

BARUCH

¹ And these be the words of the book, which Baruch, the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, son of Zedekiah, son of Hasadiah, son of Hilkiah, wrote in Babylon;

² in the fifth year, in the seventh day of the month, in the time wherein Chaldeans took Jerusalem, and burnt it with fire.

³ And Baruch read the words of this book to the ears of Jeconiah, son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and to the ears of all the people coming to the book;

⁴ and to the ears of the mighty [*men*], sons of kings, and to the ears of priests, and to the ears of the people, from the most unto the least of them [*or from the least unto the most of them*], of all dwelling in Babylon, and at the flood Sud.

⁵ Which heard, and wept, and fasted, and prayed in the sight of the Lord.

⁶ And they gathered money, by [*or after*] that that each man's hand might;

⁷ and [*they*] sent into Jerusalem to Jehoiakim, the priest, the son of Hilkiah, son of Shallum, and to the priests, and to all the people that were found with him in Jerusalem;

⁸ when he took the vessels of the temple of the Lord, that were taken away from the temple, to again-call into the land of Judah, in the tenth day of the month Sivan, *or May*; the silvern [*or silver*]

vessels, which Zedekiah, the king of Judah, the son of Josiah, made,

⁹ after that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had taken Jeconiah, and princes, and all mighty men, and the people of the land from Jerusalem, and led them bound into Babylon.

¹⁰ And they said, Lo! we have sent to you riches [*or monies*], of which buy ye burnt sacrifices, and incense, and make ye sacrifice, and offer ye for sin at the altar of your Lord God [*or the Lord our God*].

¹¹ And pray ye for the life of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and for the life of Belshazzar, his son, that the days of them be on earth as the days of heaven;

¹² that the Lord give virtue to us, and lighten our eyes, that we live under the shadow of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and under the shadow of Belshazzar, his son; and that we serve them by many days, and find grace in the sight of them.

¹³ And pray ye for us to our Lord God [*or to the Lord our God*], for we have sinned to our Lord God [*or to the Lord our God*], and his strong vengeance is not turned away from us, till into this day.

¹⁴ And read ye this book, which we [*have*] sent to you, to be rehearsed in the temple of the Lord, in a solemn day, and in a covenable day.

¹⁵ And ye shall say, Rightfulness is to our Lord God [*or To the Lord our God rightwiseness*], but shame of our face is to us, as this day is, to all Judah, and to dwellers in Jerusalem,

16 to our kings, and to our princes, to our priests, and to our prophets, and to our fathers.

17 We sinned before our Lord God [*or before the Lord our God*],

18 and believed not, and trusted not in him. And we were not ready to be subject to him, and we obeyed not to the voice of our Lord God [*or the Lord our God*], that we went in his commandments, which he gave to us;

19 from the day in which he led our fathers out of the land of Egypt, till into this day, we were unbelievelful to our Lord God [*or to the Lord our God*]; and we were scattered, and went away, that we heard not the voice of him.

20 And many evils and cursings, which the Lord ordained to his servant Moses, cleaved to us; which *Lord* led our fathers out of the land of Egypt, to give to us a land flowing milk and honey, as in this day.

21 And we heard not the voice of our Lord God [*or of the Lord our God*], by [*or after*] all the words of prophets, which he sent to us, and to our judges;

22 and we went away, each man into the wit of his evil heart, to work to alien gods, and we did evils before the eyes of our Lord God [*or before the eyes of the Lord our God*].

CHAPTER 2

1 For which thing our Lord God [*or the Lord our God*] setted steadfastly his word, which he spake to us, and to our judges, that deemed in Israel, and to our kings, and to our princes, and to all Israel and Judah;

² that the Lord should bring on us great evils, that were not done under heaven, as those be done in Jerusalem; by [*or after*] those things that be written in the law of Moses,

³ that a man should eat the fleshs [*or the flesh*] of his son, and the fleshs [*or the flesh*] of his daughter.

⁴ And he gave them into the hand of all kings, that be in our compass, into shame [*or reproof*], and into desolation in all peoples, among which the Lord scattered us.

⁵ And we be made beneath, and not above; for we sinned to our Lord God [*or to the Lord our God*], in not obeying to the voice of him.

⁶ Rightfulness is to our Lord God [*or To the Lord our God rightwiseness*], but shame of face is to us and to our fathers, as this day is.

⁷ For the Lord spake on us all these evils, that came on us.

⁸ And we besought not the face of our Lord God [*or the Lord our God*], that we should turn again, each of us from our worst ways.

⁹ And the Lord waked in evils, and brought those [*or them*] on us; for the Lord is just [*or rightwise*] in all his works, which he commanded to us.

¹⁰ And we heard not the voice of him, that we should go in the commandments of the Lord, which he gave before our face.

¹¹ And now, Lord God of Israel, that leddest [*or broughtest*] thy people out of the land of Egypt in a strong hand, and in miracles [*or signs*], and in great wonders, and in thy great virtue, and in

an high arm, and madest to thee a name, as this day is;

¹² we have sinned, we have done unfaithfully [*or unpiously*], we have done wickedly, our Lord God, in all thy rightfulnesses, [*or Lord our God, in all thy rightwisenesses*].

¹³ Thy wrath be turned away from us; for we be left a few among heathen men, where thou hast scattered us.

¹⁴ Lord, hear thou our askings, and our prayers, and lead [*or bring*] us out for thee; and give thou to us to find grace before the face of them, that led us away;

¹⁵ that all earth know, that thou art our Lord God [*or thou art Lord our God*], and that thy name is called to help on Israel, and on the kin of him.

¹⁶ Lord, behold thou from thine holy house on us, and bow down thine ear, and hear us.

¹⁷ Open thine eyes, and see; for not dead men that be in hell, whose spirit is taken from their entrails, shall give honour [*or worship*] and justifying to the Lord;

¹⁸ but a soul which is sorry on the greatness [*or muchliness*] of evil, and goeth bowed, and sick [*or meeked*], and eyes failing, and an hungry soul [*or the soul hungering*], giveth glory to thee, and rightfulness [*or rightwiseness*] to the Lord.

¹⁹ For not by [*or after*] the rightwise-nesses of our fathers we poured out prayers, and asked mercy before thy sight, our Lord God [*or Lord our God*];

20 but for thou sentest thy wrath and thy strong vengeance on us, as thou spakest in the hands of thy children, prophets, and saidest,

21 Thus saith the Lord, Bow ye your shoulder[s], and your necks [*or your nolls*], and do ye travail to the king of Babylon; and ye shall sit in the land, which I gave to your fathers.

22 That if ye do not, neither hear the voice of your Lord God [*or the Lord our God*], to work to the king of Babylon,

23 I shall make your failing from the cities of Judah, and from the gates of Jerusalem; and I shall take away from you the voice of gladness [*or of mirth*], and the voice of joy, and the voice of spouse, and the voice of spouses; and all the land shall be without step of them that dwell therein.

24 And they heard not thy voice, that they should work to the king of Babylon; and thou hast set steadfastly thy words, which thou spakest in the hands of thy children, prophets; that the bones of our kings, and the bones of our fathers should be borne over [*or translated*] from their place.

25 And lo! they be cast forth in the heat of the sun, and in the frost of the night; and *men* be dead [*or they be dead*] in the worst sorrows, in hunger, and in sword, and in sending out.

26 And thou hast set the temple in which thy name was called to help, as this day *showeth*, for the wickedness of the house of Israel, and of the house of Judah.

²⁷ And thou, our Lord God, hast done in us by all thy goodness, and by all that great merciful doing of thee, [*And thou hast done in us, Lord our God, after all thy goodness, and after all that thy great mercy doing,*]

²⁸ as thou spakest in the hand of thy child Moses, in the day in which thou commandedest to him to write thy law, before the sons of Israel, and saidest,

²⁹ If ye hear not my voice, this great adorning and much [*or this great multitude*] shall be turned into the least among heathen men, whither I shall scatter them.

³⁰ For I knew, that the people shall not hear me, for it is a people of [*an*] hard noll. And it shall turn to their heart in the land of their captivity;

³¹ and they shall know, that I am the Lord God of them. And I shall give to them an heart, and they shall understand, and ears, and they shall hear.

³² And they shall praise me in the land of their captivity, and they shall be mindful of my name.

³³ [*And*] They shall turn away themselves from their hard back, and from their wickednesses; for they shall have mind of [*or shall remember*] the way of their fathers, that sinned against me.

³⁴ And I shall again-call them into the land, which I swore to give to the fathers of them, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and they shall be lords of it. And I shall multiply them, and they [*shall*] not be made less.

³⁵ And I shall ordain to them another testament everlasting, that I be to them into God, and they

shall be to me into a people. And I shall no more move my people, the sons of Israel, from the land which I gave to them.

CHAPTER 3

¹ And now, Lord Almighty, God of Israel, a soul in anguish, and a spirit annoyed [*or tormented*], crieth to thee.

² Lord, hear thou, and have mercy, for thou art merciful, God; and have thou mercy on us, for we have sinned before thee,

³ thou [*or that*] sittest without end, and we shall not perish without end.

⁴ Lord God Almighty, God of Israel, hear thou now the prayer of the dead men of Israel, and of the sons of them, that [*have*] sinned before thee, and heard not the voice of their Lord God [*or of the Lord their God*], and evils be fastened [*or joined*] to us.

⁵ Do not thou have mind on the wickedness of our fathers, but have thou mind on thine hand, and on thy name, in this time;

⁶ for thou art our Lord God [*or thou art Lord our God*], and, Lord, we shall praise thee.

⁷ For why for this thing thou hast given thy dread in our hearts, that we call thy name to help [*or we inwardly call thy name*], and praise thee in our captivity; for we shall be converted [*or turned*] from the wickedness of our fathers, that sinned against thee.

⁸ And lo! we be in our captivity today, whither thou scatteredest us, into shame, and into cursing, and into sin, by [*or after*] all the

wickedness of our fathers, that went away from thee, thou our Lord God [*or Lord our God*].

9 Israel, hear thou the command-ments of life; perceive thou with ears, that thou know prudence.

10 Israel, what is it, that thou art in the land of enemies? Thou waxedest eld in an alien land, thou art defouled with dead men,

11 thou art areckoned with them, that go down into hell?

12 Thou hast forsaken the well of wisdom;

13 for why if thou haddest gone in the ways of God, soothly thou haddest dwelled in peace on earth.

14 Learn thou, where is wisdom, where is prudence, where is virtue, where is understanding, that thou know altogether, where is long enduring [*or long abiding*] of life, and lifelode, where is light of eyes, and peace.

15 Who found the place thereof, and who entered into the treasures thereof?

16 Where be the princes of heathen men, and that be lords over the beasts, that be on earth?

17 Which played with the birds of heaven; which treasure silver and gold, in which men trust, and none end is [*or there is none end*] of the purchasing of them?

18 Which make silver, and be busy, and no finding is of their works?

19 They be destroyed, and went down to hells [*or to hell*]; and other men rose in the place of them.

20 The young men of them saw light, and dwelled on earth. But they knew not the way of wisdom [*or of discipline*],

21 neither understood the paths thereof; neither the sons of them received it. It was made far from the face of them;

22 it is not heard in the land of Canaan, neither [*it*] is seen in Teman.

23 Also the sons of Hagar, that sought out prudence which is of earth, the merchants of earth, and of Teman, and the tale tellers, [*or the fablers, or janglers*], and seekers out of prudence, and of understanding. But they knew not the way of wisdom, neither had mind on the paths thereof.

24 O! Israel, the house of God is full great, and the place of his possession is great; [*O! Israel, how great is the house of God, and how great the place of his possession;*]

25 it is great and hath none end, high and great without measure.

26 Named giants were there; they that were of great stature at the beginning, and knew battle.

27 The Lord chose not these, neither they found the way of wisdom [*or of discipline*]; therefore they perished.

28 And for they had not wisdom, they perished for their unwisdom.

29 Who ascended into heaven, and took that *wisdom*, and brought it down from the clouds?

30 Who passed over the sea, and found it, and brought it more than chosen gold?

³¹ None is [*or There is not*], that may know the way thereof, neither that seeketh [*out*] the paths thereof;

³² but he that have all things [*or that knoweth all things*], knew it, and found it by his prudence. Which made ready the earth in everlasting time, and filled it with two-footed beasts, and four-footed beasts.

³³ Which sendeth out light, and it goeth, and called it; and it obeyeth to him in trembling.

³⁴ Forsooth stars gave light in their keepings, and were glad; those were called, and those said, We be present; and those shined to him with mirth, that made those, [*or they be called, and they said, We come to; and they shined to him with mirth, that made them*].

³⁵ This is our God, and none other shall be guessed against him.

³⁶ This [*or He*] found each way of wisdom, and gave it to Jacob, his child, and to Israel, his darling [*or his dearworthy*].

³⁷ After these things he was seen in lands, and lived with men.

CHAPTER 4

¹ This book of God's behests [*or commandments*], and the law which is without end. All that hold it, shall come to life. But they that have forsaken it, *shall come* into death.

² Jacob, be thou converted, and take thou [*or catch*] it; go thou by the way at the brightness thereof [*or walk by the way to the shining of it*], against the light thereof [*or the light of it*].

³ Give thou not thy glory to another; and thy dignity to an alien folk.

⁴ Israel, we be blessed; for those things that please God, be open [*or known*] to us.

⁵ The people of God, Israel worthy to be had in mind, be thou patienter, *either of better comfort, [or more stable]*.

⁶ Ye be sold to heathen men, not into perdition; but for that that ye in ire stirred God to wrathfulness, ye be betaken to adversaries.

⁷ For ye wrathed that God ever-lasting, that made you; and ye offered to fiends, and not to God. [*Forsooth ye stirred to bitterness the everlasting God, that made you; offering to devils, and not to God.*]

⁸ For ye forgot him that nourished or nursed you, and ye made sorry [*or sorrowful*] your nurse, Jerusalem.

⁹ For it saw wrathfulness of God coming to you, and it said, Ye nigh coasts of Zion, hear; forsooth God hath brought great mourning to me.

¹⁰ For I saw the captivity of my people, of my sons and daughters, which he that is without beginning and end [*or the Everlasting*] brought on them.

¹¹ For I nourished them with mirth; but I let them go with weeping and mourning.

¹² No man have joy on me, a widow and desolate. I am forsaken of many, for the sins of my sons; for they bowed away from the law of God.

¹³ Forsooth they knew not rightful-nesses of him; neither they went [*or walked*] by the ways

of God's behests, neither by the paths of his truth they entered with rightfulness [*or with rightwiseness*].

¹⁴ The nigh coasts of Zion come, and have they mind [*or bethink they*] on the captivity of my sons and daughters, which he that is without beginning and end [*or the Everlasting*] brought on them.

¹⁵ For he brought on them a folk from afar, an evil folk, and of another language; that revered not an eld [*or old*] man, neither had mercy on children;

¹⁶ and they led away the dearworthy *sons* of a widow, and made a woman alone desolate of sons.

¹⁷ But what may I help you?

¹⁸ For he that brought on you evils [*or brought evil things upon you*], shall deliver you from the hands of your enemies.

¹⁹ Go ye, sons, go ye; for I am forsaken or left alone.

²⁰ I have unclothed me of the stole, *either long robe*, of peace; but I have clothed me with a sackcloth of beseeching, and I shall cry to the Highest in my days.

²¹ Sons, be ye of better comfort [*or of better heart, or stabler*]; cry ye to the Lord, and he shall deliver you from the hand of princes, that *be your enemies*.

²² For I hoped your health without end, and joy came to me from the Holy on mercy, that shall come to you from your Saviour without

beginning and end [*or that shall come to you of your Saviour Everlasting*].

23 For I sent you out with mourning and weeping; but God shall bring [*or shall lead*] you again to me, with joy and mirth without end.

24 For as the neighbouresses [*or the neighbours*] of Zion saw your captivity *made* of God, so they shall see and in swiftness [*or in haste*] your health of God, which *health* shall come to you from above, with great honour and everlasting shining.

25 Sons, suffer ye patiently ire [*or the wrath*] that came on you; for thine enemy pursued thee, but thou shalt see soon [*or but soon thou shalt see*] the perdition of him, and thou shalt go upon the necks of him.

26 My delicate men went sharp ways; for they as a flock *that is ravished* were led of enemies. [*My delicates, or nourished in delights, walked sharp ways; soothly they were led as a flock ravished with enemies.*]

27 Sons, be ye patienter [*or of evener heart, or stabler*], and cry ye [*a*] far to the Lord; for why your mind shall be of him that leadeth you.

28 For as your wit was, that ye erred from God [*or for to err from God*], ye shall convert again, and shall seek him ten times so much.

29 For he that brought in evils [*or evil things*] to you, shall bring again ever-lasting mirth to you with your health.

30 Jerusalem, be thou of better comfort; for he that named thee, exciteth thee. [*Jerusalem, be*

thou more stable, or of better heart; soothly he that named thee, admonisheth thee.]

³¹ They that travailed thee, shall perish guilty; and they that thanked, [*or joyed*], in thy falling, shall be punished.

³² [*The*] Cities to which thy sons served, shall be punished, and that city that took thy sons, *shall be punished*.

³³ For as *Babylon* made joy in thy hurling down [*or in thy falling*], and was glad in thy fall, so it shall be made sorry [*or shall be sorrowful*] in his desolation.

³⁴ And the full out joy of the multitude thereof shall be cut away, and the joy thereof shall be into mourning.

³⁵ For why fire shall come on it from him that is without beginning and end [*or the Everlasting*], in full long days; and it shall be inhabited of fiends [*or devils*], into the multitude [*or muchness*] of time.

³⁶ Jerusalem, behold about to the east, and see thou mirth coming of God to thee [*or see the mirth coming to thee of God*].

³⁷ For lo! thy sons come, which [*or whom*] thou lettest go scattered; they come gathered from the east unto the west, in the word of the Holy, and make joy [*or joying*] to the honour of God.

CHAPTER 5

¹ Jerusalem, unclothe thee of the stole of thy mourning, and travailing [*or of thy travail*]; and clothe thou thee in [*or with*] the fairness,

and honour of it, which is of God to thee in everlasting glory.

² God of righteousness shall encom-pass thee with a double cloth, and shall set on thine head a mitre of everlasting honour. [*Forsooth God shall environ thee with double cloth of rightwiseness, and shall put to thine head a mitre of everlasting honour.*]

³ For God shall show his brightness in thee, which is under heaven.

⁴ For thy name shall be named of God to thee without end, The peace of rightfulness [*or Peace of rightwise-ness*], and The honour of piety.

⁵ Jerusalem, rise up, and stand in an high place [*or in high*], and behold about to the east; and see thy sons gathered together from the sun rising till to the west, in the word of the Holy, that make joy [*or joying*] in the mind of God.

⁶ For they went out from thee, and were led of enemies on feet; but the Lord shall bring to thee them borne into honour, as the sons of realm [*or of kingdom*].

⁷ For God hath ordained to make low each high hill, and everlasting rocks of stones, and great valleys, to fill the unevenness of earth [*or to full-fill the even valleys into the evenness of earth*]; that Israel go diligently into the honour of God.

⁸ Forsooth the woods, and each tree of sweetness, shadowed Israel, by the commandment of God.

⁹ For God shall bring Israel with mirth, into [*or in*] the light of his majesty, with mercy and rightfulness [*or rightwiseness*], which is of him.

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling English: Wycliffe's Bible Modern Spelling (with Deuterocanon)

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Language: English

Dialect: Archaic

Translation by: Terry Noble

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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2019-09-26

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 3 Mar 2023 from source files dated 10 Feb 2022

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