershonites through
Ladan* and heads of the families of Ladan the Gershonite, were Jehieli,†
22 the sons of Jehieli, Zetham, and his brother Joel. They were in charge
of the treasuries of the house of the LORD.
23 From the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites:

24 Shebuel, a descendant of Gershom son of Moses, was the officer in
charge of the treasuries.
25 His relatives through Eliezer included Rehabiah his son, Jeshaiah‡ his
son, Joram his son, Zichri his son, and Shelomith his son.
26 This Shelomith and his brothers were in charge of all the treasuries
for the things dedicated by King David, by the heads of families who were
the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and by the army
commanders.
27 They had dedicated some of the plunder from their battles to the
repair of the house of the LORD.
28 Everything that had been dedicated by Samuel the seer, Saul son of
Kish, Abner son of Ner, and Joab son of Zeruiah, along with everything
else that was dedicated, was under the care of Shelomith and his brothers.

29 From the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons had the outside duties§ as
officers and judges over Israel.
30 From the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his relatives, 1,700 capable men,
had charge of the affairs of Israel west of the Jordan for all the work
of the LORD and for the service of the king.
31 As for the Hebronites, Jerijah* was the chief of the Hebronites,
according to the genealogies of his ancestors. In the fortieth year of
David's reign the records were searched, and strong, capable men were
found among the Hebronites at Jazer in Gilead.
32 Among Jerijah's relatives there were 2,700 capable men who were
heads of families. King David appointed them over the Reubenites, the
Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh for every matter pertaining to God
and for the affairs of the king.

27

1 This is the list of the Israelites—the heads of families, the commanders
of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in
every matter concerning the divisions on rotating military duty each
month throughout the year. There were 24,000 men in each division:

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‡ **26:18 26:18** Hebrew *parbar*; twice in this verse § **26:20 26:20** LXX *Now their fellow Levites were*
* **26:21 26:21** *Ladan* is a variant of *Libni*; see 1 Chronicles 6:2. † **26:21 26:21** *Jehieli* is a variant of *Jehiel*; also in verse 22; see 1 Chronicles 23:8. ‡ **26:25 26:25** *Jeshaiah* is a variant of *Isshiah*; see 1 Chronicles 24:21. § **26:29 26:29** Or *the duties outside (the temple)* or *the duties outside (Jerusalem)*
* **26:31 26:31** *Jerijah* is a variant of *Jeriah*; see 1 Chronicles 23:19.

2 Jashobeam son of Zabdiel was in charge of the first division, which was
assigned the first month. There were 24,000 men in his division.
3 He was a descendant of Perez and chief of all the army commanders
for the first month.
4 Dodai* the Ahohite was in charge of the division for the second month,
and Mikloth was the leader. There were 24,000 men in his division.
5 The third army commander, as chief for the third month, was Benaiah
son of Jehoiada the priest. There were 24,000 men in his division.
6 This Benaiah was mighty among the Thirty and was over the Thirty,
and his son Ammizabad was in charge of his division.
7 The fourth, for the fourth month, was Joab's brother Asahel, and his
son Zebadiah was commander after him. There were 24,000 men in
his division.
8 The fifth, for the fifth month, was the commander Shamhuth† the
Izrahite. There were 24,000 men in his division.
9 The sixth, for the sixth month, was Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite. There
were 24,000 men in his division.
10 The seventh, for the seventh month, was Helez the Pelonite, an
Ephraimite. There were 24,000 men in his division.
11 The eighth, for the eighth month, was Sibbecai the Hushathite, a
Zerahite. There were 24,000 men in his division.
12 The ninth, for the ninth month, was Abiezer the Anathothite, a
Benjamite. There were 24,000 men in his division.
13 The tenth, for the tenth month, was Maharai the Netophathite, a
Zerahite. There were 24,000 men in his division.
14 The eleventh, for the eleventh month, was Benaiah the Pirathonite, an
Ephraimite. There were 24,000 men in his division.
15 The twelfth, for the twelfth month, was Heldai‡ the Netophathite,
from the family of Othniel. There were 24,000 men in his division.
16 These officers were in charge of the tribes of Israel:

Over the Reubenites was Eliezer son of Zichri;
over the Simeonites was Shephatiah son of Maacah;
17 over Levi was Hashabiah son of Kemuel;
over Aaron was Zadok;
18 over Judah was Elihu, one of David's brothers;
over Issachar was Omri son of Michael;
19 over Zebulun was Ishmaiah son of Obadiah;
over Naphtali was Jerimoth son of Azriel;
20 over the Ephraimites was Hoshea son of Azaziah;
over one of the half-tribes of Manasseh was Joel son of Pedaiah;
21 over the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead was Iddo son of Zechariah;
over Benjamin was Jaasiel son of Abner;
22 and over Dan was Azarel son of Jeroham.
These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.
23 David did not count the men aged twenty or under, because the LORD
had said that he would make Israel as numerous as the stars of the sky.
24 Joab son of Zeruiah began to count the men but did not finish. For
because of this census wrath came upon Israel, and the number was not
entered in the Book of the Chronicles of King David.

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* **27:4 27:4** *Dodai* is a variant of *Dodo*; see 2 Samuel 23:9. † **27:8 27:8** *Shamhuth* is a variant of *Shammoth* or *Shammah*; see 1 Chronicles 11:27 and 2 Samuel 23:25. ‡ **27:15 27:15** *Heldai* is a variant of *Heled*; see 1 Chronicles 11:30 and 2 Samuel 23:29.

25 Azmaveth son of Adiel was in charge of the royal storehouses.
Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the storehouses in the country,
in the cities, in the villages, and in the fortresses.
26 Ezri son of Chelub was in charge of the workers in the fields who
tilled the soil.
27 Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards.
Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of the produce of the vineyards for
the wine vats.
28 Baal-hanan the Gederite was in charge of the olive and sycamore
trees in the foothills.§
Joash was in charge of the stores of olive oil.
29 Shirtai* the Sharonite was in charge of the herds grazing in Sharon.
Shaphat son of Adlai was in charge of the herds in the valleys.
30 Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels.
Jehdeiah the Meronothite was in charge of the donkeys.
31 Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the flocks.
All these officials were in charge of King David's property.
32 David's uncle Jonathan was a counselor; he was a man of insight and
a scribe.
Jehiel son of Hachmoni attended to the sons of the king.
33 Ahithophel was the king's counselor.
Hushai the Archite was the king's friend.
34 Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada son of Benaiah, then by
Abiathar.
Joab was the commander of the king's army.

28

1 Now David summoned all the leaders of Israel to Jerusalem: the
leaders of the tribes, the leaders of the divisions in the king's service, the
commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officials in charge of
all the property and cattle of the king and his sons, along with the court
officials and mighty men—every mighty man of valor.
2 Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Listen to me, my brothers
and my people. It was in my heart to build a house as a resting place for
the ark of the covenant of the LORD and as a footstool for our God. I had
made preparations to build it,
3 but God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because
you are a man of war who has shed blood.'
4 Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me out of all my father's house to
be king over Israel forever. For he chose Judah as leader, and from the
house of Judah he chose my father's household, and from my father's sons
he was pleased to make me king over all Israel.
5 And of all my sons—for the LORD has given me many sons—he has
chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD
over Israel.
6 And he said to me, 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my
house and my courts, for I have chosen him as my son, and I will be his
Father.
7 I will establish his kingdom forever, if he resolutely carries out my
commandments and ordinances, as is being done this day.'

§ **27:28 27:28** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea * **27:29 27:29** Qere; Ketiv *Shitrai*

8 So now in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the
hearing of our God, keep and seek out all the commandments of the LORD
your God, so that you may possess this good land and leave it as an
inheritance to your descendants forever.
9 As for you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve
him wholeheartedly and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every
heart and understands the intent of every thought. If you seek him, he
will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.
10 Consider now that the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the
sanctuary. Be strong and do it."
11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico,* its
buildings, storehouses, upper rooms, inner rooms, and the room for the
cover.†
12 The plans contained everything David had with him by the spirit‡ for
the courts of the house of the LORD, for all the surrounding rooms, for the
treasuries of the house of God and of the dedicated things,
13 for the divisions of the priests and Levites, for all the work of service
in the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of
the LORD:

14 the weight of all the gold articles for every kind of service;
the weight of all the silver articles for every kind of service;
15 the weight of the gold lampstands and their lamps, including the
weight of each lampstand and its lamps;
the weight of each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use
of each lampstand;
16 the weight of gold for each table of showbread, and of silver for the
silver tables;
17 the weight of the pure gold for the forks, sprinkling bowls, and
pitchers;
the weight of each gold dish;
the weight of each silver bowl;
18 the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense;
and the plans for the chariot of the gold cherubim that spread their
wings and overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the LORD.
19 "All this," said David, "all the details of this plan, the LORD has made
clear to me in writing by his hand upon me."
20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do
it. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you.
He will neither fail you nor forsake you before all the work for the service
of the house of the LORD is finished.
21 The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the service of
the house of God, and every willing man of every skill will be at your
disposal for the work. The officials and all the people are fully at your
command."

29

1 Then King David said to the whole assembly, "My son Solomon, the one
whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great
because this palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.

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* **28:11 28:11** LXX adds *of the temple* † **28:11 28:11** Or *atonement cover* or *mercy seat*; Hebrew *kapporet* ‡ **28:12 28:12** Or *had in mind*

2 Now with all my ability I have made provision for the house of my
God—gold for the gold articles, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze,
iron for the iron, and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings,
turquoise, stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and slabs
of marble—all in abundance.
3 Moreover, because of my delight in the house of my God, I now give for
it my personal treasures of gold and silver, over and above all that I have
provided for this holy temple:
4 three thousand talents of gold* (the gold of Ophir) and seven thousand
talents of refined silver,† to overlay the walls of the buildings,
5 for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done
by the craftsmen. Now who is willing to consecrate himself to the LORD
today?"
6 Then the leaders of the families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the
commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officials in charge of
the king's work gave willingly.
7 Toward the service of God's house they gave 5,000 talents‡ and 10,000
darics of gold,§ 10,000 talents of silver,* 18,000 talents of bronze,† and
100,000 talents of iron.‡
8 Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of
the LORD, under the care of Jehiel§ the Gershonite.
9 And the people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for
they had given to the LORD freely and wholeheartedly. And King David
also rejoiced greatly.
10 Then David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly and said:
"May you be blessed, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting
to everlasting.
11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the
splendor and the majesty, for everything in heaven and on earth belongs
to you.
Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.
12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you are the ruler over all.
In your hands are power and might to exalt and give strength to all.
13 Now therefore, our God, we give you thanks, and we praise your
glorious name.
14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give
as generously as this? For everything comes from you, and from your own
hand we have given to you.
15 For we are foreigners and strangers in your presence, as were all our
forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.
16 O LORD our God, from your hand comes all this abundance that we
have provided to build you a house for your holy Name, and all of it
belongs to you.

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* **29:4 29:4** *3,000 talents* is approximately 113 tons or 103 metric tons of gold. † **29:4 29:4** *7,000 talents* is approximately 264 tons or 239.5 metric tons of silver. ‡ **29:7 29:7** *5,000 talents* is approximately 188.5 tons or 171 metric tons of gold. § **29:7 29:7** Or *10,000 gold drachmas*; that is, approximately 185.2 pounds or 84 kilograms of gold coins * **29:7 29:7** *10,000 talents* is approximately 377 tons or 342 metric tons of silver. † **29:7 29:7** *18,000 talents* is approximately 678.6 tons or 615.6 metric tons of bronze. ‡ **29:7 29:7** *100,000 talents* is approximately 3,770 tons or 3,420 metric tons of iron. § **29:8 29:8** *Jehiel* is a variant of *Jehieli*; see 1 Chronicles 26:21.

17 I know, my God, that you test the heart and delight in uprightness. All
these things I have given willingly and with an upright heart, and now I
have seen your people who are present here giving joyfully and willingly
to you.
18 O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep this
desire forever in the intentions of the hearts of your people, and direct
their hearts toward you.
19 And give my son Solomon a whole heart to keep and carry out all
your commandments, decrees, and statutes, and to build your palace for
which I have made provision."
20 Then David said to the whole assembly, "Bless the LORD your God."
So the whole assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their fathers. They
bowed down and paid homage to the LORD and to the king.
21 The next day they offered sacrifices and presented burnt offerings to
the LORD: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs, along
with their drink offerings, and other sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.
22 That day they ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the
LORD.
Then, for a second time, they designated David's son Solomon as king,
anointing him before the LORD as ruler, and Zadok as the priest.
23 So Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of his
father David. He prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.
24 All the officials and mighty men, as well as all of King David's sons,
pledged their allegiance to King Solomon.
25 The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and
bestowed on him royal majesty such as had not been bestowed on any
king in Israel before him.
26 David son of Jesse was king over all Israel.
27 The length of David's reign over Israel was forty years—seven years
in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.
28 He died at a ripe old age, full of years, riches, and honor, and his son
Solomon reigned in his place.
29 Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are indeed written in the
Chronicles of Samuel the Seer, the Chronicles of Nathan the Prophet, and
the Chronicles of Gad the Seer,
30 together with all the details of his reign, his might, and the
circumstances that came upon him and Israel and all the kingdoms of the
lands.

2 Chronicles

1 Now Solomon son of David established himself securely over his
kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and highly exalted him.
2 Then Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and
of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel—the heads of
the families.
3 And Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon
because it was the location of God's Tent of Meeting, which Moses the
servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.
4 Now David had brought the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place
he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.
5 But the bronze altar made by Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, he had
placed before* the tabernacle of the LORD. So Solomon and the assembly
inquired of him there.
6 Solomon offered sacrifices there before the LORD on the bronze altar
at the Tent of Meeting, where he offered a thousand burnt offerings.
7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said, "Ask, and I will give it to
you!"
8 Solomon replied to God: "You have shown much loving devotion† to my
father David, and you have made me king in his place.
9 Now, O LORD God, let your promise to my father David be fulfilled. For
you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the
earth.
10 Now grant me wisdom and knowledge, so that I may lead this people.‡
For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"
11 God said to Solomon, "Since this was in your heart instead of
requesting riches or wealth or honor for yourself or death for your
enemies—and since you have not even requested long life but have asked
for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made
you king—
12 therefore wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. And I
will also give you riches and wealth and honor unlike anything given to
the kings before you or after you."
13 So Solomon came to the high place in Gibeon, to Jerusalem, from
before the Tent of Meeting,§ and he reigned over Israel.
14 Solomon accumulated* 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses,† which he
stationed in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.
15 The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and
cedar as abundant as sycamore in the foothills.‡
16 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue;§ the royal
merchants purchased them from Kue.

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* **1:5 1:5** LXX, Vulgate, and some Hebrew manuscripts *was there before* † **1:8 1:8** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*. ‡ **1:10 1:10** Literally *so that I may go out before this people and come in* § **1:13 1:13** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; LXX and Vulgate *So Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place in Gibeon* * **1:14 1:14** Literally *Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had* † **1:14 1:14** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers* ‡ **1:15 1:15** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea § **1:16 1:16** Probably an area in Cilicia, a province in the southeast of Asia Minor

17 A chariot could be imported from Egypt for six hundred shekels of
silver,* and a horse for a hundred and fifty.† Likewise, they exported them
to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Aram.
18 Now Solomon purposed to build a house for the Name of the LORD
and a royal palace for himself.

2

1 So he conscripted 70,000 porters, 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains,
and 3,600 supervisors.
2 Then Solomon sent word to Hiram* king of Tyre:
"Do for me as you did for my father David when you sent him cedars to
build himself a house to live in.
3 Behold, I am about to build a house for the Name of the LORD my God
to dedicate to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for displaying
the showbread continuously, and for making burnt offerings every
morning and evening as well as on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and
appointed feasts of the LORD our God. This is ordained for Israel forever.
4 The house that I am building will be great, for our God is greater than
all gods.
5 But who is able to build a house for him, since the heavens, even the
highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I, that I should build a
house for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him?
6 Send me, therefore, a craftsman skilled in engraving to work with gold
and silver, with bronze and iron, and with purple, crimson, and blue yarn.
He will work with my craftsmen in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father
David provided.
7 Send me also cedar, cypress,† and algum‡ logs from Lebanon, for I
know that your servants have skill to cut timber there. And indeed, my
servants will work with yours
8 to prepare for me timber in abundance, because the temple I am
building will be great and wonderful.
9 I will pay your servants, the woodcutters, 20,000 cors of ground
wheat,§ 20,000 cors of barley,* 20,000 baths of wine,† and 20,000 baths of
olive oil.‡"
10 Then Hiram king of Tyre wrote a letter in reply to Solomon:
"Because the LORD loves his people, he has set you over them as king."
11 And Hiram added:
"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who made the heavens and the
earth! He has given King David a wise son with insight and understanding,
who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.
12 So now I am sending you Huram-abi, a skillful man endowed with
understanding.§

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* **1:17 1:17** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of silver. † **1:17 1:17** *150 shekels* is approximately 3.8 pounds or 1.7 kilograms of silver. * **2:2 2:2** Hebrew *Huram*, a variant of *Hiram*; also in verses 10 and 11 † **2:7 2:7** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir* ‡ **2:7 2:7** *Algum* is probably a variant of *almug*; see 1 Kings 10:11. § **2:9 2:9** *20,000 cors* is approximately 124,800 bushels or 4.4 million liters (probably about 3,800 tons or 3,400 metric tons of wheat). * **2:9 2:9** *20,000 cors* is approximately 124,800 bushels or 4.4 million liters (probably about 2,910 tons or 2,700 metric tons of barley). † **2:9 2:9** *20,000 baths* is approximately 116,000 gallons or 440,000 liters of wine. ‡ **2:9 2:9** Or *20,000 baths of oil*; that is, approximately 116,000 gallons or 440,000 liters § **2:12 2:12** Or *creativity*

13 He is the son of a woman from the daughters of Dan, and his father is
a man of Tyre. He is skilled in work with gold and silver, bronze and iron,
stone and wood, purple, blue, and crimson yarn, and fine linen. He is
experienced in every kind of engraving and can execute any design that is
given him. He will work with your craftsmen and with those of my lord,
your father David.
14 Now let my lord send to his servants the wheat, barley, olive oil, and
wine he promised.
15 We will cut logs from Lebanon, as many as you need, and we will float
them to you as rafts by sea down to Joppa. Then you can take them up to
Jerusalem."
16 Solomon numbered all the foreign men in the land of Israel following
the census his father David had conducted, and there were found to be
153,600 in all.
17 Solomon made 70,000 of them porters, 80,000 stonecutters in the
mountains, and 3,600 supervisors.

3

1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on
Mount Moriah, where he had appeared* to his father David. This was the
place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan† the
Jebusite.
2 Solomon began construction on the second day of the second month in
the fourth year of his reign.
3 The foundation that Solomon laid for the house of God was sixty cubits
long and twenty cubits wide,‡ according to the old standard.§
4 The portico at the front, extending across the width of the temple, was
twenty cubits long* and a hundred and twenty cubits high.† He overlaid
the inside with pure gold.
5 He paneled the main room with cypress,‡ which he overlaid with fine
gold and decorated with palm trees and chains.
6 He adorned the temple with precious stones for beauty, and its gold
was from Parvaim.
7 He overlaid its beams, thresholds, walls, and doors with gold, and he
carved cherubim on the walls.
8 Then he made the Holy of Holies;§ its length corresponded to the width
of the temple—twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide. And he
overlaid the inside with six hundred talents of fine gold.*
9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold.† He also overlaid the
upper rooms with gold.
10 In the Holy of Holies he made two cherubim of sculptured work, and
he overlaid them with gold.

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* **3:1 3:1** LXX *where the LORD had appeared* † **3:1 3:1** *Ornan* is a variant of *Araunah*; see 2 Samuel 24:16. ‡ **3:3 3:3** The foundation was approximately 90 feet long and 30 feet wide (27.4 meters long and 9.1 meters wide). § **3:3 3:3** The old standard of measurement was a cubit equal to 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters. The new standard, a cubit of approximately 21 inches or 53.3 centimeters (the long cubit) is the basic unit of length throughout Ezekiel 40 to 48. * **3:4 3:4** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters; also in verses 8, 11, and 13. † **3:4 3:4** Some LXX and Syriac manuscripts *twenty cubits high*; *120 cubits* is approximately 180 feet or 54.9 meters. ‡ **3:5 3:5** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir* § **3:8 3:8** Or *the Most Holy Place*; also in verse 10 * **3:8 3:8** *600 talents* is approximately 22.6 tons or 20.5 metric tons of gold. † **3:9 3:9** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of gold.

11 The total wingspan of the cherubim was twenty cubits. One wing of
the first cherub was five cubits long‡ and touched the wall of the temple,
and its other wing was five cubits long and touched the wing of the other
cherub.
12 The wing of the second cherub also measured five cubits and touched
the wall of the temple, while its other wing measured five cubits and
touched the wing of the first cherub.
13 So the total wingspan of these cherubim was twenty cubits. They
stood on their feet, facing the main room.
14 He made the veil of blue, purple, and crimson yarn and fine linen,
with cherubim woven into it.
15 In front of the temple he made two pillars, which together were
thirty-five cubits high,§ each with a capital on top measuring five cubits.
16 He made chains in the inner sanctuary* and put them on top of the
pillars. He made a hundred pomegranates and fastened them into the
chainwork.
17 Then he set up the pillars in front of the temple, one on the south and
one on the north. The pillar on the south he named Jachin,† and the pillar
on the north he named Boaz.‡

4

1 He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and ten
cubits high.*
2 He also made the Sea of cast metal. It was circular in shape, measuring
ten cubits from rim to rim, five cubits in height, and thirty cubits in
circumference.†
3 Below the rim, figures of oxen encircled it, ten per cubit all the way
around the Sea, cast in two rows as a part of the Sea.
4 The Sea stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west,
three facing south, and three facing east. The Sea rested on them, with all
their hindquarters toward the center.
5 It was a handbreadth thick,‡ and its rim was fashioned like the brim of
a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold three thousand baths.§
6 He also made ten basins for washing and placed five on the south side
and five on the north. The parts of the burnt offering were rinsed in them,
but the priests used the Sea for washing.
7 He made ten gold lampstands according to their specifications and
placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north.
8 Additionally, he made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on
the south side and five on the north. He also made a hundred gold bowls.
9 He made the courtyard of the priests and the large court with its doors,
and he overlaid the doors with bronze.
10 He put the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner.
11 Additionally, Huram made the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls.

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‡ **3:11 3:11** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters; also in verse 15. § **3:15 3:15** *35 cubits* is approximately 52.5 feet or 16 meters. * **3:16 3:16** By emendation *he made interwoven chains* † **3:17 3:17** *Jachin* probably means *he establishes*. ‡ **3:17 3:17** *Boaz* probably means *in him is strength*. * **4:1 4:1** The altar was approximately 30 feet in length and width and 15 feet high (9.1 meters in length and width and 4.6 meters high). † **4:2 4:2** The Sea was approximately 15 feet from rim to rim, 7.5 feet in height, and 45 feet in circumference (4.6 meters from rim to rim, 2.3 meters in height, and 13.7 meters in circumference). ‡ **4:5 4:5** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters. § **4:5 4:5** *3,000 baths* is approximately 17,400 gallons or 66,000 liters.

So Huram finished the work that he had undertaken for King Solomon
in the house of God:

12 the two pillars;
the two bowl-shaped capitals atop the pillars;
the two sets of network covering both bowls of the capitals atop the
pillars;
13 the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows
of pomegranates for each network covering both the bowl-shaped
capitals atop the pillars);
14 the stands;
the basins on the stands;
15 the Sea;
the twelve oxen underneath the Sea;
16 and the pots, shovels, meat forks, and all the other articles.
All these objects that Huram-abi made for King Solomon for the house of
the LORD were of polished bronze.
17 The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan
between Succoth and Zeredah.*
18 Solomon made all these articles in such great abundance that the
weight of the bronze could not be determined.
19 Solomon also made all the furnishings for the house of God:

the golden altar;
the tables on which was placed the Bread of the Presence;
20 the lampstands of pure gold and their lamps, to burn in front of the
inner sanctuary as prescribed;
21 the flowers, lamps, and tongs of gold—of purest gold;
22 the wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, ladles, and censers of pure gold;
and the gold doors of the temple: the inner doors to the Holy of Holies†
as well as the doors of the main hall.

5

1 So all the work that Solomon had performed for the house of the LORD
was completed.
Then Solomon brought in the items his father David had dedicated—the
silver, the gold, and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the
treasuries of the house of God.
2 At that time Solomon assembled in Jerusalem the elders of Israel—all
the tribal heads and family leaders of the Israelites—to bring up the ark of
the covenant of the LORD from Zion, the City of David.
3 So all the men of Israel came together to the king at the feast in the
seventh month.*
4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark,
5 and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting with all its sacred
furnishings. The Levitical priests carried them up.
6 There, before the ark, King Solomon and the whole congregation of
Israel who had assembled with him sacrificed so many sheep and oxen
that they could not be counted or numbered.

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* **4:17 4:17** *Zeredah* is a variant of *Zarethan*; see 1 Kings 7:46. † **4:22 4:22** Or *the Most Holy Place*
* **5:3 5:3** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); see Leviticus 23:33–36.

7 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its
place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Holy of Holies,† beneath the
wings of the cherubim.
8 For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and
overshadowed the ark and its poles.
9 The poles of the ark extended far enough that their ends were visible
from in front of the inner sanctuary,‡ but not from outside;§ and they are
there to this day.
10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had
placed in it at Horeb,* where the LORD had made a covenant with the
Israelites after they had come out of Egypt.
11 Now all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves
regardless of their divisions. And when the priests came out of the Holy
Place,
12 all the Levitical singers—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and
relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and
playing cymbals, harps, and lyres, accompanied by 120 priests sounding
trumpets.
13 The trumpeters and singers joined together to praise and thank the
LORD with one voice. They lifted up their voices, accompanied by
trumpets, cymbals, and musical instruments, in praise to the LORD:

"For he is good;
his loving devotion endures forever."
And the temple, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud
14 so that the priests could not stand there to minister because of the
cloud. For the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

6

1 Then Solomon declared:

"The LORD has said that he would dwell
in the thick cloud.
2 But I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell forever."
3 And as the whole assembly of Israel stood there, the king turned
around and blessed them all
4 and said:
"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has fulfilled with his own
hand what he spoke with his mouth to my father David, saying,
5 'Since the day I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I have not
chosen a city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house so that my
Name would be there, nor have I chosen anyone to be ruler over my
people Israel.
6 But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have
chosen David to be over my people Israel.'
7 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the
Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

† **5:7 5:7** Or *the Most Holy Place* ‡ **5:9 5:9** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *The poles extended far enough that their ends were visible from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary*; see 1 Kings 8:8. § **5:9 5:9** Or *but not from outside the Holy Place* * **5:10 5:10** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

8 But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Since it was in your heart to
build a house for my Name, you have done well to have this in your heart.
9 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build it; but your son, your own
offspring, will build the house for my Name.’
10 Now the LORD has fulfilled the word that he spoke. I have succeeded
my father David, and I sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised. I
have built the house for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
11 And there I have placed the ark, which contains the covenant of the
LORD that he made with the children of Israel.”
12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole
assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.
13 Now Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits
wide, and three cubits high* and had placed it in the middle of the
courtyard. He stood on it, knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel,
spread out his hands toward heaven,
14 and said:
“O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth,
keeping your covenant of loving devotion with your servants who walk
before you with all their hearts.
15 You have kept your promise to your servant, my father David. What
you spoke with your mouth you have fulfilled with your hand this day.
16 Therefore now, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant, my
father David, what you promised when you said: ‘You will never fail to
have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your
descendants guard their way to walk in my law as you have walked before
me.’
17 And now, O LORD, God of Israel, please confirm what you promised to
your servant David.
18 But will God indeed dwell with man upon the earth? The heavens,
even the highest heavens, cannot contain you, much less this temple I
have built.
19 Yet regard the prayer and plea of your servant, O LORD my God, so
that you may hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying
before you.
20 May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, toward the
place where you said you would put your Name, so that you may hear the
prayer that your servant prays toward this place.
21 Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they
pray toward this place. May you hear from heaven, your dwelling place.
May you hear and forgive.
22 When a man sins against his neighbor and is required to take an oath,
and he comes to take an oath before your altar in this temple,
23 then may you hear from heaven and act. May you judge your
servants, condemning the wicked man by bringing down on his own head
what he has done, and justifying the righteous man by rewarding him
according to his righteousness.
24 When your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they
have sinned against you, and they return to you and confess your name,
praying and pleading before you in this temple,

* **6:13 6:13** The platform was approximately 7.5 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (2.3 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high).

25 then may you hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people
Israel. May you restore them to the land you gave to them and their
fathers.
26 When the skies are shut and there is no rain because your people
have sinned against you, and they pray toward this place and confess your
name, and they turn from their sins because you have afflicted them,
27 then may you hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants,
your people Israel, so that you may teach them the good way in which
they should walk. May you send rain on the land that you gave your
people as an inheritance.
28 When famine or plague comes upon the land, or blight or mildew or
locusts or grasshoppers, or when their enemies besiege them in their
cities, whatever plague or sickness may come,
29 then may whatever prayer or plea is made by any man or by all your
people Israel—each knowing his own afflictions and spreading out his
hands toward this temple—
30 be heard by you from heaven, your dwelling place. And may you
forgive and repay each man according to all his ways, since you know his
heart—for you alone know the hearts of men—
31 so that they may fear you and walk in your ways all the days they live
in the land that you gave to our fathers.
32 And as for the foreigner who is not of your people Israel but has come
from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand
and outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple,
33 then may you hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do
according to all for which the foreigner calls to you. Then all the peoples
of the earth will know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel,
and they will know that this house I have built is called by your Name.
34 When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you
send them, and when they pray to you in the direction of this city you
have chosen and the house I have built for your Name,
35 then may you hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and may
you uphold their cause.
36 When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and
you become angry with them and deliver them to an enemy who takes
them as captives to a land far or near,
37 and when they come to their senses in the land to which they were
taken, and they repent and plead with you in the land of their captors,
saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong; we have acted wickedly,'
38 and when they return to you with all their heart and soul in the land
of the enemies who took them captive, and when they pray in the
direction of the land that you gave to their fathers, the city you have
chosen, and the house I have built for your Name,
39 then may you hear from heaven, your dwelling place, their prayer
and pleas, and may you uphold their cause. May you forgive your people
who sinned against you.
40 Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the
prayer offered in this place.

41 Now therefore, arise, O LORD God, and enter your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

May your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with victory,
and may your godly ones rejoice in goodness.
42 O LORD God, do not reject your anointed one.
Remember your loving devotion to your servant David."

7

1 When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.
2 The priests were unable to enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled it.
3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD:

"For he is good;
his loving devotion endures forever."
4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.
5 And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.
6 The priests stood at their posts, as did the Levites with the musical instruments of the LORD, which King David had made for giving thanks to the LORD and with which David had offered praise through them, saying, "For his loving devotion endures forever." Across from the Levites, the priests sounded trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.
7 Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard in front of the house of the LORD, and there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, since the bronze altar he had made could not hold the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat.
8 So at that time Solomon and all Israel with him—a very great assembly of people from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt—kept the feast* for seven days.
9 On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar had lasted seven days, and the feast seven days more.
10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, Solomon sent the people away to their homes, joyful and glad of heart for the good things that the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for his people Israel.
11 When Solomon had finished the house of the LORD and the royal palace, successfully carrying out all that was in his heart to do for the house of the LORD and for his own palace,
12 the LORD appeared to him at night and said to him:
"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.
13 If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among my people,
14 and if my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.
15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

* **7:8 7:8** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); see Leviticus 23:33–36.

16 For I have now chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name
may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.
17 And as for you, if you walk before me as your father David walked,
doing all I have commanded you, and if you keep my statutes and
ordinances,
18 then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with your
father David when I said, 'You will never fail to have a man to rule over
Israel.'
19 But if you turn away and forsake the statutes and commandments I
have set before you, and if you go off to serve and worship other gods,
20 then I will uproot Israel from the soil I have given them, and I will
banish from my presence this temple I have sanctified for my Name. I will
make it an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples.
21 And though this temple is now exalted,† all who pass by it will be
appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to
this temple?'
22 And others will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the
God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and have
embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—because of this, he
has brought all this disaster upon them.' "

8

1 Now at the end of the twenty years during which Solomon had built
the house of the LORD and his own palace,
2 Solomon rebuilt the cities Hiram* had given him and settled Israelites
there.
3 Then Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and captured it.
4 He built Tadmor in the wilderness, in addition to all the store cities
that he had built in Hamath.
5 He rebuilt Upper and Lower Beth-horon as fortified cities with walls,
gates, and bars,
6 as well as Baalath, all the store cities that belonged to Solomon, and all
the cities for his chariots and horsemen†—whatever he desired to build in
Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout the land of his dominion.
7 As for all the people who remained of the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites,
Hivites, and Jebusites (these people were not Israelites)—
8 their descendants who remained in the land, those whom the Israelites
had not destroyed—Solomon conscripted these people to be forced
laborers, as they are to this day.
9 But Solomon did not consign any of the Israelites to slave labor,
because they were his men of war, the leaders of his captains, and the
commanders of his chariots and cavalry.
10 They were also the chief officers for King Solomon: 250 supervisors.
11 Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh up from the City of David
to the palace he had built for her. For he said, "My wife must not live in the
house of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the LORD has
entered are holy."
12 At that time Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar
of the LORD he had built in front of the portico.

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† **7:21 7:21** Some LXX manuscripts, Syriac, and Arabic *And when this temple has become a heap of rubble*; see also 1 Kings 9:8. * **8:2 8:2** Hebrew *Huram*, a variant of *Hiram*; also in verse 18 † **8:6 8:6** Or *horses* or *charioteers*

13 He observed the daily requirement for offerings according to the
commandment of Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons, and the three annual
appointed feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread,‡ the Feast of Weeks,§
and the Feast of Booths.*
14 In keeping with the ordinances of his father David, Solomon
appointed the divisions of the priests over their service, and the Levites
for their duties to offer praise and to minister before the priests according
to the daily requirement. He also appointed gatekeepers by their divisions
at each gate, for this had been the command of David, the man of God.
15 They did not turn aside from the king's command regarding the
priests or the Levites in any matter, including that of the treasuries.
16 Thus all the work of Solomon was carried out, from the day the
foundation was laid for the house of the LORD until it was finished. So the
house of the LORD was completed.
17 Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and to Eloth† on the coast of
Edom.‡
18 So Hiram sent him ships captained by his servants, along with crews
of experienced sailors. They went with Solomon's servants to Ophir and
acquired from there 450 talents of gold,§ which they delivered to King
Solomon.

9

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon, she
came to test him with difficult questions. She arrived in Jerusalem with a
very large caravan—with camels bearing spices, gold in abundance, and
precious stones.
And she came to Solomon and spoke with him about all that was on her
mind.
2 And Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for
him to explain.
3 When the queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of Solomon, the palace he
had built,
4 the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the service and attire
of his attendants, the attire of his cupbearers, and his stairway by which
he went up* to the house of the LORD, it took her breath away.
5 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your
words† and wisdom is true.
6 But I did not believe the reports until I came and saw with my own
eyes. Indeed, not half of the greatness of your wisdom was told to me. You
have far exceeded the report I heard.
7 How blessed are your men! How blessed are these servants of yours
who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

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‡ **8:13 8:13** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20. § **8:13 8:13** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. * **8:13 8:13** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22). † **8:17 8:17** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6. ‡ **8:17 8:17** That is, along the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom § **8:18 8:18** *450 talents* is approximately 17 tons or 15.4 metric tons of gold. * **9:4 9:4** LXX and Syriac (see also 1 Kings 10:5) *and the burnt offerings he presented* † **9:5 9:5** Or *your achievements*

8 Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you to set you on
his throne to be king for the LORD your God. Because your God loved
Israel enough to establish them forever, he has made you king over them
to carry out justice and righteousness."
9 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold,‡ a great quantity of spices,
and precious stones. There had never been such spices as those the queen
of Sheba gave to King Solomon.
10 (The servants of Hiram and of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir
also brought algum§ wood and precious stones.
11 The king made the algum wood into steps* for the house of the LORD
and for the king's palace, and into lyres and harps for the singers. Never
before had anything like them been seen in the land of Judah.)
12 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired—whatever she
asked—far more than she had brought the king. Then she left and
returned to her own country, along with her servants.
13 The weight of gold that came to Solomon each year was 666 talents,†
14 not including the revenue from the merchants and traders. And all
the Arabian kings and governors of the land also brought gold and silver
to Solomon.
15 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six
hundred shekels of hammered gold‡ went into each shield.
16 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; three
hundred shekels of gold§ went into each shield. And the king put them in
the House of the Forest of Lebanon.
17 Additionally, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it
with pure gold.
18 The throne had six steps, and a footstool of gold was attached to it.
There were armrests on both sides of the seat, with a lion standing beside
each armrest.
19 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step.
Nothing like this had ever been made for any kingdom.
20 All King Solomon's drinking cups were gold, and all the utensils of the
House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. There was no silver,
because it was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.
21 For the king had the ships of Tarshish* that went with Hiram's†
servants, and once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive
bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.‡
22 So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and
wisdom.
23 All the kings of the earth sought an audience with Solomon to hear
the wisdom that God had put in his heart.
24 Year after year, each visitor would bring his tribute: articles of silver
and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.

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‡ **9:9 9:9** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold. § **9:10 9:10** *Algum* is probably a variant of *almug*; also in verse 11; see 1 Kings 10:11. * **9:11 9:11** Or *gateways* † **9:13 9:13** *666 talents* is approximately 25.1 tons or 22.8 metric tons of gold. ‡ **9:15 9:15** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold. § **9:16 9:16** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms of gold. * **9:21 9:21** Or *a fleet of trading ships*; twice in this verse † **9:21 9:21** Hebrew *Huram's*, a variant of *Hiram's* ‡ **9:21 9:21** Or *baboons*

25 Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000
horsemen,§ which he stationed in the chariot cities and also with him in
Jerusalem.
26 He reigned over all the kings from the Euphrates* to the land of the
Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.
27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as
abundant as sycamore in the foothills.†
28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from all the lands.
29 As for the rest of the acts of Solomon, from beginning to end, are they
not written in the Records of Nathan the Prophet, in the Prophecy of
Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the Visions of Jedo‡ the Seer concerning
Jeroboam son of Nebat?
30 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.
31 And Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his
father David. And his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

10

1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to
make him king.
2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about this, he returned from
Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon.
3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and all Israel came to Rehoboam
and said,
4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us. But now you must lighten the
burden of your father's service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we
will serve you."
5 Rehoboam answered, "Come back to me in three days." So the people
departed.
6 Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his
father Solomon during his lifetime. "How do you advise me to respond to
these people?" he asked.
7 They replied, "If you will be kind to these people and please them by
speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."
8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders; instead, he consulted
the young men who had grown up with him and served him.
9 He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to
these people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke your father
put on us'?"
10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, "This is how you
should answer these people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke
heavy, but you must make it lighter.' This is what you should tell them:
'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist!
11 Whereas my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to
your yoke. Whereas my father scourged you with whips, I will scourge
you with scorpions.' "
12 After three days, Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam,
since the king had said, "Come back to me on the third day."
13 And the king answered them harshly. King Rehoboam rejected the
advice of the elders

§ **9:25 9:25** Or *horses* or *charioteers* * **9:26 9:26** Hebrew *the River* † **9:27 9:27** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea ‡ **9:29 9:29** Qere; Ketiv *Jedi*

14 and spoke to them as the young men had advised, saying, “I will make
your yoke heavy,* and I will add to it. Whereas my father scourged you
with whips, I will scourge you with scorpions.”
15 So the king did not listen to the people, and indeed this turn of events
was from God, in order that the LORD might fulfill the word that he had
spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.
16 And all Israel—since the king had refused to listen to
them—answered† the king:

“What portion do we have in David,
and what inheritance in the son of Jesse?
To your tents, O Israel!
Look now to your own house, O David!”
So all the Israelites went home,
17 but Rehoboam still reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of
Judah.
18 Then King Rehoboam sent out Hadoram,‡ who was in charge of the
forced labor, but the Israelites stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam
mounted his chariot in haste and escaped to Jerusalem.
19 So to this day Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David.

11

1 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mobilized the house of
Judah and Benjamin—180,000 chosen warriors—to fight against Israel and
restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.
2 But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God:
3 “Tell Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah and all the Israelites in
Judah and Benjamin
4 that this is what the LORD says: ‘You are not to go up and fight against
your brothers. Each of you must return home, for this is my doing.’ ”
So they listened to the words of the LORD and turned back from going
against Jeroboam.
5 Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem, and he built up cities for defense in
Judah.
6 He built up Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,
7 Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam,
8 Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,
9 Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,
10 Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, the fortified cities in Judah and Benjamin.
11 He strengthened their fortifications and put officers in them, with
supplies of food, oil, and wine.
12 He also put shields and spears in all the cities and strengthened them
greatly. So Judah and Benjamin belonged to him.
13 Moreover, the priests and Levites from all their districts throughout
Israel stood with Rehoboam.
14 For the Levites left their pasturelands and their possessions and went
to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them
as priests of the LORD.

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* **10:14 10:14** LXX and many Hebrew manuscripts (see also 1 Kings 12:14) *Whereas my father made your yoke heavy* † **10:16 10:16** Syriac, Vulgate, and many Hebrew manuscripts *When all Israel saw that the king had refused to listen to them, they answered* ‡ **10:18 10:18** *Hadoram* is a variant of *Adoram* and *Adoniram*; see 2 Samuel 20:24 and 1 Kings 4:6.

15 And Jeroboam appointed his own priests for the high places and for
the goat demons and calf idols he had made.
16 Those from every tribe of Israel who had set their hearts to seek the
LORD, the God of Israel, followed the Levites to Jerusalem to sacrifice to
the LORD, the God of their fathers.
17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam
son of Solomon for three years, because they walked for three years in the
way of David and Solomon.
18 And Rehoboam married Mahalath, who was the daughter* of David's
son Jerimoth and of Abihail, the daughter of Jesse's son Eliab.
19 She bore sons to him: Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham.
20 After her, he married Maacah daughter of Absalom, and she bore to
him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.
21 Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of Absalom more than all his
wives and concubines. In all, he had eighteen wives and sixty concubines,
and he was the father of twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.
22 Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah as chief prince among his
brothers, intending to make him king.
23 Rehoboam also acted wisely by dispersing some of his sons
throughout the districts of Judah and Benjamin, and to all the fortified
cities. He gave them abundant provisions and sought many wives for
them.

12

1 After Rehoboam had established his sovereignty and royal power, he
and all Israel* with him forsook the Teaching of the LORD.
2 In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, because they had been unfaithful
to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem
3 with 1,200 chariots, 60,000 horsemen,† and countless troops who came
with him out of Egypt—Libyans, Sukkites, and Cushites.‡
4 He captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.
5 Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the leaders of
Judah who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he said to
them, "This is what the LORD says: 'You have forsaken me; therefore, I
have forsaken you into the hand of Shishak.' "
6 So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said,
"The LORD is righteous."
7 When the LORD saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of
the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves; I
will not destroy them, but will soon grant them deliverance. My wrath will
not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak.
8 Nevertheless, they will become his servants, so that they may learn the
difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands."
9 So King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem and seized the treasures
of the house of the LORD and of the royal palace. He took everything,
including the gold shields that Solomon had made.

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* **11:18 11:18** Qere; Ketiv *son* * **12:1 12:1** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel. † **12:3 12:3** Or *charioteers* ‡ **12:3 12:3** That is, people from the upper Nile region

10 Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place and
committed them to the care of the captains of the guard on duty at the
entrance to the royal palace.
11 And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards
would go with him, bearing the shields, and later they would return them
to the guardroom.
12 Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the anger of the LORD turned
away from him, and he did not destroy him completely. Indeed, conditions
were good in Judah.
13 Thus King Rehoboam established himself in Jerusalem and reigned.
He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned
seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen from all the
tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah
the Ammonite.
14 And Rehoboam did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the
LORD.
15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are they not written in
the records of Shemaiah the Prophet and of Iddo the Seer concerning the
genealogies? There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam
throughout their days.
16 And Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of
David. And his son Abijah§ reigned in his place.

13

1 In the eighteenth year of Jeroboam's reign, Abijah* became king of
Judah,
2 and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was
Micaiah† daughter‡ of Uriel; she was from Gibeah.
And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.
3 Abijah went into battle with an army of 400,000 chosen men, while
Jeroboam drew up in formation against him with 800,000 chosen and
mighty men of valor.
4 Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim in the hill country of Ephraim
and said, "Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel!
5 Do you not know that the LORD, the God of Israel, has given the
kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of
salt§?
6 Yet Jeroboam son of Nebat, a servant of Solomon son of David, rose up
and rebelled against his master.
7 Then worthless and wicked men gathered around him to resist
Rehoboam son of Solomon when he was young, inexperienced, and
unable to resist them.
8 And now you think you can resist the kingdom of the LORD, which is
in the hands of David's descendants. You are indeed a vast army, and you
have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made for you as gods.
9 But did you not drive out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron,
and the Levites? And did you not make priests for yourselves as do the

§ **12:16 12:16** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abijam*; see 1 Kings 14:31. * **13:1 13:1** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abijam*; see 1 Kings 14:31. † **13:2 13:2** Most LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Maacah*; see 2 Chronicles 11:20 and 1 Kings 15:2. ‡ **13:2 13:2** Or *granddaughter* § **13:5 13:5** That is, a perpetual covenant

peoples of other lands? Now whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams can become a priest of things that are not gods.
10 But as for us, the LORD is our God. We have not forsaken him; the priests who minister to the LORD are sons of Aaron, and the Levites attend to their duties.
11 Every morning and every evening they present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to the LORD. They set out the rows of showbread on the ceremonially clean table, and every evening they light the lamps of the gold lampstand. We are carrying out the requirements of the LORD our God, while you have forsaken him.
12 Now behold, God himself is with us as our head, and his priests with their trumpets sound the battle call against you. O children of Israel, do not fight against the LORD, the God of your fathers, for you will not succeed."
13 Now Jeroboam had sent troops around to ambush from the rear, so that while he was in front of Judah, the ambush was behind them.
14 When Judah turned and discovered that the battle was both before and behind them, they cried out to the LORD. Then the priests blew the trumpets,
15 and the men of Judah raised the battle cry. And when they raised the cry, God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.
16 So the Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands.
17 Then Abijah and his people struck them with a mighty blow, and 500,000 chosen men of Israel fell slain.
18 Thus the Israelites were subdued at that time, and the men of Judah prevailed because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.
19 Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured some cities from him: Bethel, Jeshanah, and Ephrain,* along with their villages.
20 Jeroboam did not again recover his power during the days of Abijah, and the LORD struck him down and he died.
21 But Abijah grew strong, married fourteen wives, and became the father of twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.
22 Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, along with his ways and his words, are written in the Treatise† of the Prophet Iddo.
23 Then Abijah rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And his son Asa reigned in his place, and in his days the land was at peace for ten years.

14

1 And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.
2 He removed the foreign altars and high places, shattered the sacred pillars, and chopped down the Asherah poles.
3 He commanded the people of Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandments.
4 He also removed the high places and incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and under him the kingdom was at peace.
5 Because the land was at peace, Asa built fortified cities in Judah. In those days no one made war with him, because the LORD had given him rest.

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* **13:19 13:19** Qere; Ketiv *Ephron* † **13:22 13:22** Or *Exposition* or *Study*

6 So he said to the people of Judah, “Let us build these cities and
surround them with walls and towers, with doors and bars. The land is
still ours because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him,
and he has given us rest on every side.” So they built and prospered.
7 Asa had an army of 300,000 men from Judah bearing large shields and
spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin bearing small shields and
drawing the bow. All these were mighty men of valor.
8 Then Zerah the Cushite came against them with an army of 1,000,000
men* and 300 chariots, and they advanced as far as Mareshah.
9 So Asa marched out against him and lined up in battle formation in the
Valley of Zephathah near Mareshah.†
10 Then Asa cried out to the LORD his God: “O LORD, there is no one
besides you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our
God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this
multitude. O LORD, you are our God. Do not let a mere mortal prevail
against you.”
11 So the LORD struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah, and the
Cushites fled.
12 Then Asa and his army pursued them as far as Gerar. The Cushites fell
and could not recover, for they were crushed before the LORD and his
army. So the people of Judah carried off a great amount of plunder
13 and attacked all the cities around Gerar, because the terror of the
LORD had fallen upon them. They plundered all the cities, since there was
much plunder there.
14 They also attacked the tents of the herdsmen and carried off many
sheep and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

15

1 Now the spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded.
2 So he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Listen to me, Asa and all
Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you
seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake
you.
3 For many years Israel has been without the true God, without a priest
to instruct them, and without the law.
4 But in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and
sought him, and he was found by them.
5 In those days there was no safety for travelers, because the residents of
the lands had many conflicts.
6 Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God afflicted them
with all kinds of adversity.
7 But as for you, be strong; do not be discouraged, for your work will be
rewarded.”
8 When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded* the prophet,
he took courage and removed the detestable idols from the whole land of
Judah and Benjamin and from the cities he had captured in the hill
country of Ephraim. He then restored the altar of the LORD that was in
front of the portico of the LORD’s temple.

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* **14:8 14:8** Or *an army of thousands and thousands*; Hebrew *an army of a thousand thousands*
† **14:9 14:9** Or *the valley north of Mareshah* * **15:8 15:8** Vulgate and Syriac (see also verse 1 and LXX) add *Azariah son of*

9 And he assembled all Judah and Benjamin, along with those from the
tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among them,
for great numbers had come over to him from Israel when they saw that
the LORD his God was with him.
10 So they gathered together in Jerusalem in the third month of the
fifteenth year of Asa's reign.
11 At that time they sacrificed to the LORD seven hundred oxen and
seven thousand sheep from all the plunder they had brought back.
12 Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their
fathers, with all their heart and soul.
13 And whoever would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, would be
put to death, whether young or old, man or woman.
14 They took an oath to the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting,
trumpets, and rams' horns.
15 And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn it with all
their heart. They had sought him earnestly, and he was found by them. So
the LORD gave them rest on every side.
16 King Asa also removed his grandmother† Maacah from her position as
queen mother because she had made a detestable Asherah pole. Asa
chopped down the pole, crushed it, and burned it in the Kidron Valley.
17 The high places were not removed from Israel, but Asa's heart was
fully devoted all his days.
18 And he brought into the house of God the silver and gold and the
articles that he and his father had dedicated.
19 And there was no war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

16

1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign, Baasha king of Israel went up
against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or
entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.
2 So Asa withdrew the silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of
the LORD and the royal palace, and he sent it with this message to
Ben-hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus:
3 "Let there be a treaty* between me and you as there was between my
father and your father. See, I have sent you silver and gold. Now go and
break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw
from me."
4 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his
armies against the cities of Israel, conquering Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim,† and
all the store cities of Naphtali.
5 When Baasha learned of this, he stopped fortifying Ramah and
abandoned his work.
6 Then King Asa brought all the men of Judah, and they carried away the
stones of Ramah and the timbers Baasha had used for building. And with
these materials he built up Geba and Mizpah.
7 At that time Hanani the seer came to King Asa of Judah and told him,
"Because you have relied on the king of Aram and not on the LORD your
God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.

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† **15:16 15:16** Hebrew *his mother* * **16:3 16:3** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse. † **16:4 16:4** *Abel-maim* was also known as *Abel-beth-maacah*; see 1 Kings 15:20.

8 Were not the Cushites‡ and Libyans a vast army with many chariots
and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he delivered them
into your hand.
9 For the eyes of the LORD roam to and fro over all the earth, to show
himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully devoted to him.
You have acted foolishly in this matter. From now on, therefore, you will
be at war."
10 Asa was angry with the seer and became so enraged over this matter
that he put the man in prison. And at the same time Asa oppressed some
of the people.
11 Now the acts of Asa, from beginning to end, are indeed written in the
Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.
12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet,
and his disease became increasingly severe. Yet even in his illness he did
not seek the LORD, but only the physicians.
13 So in the forty-first year of his reign, Asa died and rested with his
fathers.
14 And he was buried in the tomb that he had cut out for himself in the
City of David. They laid him on a bier that was full of spices and various
blended perfumes; then they made a great fire in his honor.

17

1 Asa's son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place, and he strengthened
himself against Israel.
2 He stationed troops in every fortified city of Judah and put garrisons in
the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa had
captured.
3 Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the earlier
ways* of his father David. He did not seek the Baals,
4 but he sought the God of his father and walked by his commandments
rather than the practices of Israel.
5 So the LORD established the kingdom in his hand, and all Judah
brought him tribute, so that he had an abundance of riches and honor.
6 And his heart was exalted† in the ways of the LORD; furthermore, he
removed the high places and Asherah poles from Judah.
7 In the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent his officials Ben-hail,
Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah to teach in the cities of Judah,
8 accompanied by certain Levites—Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah,
Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and
Tob-adonijah—along with the priests Elishama and Jehoram.
9 They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the
Teaching of the LORD. They went throughout the towns of Judah and
taught the people.
10 And the dread of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that
surrounded Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.
11 Some Philistines also brought gifts and silver as tribute to
Jehoshaphat, and the Arabs brought him 7,700 rams and 7,700 goats from
their flocks.
12 Jehoshaphat grew stronger and stronger, and he built fortresses and
store cities in Judah

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‡ **16:8 16:8** That is, people from the upper Nile region * **17:3 17:3** Or *in his early years he walked in the ways* † **17:6 17:6** Or *took delight* or *was courageous*

13 and kept vast supplies in the cities of Judah. He also had warriors in
Jerusalem who were mighty men of valor.
14 These are their numbers according to the houses of their fathers:

From Judah, the commanders of thousands:
Adnah the commander, and with him 300,000 mighty men of valor;
15 next to him, Jehohanan the commander, and with him 280,000;
16 and next to him, Amasiah son of Zichri, the volunteer for the LORD,
and with him 200,000 mighty men of valor.

17 From Benjamin:
Eliada, a mighty man of valor, and with him 200,000 armed with bows
and shields;
18 and next to him, Jehozabad, and with him 180,000 armed for battle.
19 These were the men who served the king, besides those he stationed
in the fortified cities throughout Judah.

18

1 Now Jehoshaphat had an abundance of riches and honor, and he allied
himself with Ahab by marriage.
2 And some years later he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria, where
Ahab sacrificed many sheep and cattle for him and the people with him
and urged him to march up to Ramoth-gilead.
3 Ahab king of Israel asked Jehoshaphat king of Judah, “Will you go with
me against Ramoth-gilead?”
And Jehoshaphat replied, “I am as you are, and my people are your
people; we will join you in the war.”
4 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “Please inquire first for
the word of the LORD.”
5 So the king of Israel assembled the prophets, four hundred men, and
asked them, “Should we go to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should we
refrain?”
“Go up,” they replied, “and God will deliver it into the hand of the king.”
6 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here of
whom we can inquire?”
7 The king of Israel answered, “There is still one man through whom we
can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies
anything good for me, but only bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.”
“The king should not say that!” Jehoshaphat replied.
8 So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, “Bring Micaiah
son of Imlah at once.”
9 Dressed in royal attire, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of
Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance
of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them.
10 Now Zedekiah son of Chenaanah had made for himself iron horns
and declared, “This is what the LORD says: ‘With these you shall gore the
Arameans until they are finished off.’ ”
11 And all the prophets were prophesying the same, saying, “Go up to
Ramoth-gilead and triumph, for the LORD will deliver it into the hand of
the king.”

12 Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah instructed him,
“Behold, with one accord the words of the prophets are favorable to the
king. So please let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably.”
13 But Micaiah said, “As surely as the LORD lives, I will speak whatever
my God tells me.”
14 When Micaiah arrived, the king asked him, “Micaiah, should we go to
war against Ramoth-gilead, or should we refrain?”
“Go up and triumph,” Micaiah replied, “for they will be delivered into
your hand.”
15 But the king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear not
to tell me anything but the truth in the name of the LORD?”
16 So Micaiah declared:

“I saw all Israel scattered on the hills
like sheep without a shepherd.
And the LORD said, ‘These people have no master;
let each one return home in peace.’ ”
17 Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he
never prophesies good for me, but only bad?”
18 Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the
LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right
and on his left.
19 And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to march up
and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’
And one suggested this, and another that.
20 Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, ‘I will
entice him.’
‘By what means?’ asked the LORD.
21 And he replied, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all
his prophets.’
‘You will surely entice him and prevail,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’
22 So you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of these
prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you.”
23 Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah went up, struck Micaiah in the face,
and demanded, “Which way did the spirit of the LORD go when it departed
from me to speak with you?”
24 Micaiah replied, “You will soon see, on that day when you go and hide
in an inner room.”
25 And the king of Israel declared, “Take Micaiah and return him to
Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king’s son,
26 and tell them that this is what the king says: ‘Put this man in prison
and feed him only bread and water until I return safely.’ ”
27 But Micaiah replied, “If you ever return safely, the LORD has not
spoken through me.” Then he added, “Take heed, all you people!”
28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to
Ramoth-gilead.
29 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I will disguise myself and
go into battle, but you wear your royal robes.” So the king of Israel
disguised himself and went into battle.
30 Now the king of Aram had ordered his chariot commanders, “Do not
fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel.”

31 When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “This is
the king of Israel!” So they turned to fight against him, but Jehoshaphat
cried out, and the LORD helped him. God drew them away from him.
32 And when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of
Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.
33 However, a certain man drew his bow without taking special aim, and
he struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So the king
said to his charioteer, “Turn around* and take me out of the battle, for I
am badly wounded!”
34 The battle raged throughout that day, and the king of Israel propped
himself up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening. And at sunset
he died.

19

1 When Jehoshaphat king of Judah had returned safely to his home in
Jerusalem,
2 Jehu son of Hanani the seer went out to confront him and said to King
Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the
LORD? Because of this, the wrath of the LORD is upon you.
3 However, some good is found in you, for you have removed the
Asherah poles from the land and have set your heart on seeking God.”
4 Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and once again he went out among the
people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them
back to the LORD, the God of their fathers.
5 He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah.
6 Then he said to the judges, “Consider carefully what you do, for you are
not judging for man, but for the LORD, who is with you when you render
judgment.
7 And now, may the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you
do, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”
8 Moreover, Jehoshaphat appointed in Jerusalem some of the Levites,
priests, and heads of the Israelite families to judge on behalf of the LORD
and to settle disputes. And they returned to Jerusalem.*
9 He commanded them, saying, “You must serve faithfully and
wholeheartedly in the fear of the LORD.
10 For every dispute that comes before you from your brothers who
dwell in their cities—whether it regards bloodshed or some other
violation of law, commandments, statutes, or ordinances—you are to warn
them, so that they will not incur guilt before the LORD and wrath will not
come upon you and your brothers. Do this, and you will not incur guilt.
11 Note that Amariah, the chief priest, will be over you in all that
pertains to the LORD, and Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house
of Judah, in all that pertains to the king. And the Levites will serve as
officers before you. Act resolutely; may the LORD be with the upright!”

20

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, together with some other
Ammonites,* came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

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* **18:33 18:33** Literally *Turn your hand* (Qere); Ketiv *Turn your hands* * **19:8 19:8** LXX and Vulgate *And they lived in Jerusalem* * **20:1 20:1** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Chronicles 26:7) *together with some of the Meunites*

2 Then some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming
against you from Aram,† from beyond the Sea;‡ they are already in
Hazazon-tamar” (that is, En-gedi).
3 Jehoshaphat was alarmed and set his face to seek the LORD. And he
proclaimed a fast throughout Judah.
4 So the people of Judah gathered to seek the LORD, and indeed, they
came from all the cities of Judah to seek him.
5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the
house of the LORD in front of the new courtyard
6 and said, “O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in
heaven, and do you not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power
and might are in your hand, and no one can stand against you.
7 Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your
people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your
friend?
8 They have lived in the land and have built in it a sanctuary for your
Name, saying,
9 ‘If disaster comes upon us—the sword of judgment,§ plague, or
famine—we will stand before this temple and before you, for your Name
is in this temple. We will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear
us and save us.’
10 And now, here are the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whom
you did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt. So
Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them.
11 See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the
possession that you gave us as an inheritance.
12 Our God, will you not judge them? For we are powerless before this
vast army that comes against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes
are upon you.”
13 Meanwhile all the men of Judah, with their wives and children and
little ones, were standing before the LORD.
14 Then the spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the
son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite from
Asaph’s descendants, as he stood in the midst of the assembly.
15 And he said, “Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen,
King Jehoshaphat! This is what the LORD says: ‘Do not be afraid or
discouraged because of this vast army, for the battle does not belong to
you, but to God.
16 Tomorrow you are to march down against them. You will see them
coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the
valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel.
17 You need not fight this battle. Take up your positions, stand firm, and
see the deliverance of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.
Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out and face them tomorrow, for the
LORD is with you.’ ”
18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed facedown, and all the people of Judah and
Jerusalem fell down before the LORD to worship him.
19 And the Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up to praise
the LORD, the God of Israel, shouting in a very loud voice.

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† **20:2 20:2** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript *Edom* ‡ **20:2 20:2** That is, the Dead Sea § **20:9 20:9** Or *whether sword or judgment*

20 Early in the morning they got up and left for the Wilderness of Tekoa.
As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood up and said, “Hear me, O people of
Judah and Jerusalem. Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be
upheld; believe in his prophets, and you will succeed.”
21 Then Jehoshaphat consulted with the people and appointed those who
would sing to the LORD and praise the splendor of his holiness. As they
went out before the army, they were singing:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
for his loving devotion endures forever.”
22 The moment they began their shouts and praises, the LORD set
ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir who had
come against Judah, and they were defeated.
23 The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the inhabitants of
Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction.* And when they had finished off
the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.
24 When the men of Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness,
they looked for the vast army, but there were only corpses lying on the
ground; no one had escaped.
25 Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to carry off the plunder, and
they found on the bodies an abundance of goods and valuables†—they
stripped off for themselves more than they could carry away. They were
gathering the plunder for three days because there was so much.
26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah,‡ where
they blessed the LORD. Therefore that place is called the Valley of Beracah
to this day.
27 Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat at their
head, returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had made them rejoice
over their enemies.
28 So they entered Jerusalem and went into the house of the LORD with
harps, lyres, and trumpets.
29 And the fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the lands when
they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.
30 Then Jehoshaphat’s kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him
rest on every side.
31 So Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when
he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. His
mother’s name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi.
32 And Jehoshaphat walked in the way of his father Asa and did not turn
away from it; he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.
33 The high places, however, were not removed; the people had not yet
set their hearts on the God of their fathers.
34 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, from beginning to end, they
are indeed written in the Chronicles of Jehu son of Hanani, which are
recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.
35 Later, Jehoshaphat king of Judah made an alliance with Ahaziah king
of Israel, by which he acted wickedly.§

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* **20:23 20:23** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. † **20:25 20:25** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate *they found among them an abundance of goods and clothing and valuables*
‡ **20:26 20:26** *Beracah* means *blessing.* § **20:35 20:35** Or *who acted wickedly* or *who made him act wickedly*

36 They agreed to make ships to go to Tarshish,* and these were built in
Ezion-geber.
37 Then Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against
Jehoshaphat, saying, “Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the
LORD has destroyed your works.”
So the ships were wrecked and were unable to sail to Tarshish.†

21

1 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with them in
the City of David. And his son Jehoram reigned in his place.
2 Jehoram’s brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat, were Azariah, Jehiel,
Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah; these were all sons of
Jehoshaphat king of Israel.*
3 Their father had given them many gifts of silver and gold and precious
things, as well as the fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to
Jehoram because he was the firstborn.
4 When Jehoram had established himself over his father’s kingdom, he
strengthened himself by putting to the sword all his brothers along with
some of the princes of Israel.
5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem eight years.
6 And Jehoram walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, just as the
house of Ahab had done. For he married a daughter of Ahab and did evil
in the sight of the LORD.
7 Yet the LORD was unwilling to destroy the house of David, because of
the covenant he had made with David, and since he had promised to
maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever.
8 In the days of Jehoram, Edom rebelled against the hand of Judah and
appointed their own king.
9 So Jehoram crossed into Edom with his officers and all his chariots.
When the Edomites surrounded him and his chariot commanders, he rose
up and attacked† by night.
10 So to this day Edom has been in rebellion against the hand of Judah.
Likewise, Libnah rebelled against his hand at the same time, because
Jehoram had forsaken the LORD, the God of his fathers.
11 Jehoram had also built high places on the hills of Judah; he had caused
the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves and had led Judah astray.
12 Then a letter came to Jehoram from Elijah the prophet, which stated:
“This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says:
‘You have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa
king of Judah,
13 but you have walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and have
caused Judah and the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves, just as
the house of Ahab prostituted itself. You have also killed your brothers,
your father’s family, who were better than you.
14 So behold, the LORD is about to strike your people, your sons, your
wives, and all your possessions with a serious blow.

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* **20:36 20:36** Or *a fleet of trading ships* † **20:37 20:37** Or *set sail to trade* * **21:2 21:2** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel. † **21:9 21:9** Or *he went out and escaped*

15 And day after day you yourself will suffer from a severe illness, a
disease of your bowels, until it causes your bowels to come out.' "
16 Then the LORD stirred against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines
and Arabs who lived near the Cushites.
17 So they went to war against Judah, invaded it, and carried off all the
possessions found in the king's palace, along with his sons and wives; not
a son was left to him except Jehoahaz,‡ his youngest.
18 After all this, the LORD afflicted Jehoram with an incurable disease of
the bowels.
19 This continued day after day until two full years had passed. Finally,
his intestines came out because of his disease, and he died in severe pain.
And his people did not make a fire in his honor as they had done for his
fathers.
20 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem eight years. He died, to no one's regret, and was
buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

22

1 Then the people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, the youngest son of
Jehoram, king in his place, since the raiders who had come into the camp
with the Arabs* had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram
became king of Judah.
2 Ahaziah was forty-two† years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, the
granddaughter of Omri.
3 Ahaziah also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother
was his counselor in wickedness.
4 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done,
for to his destruction they were his counselors after the death of his father.
5 Ahaziah also followed their counsel and went with Joram son of Ahab
king of Israel to fight against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead. But
the Arameans‡ wounded Joram.§
6 So he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they had
inflicted on him at Ramah* when he fought against Hazael king of Aram.
Then Azariah† son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to Jezreel to visit
Joram son of Ahab, because Joram had been wounded.
7 Ahaziah's downfall came from God when he went to visit Joram. When
Ahaziah arrived, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son‡ of Nimshi,
whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab.
8 So while Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he found
the rulers of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who were serving
Ahaziah, and he killed them.
9 Then Jehu looked for Ahaziah, and Jehu's soldiers captured him while
he was hiding in Samaria. So Ahaziah was brought to Jehu and put to
death. They buried him, for they said, "He is the grandson of Jehoshaphat,
who sought the LORD with all his heart."

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‡ **21:17 21:17** *Jehoahaz* is a variant of *Ahaziah*; see 2 Chronicles 22:1. * **22:1 22:1** Or *since the marauding bands of Arabs* † **22:2 22:2** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:26) *twenty-two* ‡ **22:5 22:5** Some LXX manuscripts *the archers* § **22:5 22:5** Hebrew *Jehoram*, a variant of *Joram*; also in verses 6 and 7 * **22:6 22:6** *Ramah* is a variant of *Ramoth*; see verse 5. † **22:6 22:6** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:29) *Ahaziah* ‡ **22:7 22:7** Or *grandson*; see 2 Kings 9:14.

So no one was left from the house of Ahaziah with the strength to rule the kingdom.
10 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.
11 But Jehoshabeath§ daughter of King Jehoram took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the sons of the king who were being murdered, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and the wife of Jehoiada the priest, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid Joash from Athaliah so that she could not kill him.
12 And Joash remained hidden with them in the house of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

23

1 Then in the seventh year, Jehoiada strengthened himself and made a covenant with the commanders of hundreds—with Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zichri.
2 So they went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah and the heads of the families of Israel. And when they came to Jerusalem,
3 the whole assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God.
"Behold, the king's son!" said Jehoiada. "He must reign, just as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David.
4 This is what you are to do: A third of you priests and Levites who come on duty on the Sabbath shall keep watch at the doors,
5 a third shall be at the royal palace, and a third at the Foundation Gate, while all the others are to be in the courtyards of the house of the LORD.
6 No one is to enter the house of the LORD except the priests and those Levites who serve; they may enter because they are consecrated, but all the people are to obey the requirement of the LORD.
7 The Levites must surround the king with weapons in hand, and anyone who enters the temple must be put to death. You must stay close to the king wherever he goes."
8 So the Levites and all Judah did everything that Jehoiada the priest had ordered. Each of them took his men—those coming on duty on the Sabbath and those going off duty—for Jehoiada the priest had not released any of the divisions.
9 Then Jehoiada the priest gave to the commanders of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields of King David that were in the house of God.
10 He stationed all the troops, with their weapons in hand, surrounding the king by the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side of the temple.
11 Then Jehoiada and his sons brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, presented him with the Testimony, and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and shouted, "Long live the king!"
12 When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and cheering the king, she went out to them in the house of the LORD.

§ **22:11 22:11** *Jehoshabeath* is a variant of *Jehosheba*; twice in this verse; see 2 Kings 11:2.

13 And she looked and saw the king standing by his pillar at the
entrance. The officers and trumpeters were beside the king, and all the
people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, while the singers
with musical instruments were leading the praises.
Then Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, “Treason, treason!”
14 And Jehoiada the priest sent out the commanders of hundreds in
charge of the army, saying, “Bring her out between the ranks,* and put to
the sword anyone who follows her.” For the priest had said, “She must not
be put to death in the house of the LORD.”
15 So they seized Athaliah as she reached the entrance of the Horse Gate
on the palace grounds, and there they put her to death.
16 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and the king and the
people that they would be the LORD’s people.
17 So all the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They
smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mattan the priest of Baal
in front of the altars.
18 Moreover, Jehoiada put the oversight of the house of the LORD into
the hands of the Levitical priests, whom David had appointed over the
house of the LORD, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD as written in the
Teaching of Moses, with rejoicing and song, as ordained by David.
19 He stationed gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD, so that
no one who was in any way unclean could enter.
20 And he took with him the commanders of hundreds, the nobles, the
rulers of the people, and all the people of the land, and they brought the
king down from the house of the LORD and entered the royal palace
through the Upper Gate. They seated King Joash on the royal throne,
21 and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet,
because Athaliah had been put to the sword.

24

1 Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem forty years. His mother’s name was Zibiah; she was from
Beersheba.
2 And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the days of
Jehoiada the priest.
3 Jehoiada took for him two wives, and he had sons and daughters.
4 Some time later, Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD.
5 So he gathered the priests and Levites and said, “Go out to the cities of
Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the
house of your God. Do it quickly.”
The Levites, however, did not make haste.
6 So the king called Jehoiada the high priest and said, “Why have you not
required the Levites to bring from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed
by Moses the servant of the LORD and by the assembly of Israel for the
Tent of the Testimony?”
7 For the sons of that wicked woman Athaliah had broken into the house
of God and had even used the sacred objects of the house of the LORD for
the Baals.
8 At the king’s command a chest was made and placed outside, at the
gate of the house of the LORD.

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* **23:14 23:14** Or *out from the precincts*

9 And a proclamation was issued in Judah and Jerusalem that they were
to bring to the LORD the tax imposed by Moses the servant of God on
Israel in the wilderness.
10 All the officers and all the people rejoiced and brought their
contributions, and they dropped them in the chest until it was full.
11 Whenever the chest was brought by the Levites to the king's overseers
and they saw that there was a large amount of money, the royal scribe and
the officer of the high priest would come and empty the chest and carry it
back to its place. They did this daily and gathered the money in
abundance.
12 Then the king and Jehoiada would give the money to those who
supervised the labor on the house of the LORD to hire stonecutters and
carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, as well as workers in iron
and bronze to repair the house of the LORD.
13 So the workmen labored, and in their hands the repair work
progressed. They restored the house of God according to its specifications,
and they reinforced it.
14 When they were finished, they brought the rest of the money to the
king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the house of the
LORD—utensils for the service and for the burnt offerings, dishes, and
other objects of gold and silver.
Throughout the days of Jehoiada, burnt offerings were presented
regularly in the house of the LORD.
15 When Jehoiada was old and full of years, he died at the age of 130.
16 And Jehoiada was buried with the kings in the City of David, because
he had done what was good in Israel for God and his temple.
17 After the death of Jehoiada, however, the officials of Judah came and
paid homage to the king, and he listened to them.
18 They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and
served the Asherah poles and idols. So wrath came upon Judah and
Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.
19 Nevertheless, the LORD sent prophets to bring the people back to him
and to testify against them, but they would not listen.
20 Then the spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the
priest, who stood up before the people and said to them, "This is what God
says: 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD so that you
cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken
you.' "
21 But they conspired against Zechariah, and by order of the king, they
stoned him in the courtyard of the house of the LORD.
22 Thus King Joash failed to remember the kindness that Zechariah's
father Jehoiada had extended to him. Instead, Joash killed Jehoiada's son.
As he lay dying, Zechariah said, "May the LORD see this and call you to
account."
23 At the turn of the year,* the army of Aram went to war against Joash.
They entered Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the leaders of the
people, and they sent all the plunder to their king in Damascus.
24 Although the Aramean army had come with only a few men, the LORD
delivered into their hand a very great army. Because Judah had forsaken
the LORD, the God of their fathers, judgment was executed on Joash.

* **24:23 24:23** Or *In the spring*

25 And when the Arameans had withdrawn, they left Joash severely
wounded. His own servants conspired against him for shedding the blood
of the sons† of Jehoiada the priest, and they killed him on his bed. So he
died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.
26 Those who conspired against Joash were Zabad‡ son of Shimeath the
Ammonitess and Jehozabad son of Shimrith§ the Moabitess.
27 The accounts of the sons of Joash and the many pronouncements
about him, and of the restoration* of the house of God, are indeed written
in the Treatise† of the Book of the Kings. And his son Amaziah reigned in
his place.

25

1 Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was
Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not
wholeheartedly.
3 As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, Amaziah executed the
servants who had murdered his father the king.
4 Yet he did not put their sons to death, but acted according to what is
written in the Teaching, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD
commanded: "Fathers must not be put to death for their children, and
children must not be put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his
own sin."*
5 Then Amaziah gathered the people of Judah and assigned them
according to their families to commanders of thousands and of hundreds.
And he numbered those twenty years of age or older throughout Judah
and Benjamin and found 300,000 chosen men able to serve in the army,
bearing the spear and shield.
6 He also hired 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for a hundred
talents of silver.†
7 But a man of God came to him and said, "O king, do not let the army of
Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel—not with any of the
Ephraimites.
8 Even if you go and fight bravely in battle, God will overthrow you
before the enemy, for God has power to help and power to overthrow."
9 Amaziah asked the man of God, "What should I do about the hundred
talents I have given to the troops of Israel?"
And the man of God replied, "The LORD is able to give you much more
than this."
10 So Amaziah dismissed the troops who had come to him from Ephraim
and sent them home. And they were furious with Judah and returned
home in great anger.
11 Amaziah, however, summoned his strength and led his troops to the
Valley of Salt, where he struck down 10,000 men of Seir,
12 and the army of Judah also captured 10,000 men alive. They took them
to the top of a cliff and threw them down so that all were dashed to pieces.

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† **24:25 24:25** LXX and Vulgate *of the son* ‡ **24:26 24:26** *Zabad* is a variant of *Jozabad*; see 2 Kings 12:22. § **24:26 24:26** *Shimrith* is a variant of *Shomer*; see 2 Kings 12:22. * **24:27 24:27** Or *founding* † **24:27 24:27** Or *Exposition* or *Study* * **25:4 25:4** Deuteronomy 24:16 † **25:6 25:6** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver; also in verse 9.

13 Meanwhile the troops that Amaziah had dismissed from battle raided
the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon. They struck down 3,000
people and carried off a great deal of plunder.
14 When Amaziah returned from the slaughter of the Edomites, he
brought back the gods of the Seirites, set them up as his own gods, bowed
before them, and burned sacrifices to them.
15 Therefore the anger of the LORD burned against Amaziah, and he sent
him a prophet, who said, "Why have you sought this people's gods, which
could not deliver them from your hand?"
16 While he was still speaking, the king asked, "Have we made you the
counselor to the king? Stop! Why be struck down?"
So the prophet stopped, but he said, "I know that God has determined to
destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice."
17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent word to the king of
Israel Jehoash‡ son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu. "Come, let us meet face to
face," he said.
18 But Jehoash king of Israel replied to Amaziah king of Judah: "A thistle
in Lebanon sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your
daughter to my son in marriage.' Then a wild beast in Lebanon came
along and trampled the thistle.
19 You have said, 'Look, I have defeated Edom,' and your heart has
become proud and boastful. Now stay at home. Why should you stir up
trouble so that you fall—you and Judah with you?"
20 But Amaziah would not listen, for this had come from God in order to
deliver them into the hand of Jehoash, because they had sought the gods
of Edom.
21 So Jehoash king of Israel advanced, and he and Amaziah king of Judah
faced each other at Beth-shemesh in Judah.
22 And Judah was routed before Israel, and every man fled to his own
home.
23 There at Beth-shemesh, Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king
of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz.§
Then Jehoash brought him to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of
Jerusalem from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate—a section of four
hundred cubits.*
24 He took all the gold and silver and all the articles found in the house
of God with Obed-edom and in the treasuries of the royal palace, as well
as some hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.
25 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the
death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel.
26 As for the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from beginning to end, are they
not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?
27 From the time that Amaziah turned from following the LORD, a
conspiracy was formed against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish.
But men were sent after him to Lachish, and they killed him there.
28 They carried him back on horses and buried him with his fathers in
the City of Judah.†

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‡ **25:17 25:17** *Jehoash* is a variant of *Joash*; also in verses 18, 21, 23, and 25. § **25:23 25:23** *Jehoahaz* is a variant of *Ahaziah*. * **25:23 25:23** *400 cubits* is approximately 600 feet or 182.9 meters. † **25:28 25:28** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *City of David*; see 2 Kings 14:20.

26

1 All the people of Judah took Uzziah,* who was sixteen years old, and
made him king in place of his father Amaziah.
2 Uzziah was the one who rebuilt Eloth† and restored it to Judah after
King Amaziah‡ rested with his fathers.
3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from
Jerusalem.
4 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father
Amaziah had done.
5 He sought God throughout the days of Zechariah, who instructed him
in the vision§ of God. And as long as he sought the LORD, God gave him
success.
6 Uzziah went out to wage war against the Philistines, and he tore down
the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. Then he built cities near Ashdod
and among the Philistines.
7 God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabs living in
Gur-baal, and against the Meunites.
8 The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far
as the border of Egypt, for he had become exceedingly powerful.
9 Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, the Valley Gate,
and the angle in the wall, and he fortified them.
10 Since he had much livestock in the foothills* and in the plain, he built
towers in the desert and dug many cisterns. And since he was a lover of
the soil, he had farmers and vinedressers in the hill country and in the
fertile fields.
11 Uzziah had an army ready for battle that went out to war by assigned
divisions, as recorded by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer under
the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officers.
12 The total number of family leaders of the mighty men of valor was
2,600.
13 Under their authority was an army of 307,500 trained for war, a
powerful force to support the king against his enemies.
14 Uzziah supplied the entire army with shields, spears, helmets, armor,
bows, and slingstones.
15 And in Jerusalem he made skillfully designed devices to shoot† arrows
and catapult large stones from the towers and corners. So his fame spread
far and wide, for he was helped tremendously until he became powerful.
16 But when Uzziah became powerful, his arrogance led to his own
destruction. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the
temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.
17 Then Azariah the priest, along with eighty brave priests of the LORD,
went in after him.
18 They took their stand against King Uzziah and said, "Uzziah, you have
no right to offer incense to the LORD. Only the priests, the descendants of
Aaron, are consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have
acted unfaithfully; you will not receive honor from the LORD God."

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* **26:1 26:1** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; throughout this chapter; see 2 Kings 14:21. † **26:2 26:2** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6. ‡ **26:2 26:2** Literally *after the king* § **26:5 26:5** Leningrad Codex and other Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac *in the fear* * **26:10 26:10** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **26:15 26:15** Or *to protect those who shoot*

19 Uzziah, with a censer in his hand to offer incense, was enraged. But
while he raged against the priests in their presence in the house of the
LORD before the altar of incense, leprosy‡ broke out on his forehead.
20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the priests turned to him and
saw his leprous forehead, they rushed him out. Indeed, he himself hurried
to get out, because the LORD had afflicted him.
21 So King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He lived in
isolation, leprous and cut off from the house of the LORD, while his son
Jotham had charge of the royal palace and governed the people of the land.
22 As for the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from beginning to end, they are
recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.
23 And Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them§ in a
field of burial that belonged to the kings, for the people said, "He was a
leper." And his son Jotham reigned in his place.

27

1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerushah*
daughter of Zadok.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father
Uzziah† had done. In addition, he did not enter the temple of the LORD.
But the people still behaved corruptly.
3 Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD, and he
worked extensively on the wall at the hill of Ophel.
4 He also built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and
towers in the forests.
5 Jotham waged war against the king of the Ammonites and defeated
them, and that year they gave him a hundred talents of silver,‡ ten
thousand cors of wheat,§ and ten thousand cors of barley.* They paid him
the same in the second and third years.
6 So Jotham grew powerful because he ordered his ways before the
LORD his God.
7 As for the rest of the acts of Jotham, along with all his wars and his
ways, they are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.
8 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem sixteen years.
9 And Jotham rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.
And his son Ahaz reigned in his place.

28

1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem sixteen years. And unlike David his father, he did not do what
was right in the eyes of the LORD.
2 Instead, he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and even made
cast images of the Baals.

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‡ **26:19 26:19** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13. § **26:23 26:23** Literally *with his fathers* * **27:1 27:1** *Jerushah* is a variant of *Jerusha*; see 2 Kings 15:33. † **27:2 27:2** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; see 2 Kings 14:21. ‡ **27:5 27:5** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. § **27:5 27:5** *10,000 cors* is approximately 62,400 bushels or 2.2 million liters (probably about 1,920 tons or 1,740 metric tons of wheat). * **27:5 27:5** *10,000 cors* is approximately 62,400 bushels or 2.2 million liters (probably about 1,450 tons or 1,315 metric tons of barley).

3 Moreover, Ahaz burned incense in the Valley of Ben-hinnom and
burned his sons in the fire,* according to the abominations of the nations
that the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
4 And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills,
and under every green tree.
5 So the LORD his God delivered Ahaz into the hand of the king of Aram,
who attacked him and took many captives to Damascus.
Ahaz was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck
him with great force.
6 For in one day Pekah son of Remaliah killed 120,000 valiant men in
Judah. This happened because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of
their fathers.
7 Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the son of the king,
Azrikam the governor of the palace, and Elkanah the second to the king.
8 Then the Israelites took 200,000 captives from their kinsmen—women,
sons, and daughters. They also carried off a great deal of plunder and
brought it to Samaria.
9 But a prophet of the LORD named Oded was there, and he went out to
meet the army that returned to Samaria. “Look,” he said to them, “because
of his wrath against Judah, the LORD, the God of your fathers, has
delivered them into your hand. But you have slaughtered them in a rage
that reaches up to heaven.
10 And now you intend to reduce to slavery the men and women of Judah
and Jerusalem. But are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?
11 Now therefore, listen to me and return the captives you took from
your kinsmen, for the fierce anger of the LORD is upon you.”
12 Then some of the leaders of the Ephraimites†—Azariah son of
Jehohanan, Berechiah son of Meshillemoth,‡ Jehizkiah son of Shallum, and
Amasa son of Hadlai—stood in opposition to those arriving from the war.
13 “You must not bring the captives here,” they said, “for you are
proposing to bring guilt upon us from the LORD and to add to our sins and
our guilt. For our guilt is great, and fierce anger is upon Israel.”
14 So the armed men left the captives and the plunder before the leaders
and all the assembly.
15 Then the men who were designated by name arose, took charge of the
captives, and provided from the plunder clothing for the naked. They
clothed them, gave them sandals and food and drink, anointed their
wounds, and put all the feeble on donkeys. So they brought them to
Jericho, the City of Palms, to their brothers. Then they returned to
Samaria.
16 At that time King Ahaz sent for help from the kings§ of Assyria.
17 The Edomites had again come and attacked Judah and carried away
captives.
18 The Philistines had also raided the cities of the foothills* and the
Negev of Judah, capturing and occupying Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, and
Gederoth, as well as Soco, Timnah, and Gimzo with their villages.

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* **28:3 28:3** LXX *passed his sons through the fire*; see 2 Kings 16:3. † **28:12 28:12** That is, the leaders of the northern kingdom of Israel ‡ **28:12 28:12** *Meshillemoth* is a variant of *Meshillemith*; see 1 Chronicles 9:12. § **28:16 28:16** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also 2 Kings 16:7) *the king* * **28:18 28:18** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

19 For the LORD humbled Judah because Ahaz king of Israel† had thrown
off restraint in Judah and had been most unfaithful to the LORD.
20 Then Tiglath-pileser‡ king of Assyria came to Ahaz but afflicted him
rather than strengthening him.
21 Although Ahaz had taken a portion from the house of the LORD, from
the royal palace, and from the princes and had presented it to the king of
Assyria, it did not help him.
22 In the time of his distress, King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to
the LORD.
23 He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him, and he
said, “Because the gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I will
sacrifice to them that they may help me.” But these gods were the
downfall of Ahaz and of all Israel.
24 Then Ahaz gathered up the articles of the house of God, cut them into
pieces, shut the doors of the house of the LORD, and set up altars of his
own on every street corner in Jerusalem.
25 In every city of Judah he built high places to offer incense to other
gods, and so he provoked the LORD, the God of his fathers.
26 As for the rest of the acts of Ahaz and all his ways, from beginning to
end, they are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.
27 And Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of
Jerusalem, but he was not placed in the tombs of the kings of Israel. And
his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

29

1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother’s name was Abijah,*
the daughter of Zechariah.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father
David had done.
3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah opened and
repaired the doors of the house of the LORD.
4 Then he brought in the priests and Levites and gathered them in the
square on the east side.
5 “Listen to me, O Levites,” he said. “Consecrate yourselves now and
consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove from
the Holy Place every impurity.
6 For our fathers were unfaithful and did evil in the sight of the LORD
our God. They abandoned him, turned their faces away from the dwelling
place of the LORD, and turned their backs on him.
7 They also shut the doors of the portico and extinguished the lamps.
They did not burn incense or present burnt offerings in the Holy Place of
the God of Israel.
8 Therefore, the wrath of the LORD has fallen upon Judah and
Jerusalem, and he has made them an object of terror, horror, and scorn, as
you can see with your own eyes.
9 For behold, this is why our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our
sons and daughters and wives are in captivity.

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† **28:19 28:19** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel. ‡ **28:20 28:20** Hebrew *Tilgath-pilneser*, a variant spelling of *Tiglath-pileser* * **29:1 29:1** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abi*; see 2 Kings 18:2.

10 Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of
Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us.
11 Now, my sons, do not be negligent, for the LORD has chosen you to
stand before him, to serve him, to minister before him, and to burn
incense."
12 Then the Levites set to work:

Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah from the Kohathites;
Kish son of Abdi and Azariah son of Jehallelel from the Merarites;
Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah from the Gershonites;
13 Shimri and Jeuel from the Elizaphanites;
Zechariah and Mattaniah from the Asaphites;
14 Jehiel and Shimei from the Hemanites;
and Shemaiah and Uzziel from the Jeduthunites.
15 When they had assembled their brothers and consecrated themselves,
they went in to cleanse the house of the LORD, according to the command
of the king by the words of the LORD.
16 So the priests went inside the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and
they brought out to the courtyard all the unclean things that they found in
the temple of the LORD. Then the Levites took these things and carried
them out to the Kidron Valley.
17 They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and on
the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of the LORD. For
eight more days they consecrated the house of the LORD itself, finishing
on the sixteenth day of the first month.
18 Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported, "We have cleansed
the entire house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering with all its
utensils, and the table of the showbread with all its utensils.
19 Moreover, we have prepared and consecrated all the articles that King
Ahaz in his unfaithfulness cast aside during his reign. They are now in
front of the altar of the LORD."
20 Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials and
went up to the house of the LORD.
21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male
goats as a purification offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for
Judah. And the king commanded the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to
offer them on the altar of the LORD.
22 So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and
splattered it on the altar. They slaughtered the rams and splattered the
blood on the altar. And they slaughtered the lambs and splattered the
blood on the altar.
23 Then they brought the goats for the purification offering before the
king and the assembly, who laid their hands on them.
24 And the priests slaughtered the goats and put their blood on the altar
for a purification offering, to make atonement for all Israel, because the
king had ordered the burnt offering and the purification offering for all
Israel.
25 Hezekiah stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with
cymbals, harps, and lyres according to the command of David, of Gad the
king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet. For the command had come from
the LORD through his prophets.
26 The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with
the trumpets.

27 And Hezekiah ordered that the burnt offering be sacrificed on the
altar. When the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD and the
trumpets began as well, accompanied by the instruments of David king of
Israel.
28 The whole assembly was worshiping, the singers were singing, and
the trumpeters were playing. All this continued until the burnt offering
was completed.
29 When the offerings were completed, the king and all those present
with him bowed down and worshiped.
30 Then King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to sing
praises to the LORD in the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they
sang praises with gladness and bowed down and worshiped.
31 Then Hezekiah said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the
LORD,† come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of
the LORD."
So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose
hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.
32 The number of burnt offerings the assembly brought was seventy
bulls, a hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt
offering to the LORD.
33 And the consecrated offerings were six hundred bulls and three
thousand sheep.
34 However, since there were not enough priests to skin all the burnt
offerings, their Levite brothers helped them until the work was finished
and until the priests had consecrated themselves. For the Levites had been
more diligent in consecrating themselves than the priests had been.
35 Furthermore, the burnt offerings were abundant, along with the fat of
the peace offerings and the drink offerings for the burnt offerings. So the
service of the house of the LORD was established.
36 Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had prepared
for the people, because everything had been accomplished so quickly.

30

1 Then Hezekiah sent word throughout all Israel and Judah, and he also
wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh inviting them to come to the
house of the LORD in Jerusalem to keep the Passover of the LORD, the God
of Israel.
2 For the king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem had
decided to keep the Passover in the second month,*
3 since they had been unable to keep it at the regular time, because not
enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not been
gathered in Jerusalem.
4 This plan pleased the king and the whole assembly.
5 So they established a decree to circulate a proclamation throughout
Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come to keep the
Passover of the LORD, the God of Israel, in Jerusalem. For they had not
observed it in great numbers as prescribed.
6 At the command of the king, the couriers went throughout Israel and
Judah with letters from the king and his officials, which read:

† **29:31 29:31** Or *filled your hand for the LORD* * **30:2 30:2** See Numbers 9:9–12.

“Children of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and
Israel, so that he may return to those of you who remain, who have
escaped the grasp of the kings of Assyria.
7 Do not be like your fathers and brothers who were unfaithful to the
LORD, the God of their fathers, so that he made them an object of horror,
as you can see.
8 Now do not stiffen your necks as your fathers did. Submit to the LORD
and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever. Serve the
LORD your God, so that his fierce anger will turn away from you.
9 For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and sons will receive
mercy in the presence of their captors and will return to this land. For the
LORD your God is gracious and merciful; he will not turn his face away
from you if you return to him.”
10 And the couriers traveled from city to city through the land of
Ephraim and Manasseh as far as Zebulun, but the people scorned and
mocked them.
11 Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled
themselves and came to Jerusalem.
12 Moreover, the power of God was on the people in Judah to give them
one heart to obey the command of the king and his officials according to
the word of the LORD.
13 In the second month, a very great assembly gathered in Jerusalem to
celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread.†
14 They proceeded to remove the altars in Jerusalem and to take away
the incense altars and throw them into the Kidron Valley.
15 And on the fourteenth day of the second month they slaughtered the
Passover lamb. The priests and Levites were ashamed, and they
consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the house of the
LORD.
16 They stood at their prescribed posts, according to the Teaching of
Moses the man of God. The priests splattered the blood, which they
received from the hand of the Levites.
17 Since there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated
themselves, the Levites were in charge of slaughtering the Passover lambs
for every unclean person to consecrate the lambs to the LORD.
18 A large number of the people—many from Ephraim, Manasseh,
Issachar, and Zebulun—had not purified themselves, yet they ate the
Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah interceded for them,
saying, “May the LORD, who is good, provide atonement for everyone
19 who sets his heart on seeking God—the LORD, the God of his
fathers—even if he is not cleansed according to the purification rules of
the sanctuary.”
20 And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.
21 The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of
Unleavened Bread for seven days with great joy, and the Levites and
priests praised the LORD day after day, accompanied by loud instruments
of praise to the LORD.‡

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† **30:13 30:13** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20. ‡ **30:21 30:21** Or *day after day, with all their strength to the LORD.* Literally *day after day, with loud instruments to the LORD.*

22 And Hezekiah encouraged all the Levites who performed skillfully
before the LORD. For seven days they ate their assigned portion, sacrificing
peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD, the God of their fathers.
23 The whole assembly agreed to observe seven more days, so they
observed seven days with joy.
24 For Hezekiah king of Judah contributed a thousand bulls and seven
thousand sheep for the assembly, and the officials contributed a thousand
bulls and ten thousand sheep for the assembly, and a great number of
priests consecrated themselves.
25 Then the whole assembly of Judah rejoiced along with the priests and
Levites and the whole assembly that had come from Israel, including the
foreigners who had come from Israel and those who lived in Judah.
26 So there was great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for nothing like this had
happened there since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel.
27 Then the Levitical priests§ stood to bless the people, and God heard
their voice, and their prayer came into his holy dwelling place in heaven.

31

1 When all this had ended, the Israelites in attendance went out to the
cities of Judah and broke up the sacred pillars, chopped down the Asherah
poles, and tore down the high places and altars throughout Judah and
Benjamin, as well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had utterly
destroyed them all. Then all the Israelites returned to their cities, each to
his own property.
2 Hezekiah reestablished the divisions of the priests and Levites—each
of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—for the burnt
offerings and peace offerings, for ministry, for giving thanks, and for
singing praises at the gates of the LORD's dwelling.
3 The king contributed from his own possessions for the regular morning
and evening burnt offerings and for the burnt offerings on the Sabbaths,
New Moons, and appointed feasts, as written in the Teaching of the LORD.
4 Moreover, he commanded the people living in Jerusalem to make a
contribution for the priests and Levites so that they could devote
themselves to the Teaching of the LORD.
5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously provided the
firstfruits of the grain, new wine, oil, and honey, and of all the produce of
the field, and they brought in an abundance—a tithe of everything.
6 And the Israelites and Judahites who lived in the cities of Judah also
brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things
consecrated to the LORD their God, and they laid them in large heaps.
7 In the third month they began building up the heaps, and they finished
in the seventh month.
8 When Hezekiah and his officials came and viewed the heaps, they
blessed the LORD and his people Israel.
9 Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and Levites about the heaps,
10 and Azariah, the chief priest of the household of Zadok, answered
him, "Since the people began to bring their contributions into the house of
the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and there is plenty left over, because
the LORD has blessed his people; this great abundance is what is left over."

§ **30:27 30:27** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *the priests and the Levites*

11 Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare storerooms in the house
of the LORD, and they did so.
12 And they faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes, and dedicated
gifts. Conaniah the Levite was the officer in charge of them, and his
brother Shimei was second.
13 Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah,
Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers under the authority of Conaniah and
his brother Shimei, by appointment of King Hezekiah and of Azariah the
chief official of the house of God.
14 Kore son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of the East Gate, was in
charge of the freewill offerings given to God, distributing the
contributions to the LORD and the consecrated gifts.
15 Under his authority, Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and
Shecaniah faithfully distributed portions to their fellow priests in their
cities, according to their divisions, old and young alike.*
16 In addition, they distributed portions to the males registered by
genealogy who were three years of age or older—to all who would enter
the house of the LORD for their daily duties for service in the
responsibilities of their divisions—
17 and to the priests enrolled according to their families in the
genealogy, as well as to the Levites twenty years of age or older, according
to their responsibilities and divisions.
18 The genealogy included all the little ones, wives, sons, and daughters
of the whole assembly. For they had faithfully consecrated themselves as
holy.
19 As for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who lived on the
farmlands around each of their cities or in any other city, men were
designated by name to distribute a portion to every male among the
priests and to every Levite listed by the genealogies.
20 So this is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah. He did what was good
and upright and true before the LORD his God.
21 He acted with all his heart in every work that he began in the service
of the house of God, and in the law and the commandments, in order to
seek his God. And so he prospered.

32

1 After all these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came
and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, intending to
conquer them for himself.
2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come to make war against
Jerusalem,
3 he consulted with his leaders and mighty men about stopping up the
waters of the springs outside the city, and they helped him carry it out.
4 Many people assembled and stopped up all the springs and the stream
that flowed through the land. “Why should the kings* of Assyria come and
find plenty of water?” they said.
5 Then Hezekiah worked resolutely to rebuild all the broken sections of
the wall and to raise up towers on it. He also built an outer wall and
reinforced the supporting terraces† of the City of David, and he produced
an abundance of weapons and shields.

* **31:15 31:15** Or *whether large or small* * **32:4 32:4** LXX and Syriac *king* † **32:5 32:5** Hebrew *the Millo*

6 Hezekiah appointed military commanders over the people and
gathered the people in the square of the city gate. Then he encouraged
them, saying,
7 "Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged before the
king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater One with
us than with him.
8 With him is only the arm of flesh,‡ but with us is the LORD our God to
help us and to fight our battles."
So the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of
Judah.
9 Later, as Sennacherib king of Assyria and all his forces besieged
Lachish, he sent his servants to Jerusalem with a message for King
Hezekiah of Judah and all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem:
10 "This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria says: What is the basis of
your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege?
11 Is not Hezekiah misleading you to give you over to death by famine
and thirst when he says, 'The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand
of the king of Assyria?'
12 Did not Hezekiah himself remove his high places and his altars and
say to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You must worship before one altar, and on it
you shall burn sacrifices'?
13 Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples
of the lands? Have the gods of these nations ever been able to deliver their
land from my hand?
14 Who among all the gods of these nations that my fathers devoted to
destruction§ has been able to deliver his people from my hand? How then
can your God deliver you from my hand?
15 So now, do not let Hezekiah deceive you, and do not let him mislead
you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has
been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my
fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand!"
16 And the servants of Sennacherib spoke further against the LORD God
and against his servant Hezekiah.
17 He also wrote letters mocking the LORD, the God of Israel, and saying
against him: "Just as the gods of the nations did not deliver their people
from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver his people from my
hand."
18 Then the Assyrians called out loudly in the dialect of Judah* to the
people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them in
order to capture the city.
19 They spoke against the God of Jerusalem as they had spoken against
the gods of the peoples of the earth—the work of human hands.
20 In response, King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried
out to heaven in prayer,
21 and the LORD sent an angel who annihilated every mighty man of
valor and every leader and commander in the camp of the king of Assyria.
So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he entered the
temple of his god, some of his own sons struck him down with the sword.

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‡ **32:8 32:8** Or *he has only the strength of his own flesh* § **32:14 32:14** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **32:18 32:18** Or *in Hebrew*

22 So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the
hands of King Sennacherib of Assyria and all others, and he guided them
on every side.†
23 Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and valuable gifts
for Hezekiah king of Judah, and from then on he was exalted in the eyes of
all nations.
24 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. So he prayed to the LORD,
who spoke to him and gave him a sign.
25 But because his heart was proud, Hezekiah did not repay the favor
shown to him. Therefore wrath came upon him and upon Judah and
Jerusalem.
26 Then Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart—he and the people of
Jerusalem—so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them during
the days of Hezekiah.
27 Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made treasuries for
his silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields, and all kinds of valuable
articles.
28 He also made storehouses for the harvest of grain and new wine and
oil, stalls for all kinds of livestock, and pens for the flocks.
29 He made cities for himself, and he acquired herds of sheep and cattle
in abundance, for God gave him very great wealth.
30 It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Spring of Gihon
and channeled it down to the west side of the City of David. And Hezekiah
prospered in all that he did.
31 And so when ambassadors of the rulers of Babylon were sent to him
to inquire about the wonder that had happened in the land, God left him
alone to test him, that he might know all that was in Hezekiah's heart.
32 As for the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and his deeds of loving
devotion, they are indeed written in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of
Amoz in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.
33 And Hezekiah rested with his fathers and was buried in the upper
tombs of David's descendants. All Judah and the people of Jerusalem paid
him honor at his death. And his son Manasseh reigned in his place.

33

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned
in Jerusalem fifty-five years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD by following the abominations
of the nations that the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
3 For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had torn down,
and he raised up altars for the Baals and made Asherah poles. And he
worshiped and served all the host of heaven.
4 Manasseh also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the
LORD had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever."
5 In both courtyards of the house of the LORD, he built altars to all the
host of heaven.
6 He sacrificed his sons in the fire* in the Valley of Ben-hinnom. He
practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and
spiritists. He did great evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to
anger.

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† **32:22 32:22** LXX and Vulgate *he gave them rest on every side*
* **33:6 33:6** Literally *made his sons pass through the fire*

7 Manasseh even took the carved image he had made and set it up in the
house of God, of which God had said to David and his son Solomon, “In
this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of
Israel, I will establish my Name forever.
8 I will never again cause the feet of the Israelites to leave the land that I
assigned to your fathers, if only they are careful to do all that I have
commanded them through Moses—all the laws, statutes, and judgments.”
9 So Manasseh led the people of Judah and Jerusalem astray, so that they
did greater evil than the nations that the LORD had destroyed before the
Israelites.
10 And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they did not
listen.
11 So the LORD brought against them the military commanders of the
king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh, put a hook in his nose, bound
him with bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon.
12 And in his distress, Manasseh sought the favor of the LORD his God
and earnestly humbled himself before the God of his fathers.
13 And when he prayed to him, the LORD received his plea and heard his
petition. So he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then
Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.
14 After this, Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David from
west of Gihon in the valley to the entrance of the Fish Gate, and he
brought it around the hill of Ophel and heightened it considerably. He also
stationed military commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah.
15 He removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD,
along with all the altars he had built on the mountain of the house of the
LORD† and in Jerusalem, and he dumped them outside the city.
16 Then he rebuilt‡ the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings
and thank offerings on it, and he told Judah to serve the LORD, the God of
Israel.
17 Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at the high places, but only to
the LORD their God.
18 As for the rest of the acts of Manasseh, along with his prayer to his
God and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the
LORD, the God of Israel, they are indeed written in the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel.§
19 His prayer and how God received his plea, as well as all his sin and
unfaithfulness, and the sites where he built high places and set up
Asherah poles and idols before he humbled himself, they are indeed
written in the Records of Hozai.*
20 And Manasseh rested with his fathers and was buried at his palace.
And his son Amon reigned in his place.
21 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem two years.
22 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had
done.
Amon served and sacrificed to all the idols that his father Manasseh had
made,

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† **33:15 33:15** Or *the temple mount* ‡ **33:16 33:16** Qere; Ketiv *set up* § **33:18 33:18** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel. * **33:19 33:19** Or *the Records of the Seers* or *the Annals of the Prophets*

23 but he did not humble himself before the LORD as his father
Manasseh had done; instead, Amon increased his guilt.
24 Then the servants of Amon conspired against him and killed him in
his palace.
25 But the people of the land killed all those who had conspired against
King Amon, and they made his son Josiah king in his place.

34

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem thirty-one years.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the
ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.
3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, Josiah began to
seek the God of his father David, and in the twelfth year he began to
cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherah poles, the
carved idols, and the cast images.
4 Then in his presence the altars of the Baals were torn down, and he cut
to pieces the incense altars that were above them. He shattered the
Asherah poles, the carved idols, and the cast images, crushed them to dust,
and scattered them over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.
5 Then he burned the bones of the priests on their altars. So he cleansed
Judah and Jerusalem.
6 Josiah did the same in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, as
far as Naphtali, and in the ruins*† around them.
7 He tore down the altars and Asherah poles, crushed the idols to
powder, and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout the land of
Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.
8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, in order to cleanse the land
and the temple, Josiah sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the
governor of the city, and Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the
house of the LORD his God.
9 So they went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that
had been brought into the house of God, which the Levites who guarded
the doors had collected from the people of Manasseh and Ephraim, from
all the remnant of Israel, from all Judah and Benjamin, and from the
people of Jerusalem.‡
10 They put it into the hands of those supervising the work in the house
of the LORD, who in turn gave it to the workmen restoring and repairing
the house of the LORD.
11 They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to buy dressed
stone, as well as timbers for couplings and beams for the buildings that
the kings of Judah had allowed to deteriorate.
12 And the men did the work faithfully. The Levites overseeing them
were Jahath and Obadiah, descendants of Merari, and Zechariah and
Meshullam, descendants of Kohath. Other Levites, all skilled with musical
instruments,
13 were over the laborers and supervised all who did the work, task by
task. Some of the Levites were secretaries, officers, and gatekeepers.

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* **34:6 34:6** Qere; Ketiv *in the hill country, their houses* † **34:6 34:6** Or *in the regions* ‡ **34:9 34:9** Ketiv; Qere *and they returned to Jerusalem*

14 While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the
house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Teaching of
the LORD given by§ Moses.
15 And Hilkiah said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the
Teaching in the house of the LORD!” And he gave it to Shaphan.
16 Then Shaphan brought the book to the king and reported, “Your
servants are doing all that has been placed in their hands.
17 They have paid out the money that was found in the house of the
LORD and have put it into the hands of the supervisors and workers.”
18 Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has
given me a book.” And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.
19 When the king heard the words of the Teaching, he tore his clothes
20 and commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon* son of
Micah,† Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the servant of the king:
21 “Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for those remaining in Israel
and Judah concerning the words in the book that has been found. For
great is the wrath of the LORD that has been poured out on us because our
fathers have not kept the word of the LORD by doing all that is written in
this book.”
22 So Hilkiah and those the king had told went to Huldah‡ the
prophetess, the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath,§ the son of Hasrah,* the
keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District.†
And they spoke to her to this effect.
23 And Huldah said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: ‘Tell the man who sent you
24 that this is what the LORD says: I am about to bring calamity on this
place and on its people, according to all the curses written in the book that
has been read in the presence of the king of Judah,
25 because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods,
that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands. My
wrath will be poured out upon this place and will not be quenched.’
26 But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, tell
him that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘As for the words
that you heard,
27 because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God
when you heard his words against this place and against its people, and
because you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes
and wept before me, I have heard you,’ declares the LORD.
28 ‘Now I will indeed gather you to your fathers, and you will be
gathered to your grave in peace. Your eyes will not see all the calamity
that I will bring on this place and on its people.’ ”
So they brought her answer back to the king.
29 Then the king summoned all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.
30 And he went up to the house of the LORD with all the people of Judah
and Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the Levites—all the people great

§ **34:14 34:14** Hebrew *the Teaching of the LORD by the hand of* * **34:20 34:20** *Abdon* is a variant of *Achbor*; see 2 Kings 22:12. † **34:20 34:20** *Micah* is a variant of *Micaiah*; see 2 Kings 22:12. ‡ **34:22 34:22** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript, Vulgate, and Syriac *and those the king had designated went and spoke to Huldah* § **34:22 34:22** *Tokhath* is a variant of *Tikvah*; see 2 Kings 22:14. * **34:22 34:22** *Hasrah* is a variant of *Harhas*; see 2 Kings 22:14. † **34:22 34:22** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh*

and small—and in their hearing he read all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.
31 So the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD to follow the LORD and to keep his commandments, decrees, and statutes with all his heart and all his soul, and to carry out the words of the covenant that were written in this book.
32 Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand in agreement to it. So all the people of Jerusalem carried out the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.
33 And Josiah removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging to the Israelites, and he required everyone in Israel to serve the LORD their God. Throughout his reign they did not turn aside from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

35

1 Then Josiah kept the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month.
2 He appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD.
3 To the Levites who taught all Israel and were holy to the LORD, Josiah said: “Put the holy ark in the temple built by Solomon son of David king of Israel. It is not to be carried around on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.
4 Prepare yourselves by families in your divisions, according to the instructions written by David king of Israel and Solomon his son.
5 Moreover, stand in the Holy Place by the divisions of the families of your kinsmen the lay people, and by the divisions of the families of the Levites.
6 Slaughter the Passover lambs, consecrate yourselves, and make preparations for your fellow countrymen to carry out the word of the LORD given by* Moses.”
7 From his own flocks and herds Josiah contributed 30,000 lambs and goats plus 3,000 bulls for the Passover offerings for all the people who were present.
8 His officials also contributed willingly to the people and priests and Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the chief officials of the house of God, gave the priests 2,600 Passover offerings and 300 bulls.
9 Additionally, Conaniah and his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, as well as Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad, officers of the Levites, contributed to the Levites 5,000 Passover offerings and 500 bulls.
10 So the service was prepared; the priests stood in their places and the Levites in their divisions according to the king’s command.
11 And they slaughtered the Passover lambs, while the priests splattered the blood handed to them and the Levites skinned the animals.
12 They set aside the burnt offerings to be given to the divisions of the families of the people to offer to the LORD, as it is written in the Book of Moses. And they did the same with the bulls.
13 They roasted the Passover animals on the fire according to the regulation, and they boiled the other holy offerings in pots, kettles, and bowls and quickly brought them to all the people.

* **35:6 35:6** Hebrew *the word of the LORD by the hand of*

14 Afterward, they made preparations for themselves and for the priests,
since the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were offering up burnt
offerings and fat until nightfall. So the Levites made preparations for
themselves and for the priests, the descendants of Aaron.
15 The singers, the descendants of Asaph, were at their stations
according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the
king's seer. And the gatekeepers at each gate did not need to leave their
posts, because their fellow Levites made preparations for them.
16 So on that day the entire service of the LORD was carried out for
celebrating the Passover and offering burnt offerings on the altar of the
LORD, according to the command of King Josiah.
17 The Israelites who were present also observed the Passover at that
time, as well as the Feast of Unleavened Bread† for seven days.
18 No such Passover had been observed in Israel since the days of
Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel ever observed a Passover
like the one that Josiah observed with the priests, the Levites, all Judah,
the Israelites who were present, and the people of Jerusalem.
19 In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, this Passover was observed.
20 After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of
Egypt marched up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates, and Josiah
went out to confront him.
21 But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, "What is the issue between
you and me, O king of Judah? I have not come against you today, but I am
fighting another dynasty, and God has told me to hurry. So stop opposing
God, who is with me, or he will destroy you!"
22 Josiah, however, did not turn away from him; instead, in order to
engage him in battle, he disguised himself. He did not listen to Neco's
words from the mouth of God, but went to fight him on the Plain of
Megiddo.
23 There the archers shot King Josiah, who said to his servants, "Take me
away, for I am badly wounded!"
24 So his servants took him out of his chariot, put him in his second
chariot, and brought him to Jerusalem, where he died. And Josiah was
buried in the tomb of his fathers, and all Judah and Jerusalem mourned
for him.
25 Then Jeremiah lamented over Josiah, and to this day all the male and
female singers recite laments over Josiah. They established them as a
statute for Israel, and indeed they are written in the Book of Laments.
26 As for the rest of the acts of Josiah and his deeds of loving devotion
according to what is written in the Teaching of the LORD—
27 his acts from beginning to end—they are indeed written in the Book
of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

36

1 Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him
king in Jerusalem in place of his father.
2 Jehoahaz* was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem three months.

† **35:17 35:17** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20. * **36:2 36:2** Hebrew *Joahaz*, a variant of *Jehoahaz*; also in verse 4

3 And the king of Egypt dethroned him in Jerusalem and imposed on
Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver† and a talent of gold.‡
4 Then Neco king of Egypt made Eliakim brother of Jehoahaz king over
Judah and Jerusalem, and he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But
Neco took Eliakim's brother Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt.
5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. And he did evil in the sight of the
LORD his God.
6 Then Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jehoiakim and
bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.
7 Nebuchadnezzar also took to Babylon some of the articles from the
house of the LORD, and he put them in his palace§ in Babylon.
8 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations he committed,
and all that was found against him, they are indeed written in the Book of
the Kings of Israel and Judah. And his son Jehoiachin reigned in his place.
9 Jehoiachin was eight* years old when he became king, and he reigned
in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of the
LORD.
10 At the turn of the year,† King Nebuchadnezzar summoned Jehoiachin
and brought him to Babylon, along with the articles of value from the
house of the LORD. And he made Jehoiachin's brother‡ Zedekiah king over
Judah and Jerusalem.
11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he
reigned in Jerusalem eleven years.
12 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God and did not humble
himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke for the LORD.
13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him
swear by God. But Zedekiah stiffened his neck and hardened§ his heart
against turning to the LORD, the God of Israel.
14 Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people multiplied
their unfaithful deeds, following all the abominations of the nations, and
they defiled the house of the LORD, which he had consecrated in
Jerusalem.
15 Again and again* the LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to his
people through his messengers because he had compassion on them and
on his dwelling place.
16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despising his words and
scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD against his people
was stirred up beyond remedy.
17 So he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans,† who put
their young men to the sword in the sanctuary, sparing neither young men
nor young women, neither elderly nor infirm. God gave them all into the
hand of Nebuchadnezzar,

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† **36:3 36:3** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. ‡ **36:3 36:3** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold. § **36:7 36:7** Or *temple* * **36:9 36:9** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 24:8) *eighteen* † **36:10 36:10** Or *In the spring* ‡ **36:10 36:10** Or *relative*; 2 Kings 24:17 *uncle* § **36:13 36:13** Or *made strong* or *made courageous* * **36:15 36:15** Literally *Rising up early and sending (it),* † **36:17 36:17** That is, the Babylonians; also clarified in verse 19

18 who carried off everything to Babylon—all the articles of the house of
God, both large and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD and
of the king and his officials.
19 Then the Chaldeans set fire to the house of God and broke down the
wall of Jerusalem. They burned down all the palaces and destroyed every
article of value.
20 Those who escaped the sword were carried by Nebuchadnezzar into
exile in Babylon, and they became servants to him and his sons until the
kingdom of Persia came to power.
21 So the land enjoyed its Sabbath rest all the days of the desolation,
until seventy years were completed, in fulfillment of the word of the LORD
spoken through Jeremiah.‡
22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD
spoken through Jeremiah, the LORD stirred the spirit of Cyrus king of
Persia to send a proclamation throughout his kingdom and to put it in
writing as follows:
23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:
'The LORD, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms of the
earth, has appointed me to build a house for him at Jerusalem in Judah.
Whoever among you belongs to his people, may the LORD his God be
with him, and may he go up.' "

‡ **36:21 36:21** See Jeremiah 25:12 and Jeremiah 29:10.