Majority Standard Bible

English

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Contents

Genesis 4
Exodus 44
Leviticus 78
Numbers 102
Deuteronomy 135
Joshua 164
Judges 183
Ruth 202
1 Samuel 205
2 Samuel 230
1 Kings 252
2 Kings 278
1 Chronicles 302
2 Chronicles 327
Ezra 356
Nehemiah 365
Esther 377
Job 383
Psalms 403
Proverbs 455
Ecclesiastes 473
Song of Solomon 479
Isaiah 483
Jeremiah 522
Lamentations 565
Ezekiel 569
Daniel 608
Hosea 620
Joel 627
Amos 630
Obadiah 635
Jonah 636
Micah 638
Nahum 642
Habakkuk 644
Zephaniah 646
Haggai 648
Zechariah 650
Malachi 657
Matthew 659
Mark 690
Luke 711
John 744
Acts 767
Romans 797
1 Corinthians 810
2 Corinthians 822
Galatians 830
Ephesians 834
Philippians 838
Colossians 841
1 Thessalonians 844
2 Thessalonians 847
1 Timothy 849
2 Timothy 853
Titus 856
Philemon 858
Hebrews 859
James 868
1 Peter 872
2 Peter 876
1 John 879
2 John 883
3 John 884
Jude 885
Revelation 886

Genesis

Book of Genesis

1

The Creation

(John 1:1–5; Hebrews 11:1–3)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the
earth.
2 Now the earth was formless and void, and darkness
was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of
God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

The First Day

3 And God said, "Let there be light,"[a] and there was
light.
4 And God saw that the light was good, and He sepa-
rated 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.[b]

The Second Day

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse[c] 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.

The Third Day

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gath-
ered 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." 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.

The Fourth 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 sepa-
rate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it
was good.
19 And there was evening, and there was morning —
the fourth day.

The Fifth Day

20 And God said, "Let the waters teem with living crea-
tures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open
expanse of the sky."
21 So God created the great sea creatures and every liv-
ing 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."
23 And there was evening, and there was morning —
the fifth day.

The Sixth 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[d] 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.[e]
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

The Seventh Day

(Exodus 16:22–30; Hebrews 4:1–11)

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all
their vast array.

[a] **1:3** Cited in 2 Corinthians 4:6

[b] **1:5** Literally day one

[c] **1:6** Or *a canopy* or *a firmament* or *a vault*; also in verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, and 20

[d] **1:26** MT; Syriac *and over all the beasts of the earth*

[e] **1:27** Cited in Matthew 19:4 and Mark 10:6

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.[a]

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.

Man and Woman in the Garden

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD[b] God made them.

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[c] 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.[d]

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:

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[e] 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[f] 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.[g]

25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and they were not ashamed.

3

The Serpent's Deception

(Romans 5:12–21)

1 Now the serpent[h] 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 serpent, "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 serpent 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 God, knowing good and evil."

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.

God Arraigns Adam and Eve

8 Then the man and his wife heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the breeze[i] 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 serpent deceived me," she replied, "and I ate."

---

[a] **2:2** Cited in Hebrews 4:4

[b] **2:4** *LORD* or *GOD*, with capital letters, represents the proper name of the God of Israel and the one true God, transliterated from the Hebrew as *YHWH*; here and throughout the Scriptures.

[c] **2:6** Or *mist*

[d] **2:7** Or *a living soul*; cited in 1 Corinthians 15:45

[e] **2:20** Or *the man*, as in verses 19 and 21

[f] **2:21** Or *took part of the man's side*; similarly in verse 22

[g] **2:24** LXX *and the two will become one flesh*; cited in Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7–8, 1 Corinthians 6:16, and Ephesians 5:31

[h] **3:1** Hebrew *nachash* , translated in this chapter as *serpent* , is translated in most cases as *snake* .

[i] **3:8** Or *at the breezy (time)*; Hebrew *unto the Ruach*

The Fate of the Serpent

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: “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. He will crush
your head, and you will strike his heel.[a] ”

The Punishment of Mankind

16 To the woman He said: “I will sharply increase your
pain in childbirth; in pain you will bring forth chil-
dren. Your desire will be for your husband,[b] 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,
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,[c] because she would
be the mother of all the living.

The Expulsion from Paradise

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

Cain and Abel

(Hebrews 11:4)

1 And Adam had relations with his wife Eve, and she
conceived and gave birth to Cain.[d] “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,[e] but you must master it.”
8 Then Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to
the field.”[f] 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 wan-
derer on the earth.”
13 But Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment[g] 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.”
15 “Not so!”[h] 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,[i] east of Eden.

The Descendants of Cain

17 And Cain had relations with his wife, and she con-
ceived 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.

---

[a] **3:15** Or *He will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.* The same Hebrew root for *crush*, *bruise*, or *strike* appears twice in this verse.

[b] **3:16** Or *You will desire to control your husband*

[c] **3:20** *Eve* sounds like the Hebrew for *giving life* or *living*.

[d] **4:1** *Cain* sounds like the Hebrew for *acquired* or *brought forth*.

[e] **4:7** Or *it desires to control you*

[f] **4:8** SP, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *Then Cain spoke to his brother Abel.*

[g] **4:13** Or *guilt* or *sin*

[h] **4:15** LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac; Hebrew *“Very well!”* or *“Therefore:”*

[i] **4:16** *Nod* means *wandering*.

24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-
sevenfold."[a]

Seth and Enosh

25 And Adam again had relations with his wife, and she
gave birth to a son and named him Seth,[b] 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[c] the
name of the LORD.

5

The Descendants of Adam

(1 Chronicles 1:1–3)

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,[d] and He blessed
them. And in the day they were created, He called
them "man."[e]
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.
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, Maha-
lalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daugh-
ters.
17 So Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he
died.

God Takes Up Enoch

(Hebrews 11:5)

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[f] 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.[g]

From Methuselah to Noah

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,[h] 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

Corruption on the Earth

(Matthew 24:36–51)

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,[i] 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 rela-
tions 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.
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."

---

[a] **4:24** Hebrew; LXX can be translated as either *seventy times seven* or *seventy-sevenfold*; see also Matthew 18:22.

[b] **4:25** *Seth* probably means *granted* or *appointed*.

[c] **4:26** Or *to proclaim*; some translators *to invoke* or *to call themselves by* or *to profane*

[d] **5:2** Cited in Matthew 19:4 and Mark 10:6

[e] **5:2** Hebrew *Adam*

[f] **5:22** LXX *pleased God*; also in verse 24

[g] **5:24** LXX *and he was not found, because God had taken him away*; cited in Hebrews 11:5

[h] **5:29** *Noah* sounds like the Hebrew for *rest* or *comfort*.

[i] **6:3** LXX and Syriac *My Spirit will not remain in man forever*

Noah's Favor with God

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[a] on the earth had corrupted their ways.

Preparing the Ark

(Hebrews 11:7)

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;[b] 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.[c]
16 You are to make a roof[d] for the ark, finish its walls a cubit from the top,[e] 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

The Great Flood

(2 Peter 3:1–7)

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[f] 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."
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[g] 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.[h]
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

The Ark Rests on Ararat

1 But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. And God

[a] **6:12** Literally *all flesh*; similarly in verses 13, 17, and 19

[b] **6:14** *Gopher* is an unknown kind of tree; possibly *cypress* or *cedar*.

[c] **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).

[d] **6:16** Or *skylight* or *window*

[e] **6:16** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters.

[f] **7:2** Or *by sevens*; also in verse 3

[g] **7:15** Literally *of all flesh*; similarly in verses 16 and 21

[h] **7:20** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters.

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.
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.

Noah Sends a Raven and a Dove

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] 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.

Exiting the Ark

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.

Noah Builds an Altar

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

The Covenant of the Rainbow

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

Noah's Shame and Canaan's Curse

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, proceeded[b] to plant a vineyard.

[a] **8:8** Literally *sent out from him* or *sent out from it*

[b] **9:20** Or *was the first*

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.
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 servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."

Shem's Blessing and Noah's Death

26 He also declared: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the servant of Shem.
27 May God expand the territory of Japheth;[a] may he dwell in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant."
28 After the flood, Noah lived 350 years.
29 So Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died.

10

The Table of Nations

(1 Chronicles 1:4–27)

1 This is the account of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, who also had sons after the flood.

The Japhethites

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 Rodanites.[b]
5 From these, the maritime peoples separated into their territories, according to their languages, by clans within their nations.

The Hamites

6 The sons of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.
7 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah,[c] 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[d] on the earth.
9 He was a mighty hunter before[e] 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.[f]
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,
14 the Pathrusites, the Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came), and the Caphtorites.[g]
15 And Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn,[h] 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.

The Semites

21 And sons were also born to Shem, the older brother of Japheth;[i] Shem was the forefather of all the sons of Eber.
22 The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.
23 The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.[j]
24 Arphaxad was the father of Shelah,[k] and Shelah was the father of Eber.
25 Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg,[l] 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

The Tower of Babel

(Deuteronomy 32:8; Acts 2:1–13)

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common form of speech.
2 And as people journeyed eastward,[m] they found a plain in the land of Shinar[n] and settled there.

[a] **9:27** *Japheth* sounds like the Hebrew for *expand.*
[b] **10:4** SP and some MT manuscripts (see also LXX and 1 Chronicles 1:7); most MT manuscripts *Dodanites*
[c] **10:7** *Sabtah* is a variant of *Sabta*; see 1 Chronicles 1:9.
[d] **10:8** Or *who established himself as a mighty warrior* or *who became the first fearless leader*
[e] **10:9** Or *in defiance of*; twice in this verse
[f] **10:10** That is, Babylonia
[g] **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.
[h] **10:15** Or *of the Sidonians, the foremost*
[i] **10:21** Or *Shem, whose older brother was Japheth*
[j] **10:23** Hebrew; LXX and 1 Chronicles 1:17 *Meshech*
[k] **10:24** Hebrew; LXX (see also Luke 3:35–36) *And Arphaxad was the father of Cainan, and Cainan was the father of Shelah,*
[l] **10:25** *Peleg* means *division.*
[m] **11:2** Or *from the east* or *in the east*
[n] **11:2** That is, Babylonia

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 noth-
ing they devise will be beyond them.
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,[a] 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.

Genealogy from Shem to Abram

(1 Chronicles 1:17–27)

10 This is the account of Shem. Two years after the
flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the
father of Arphaxad.
11 And after he had become the father of Arphaxad,
Shem lived 500 years and had other sons and daugh-
ters.
12 When Arphaxad was 35 years old, he became the
father of Shelah.
13 And after he had become the father of Shelah,
Arphaxad lived 403 years and had other sons and
daughters.[b]
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.

Terah’s Descendants

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

12

The Call of Abram

(Genesis 26:1–5; Acts 7:1–8)

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.[c]
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 be
blessed through you.[d] ”
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 Oak[e] 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.[f] ” 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.

Abram and Sarai in Egypt

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.

[a] **11:9** Or *Babylon*; the Hebrew word for *Babel* sounds like the Hebrew for *confused*.

[b] **11:13** Hebrew; LXX (see also Luke 3:35–36) **12**When Arphaxad was 135 years old, he became the father of Cainan. **13**And after he had become the father of Cainan, Arphaxad 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.Note that LXX also adds 100 years to the ages of Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, and Nahor in this genealogy.

[c] **12:1** Cited in Acts 7:3

[d] **12:3** See Galatians 3:8

[e] **12:6** Or *Terebinth* or *Great Tree*

[f] **12:7** Cited in Galatians 3:16

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 com-
mended 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,
menservants and maidservants, 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.

13

Abram and Lot Part Ways

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 live-
stock 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 con-
tention between you and me, or between your
herdsmen and my herdsmen. After all, we are kins-
men.
9 Is not the whole land before you? Now separate your-
self 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."

Lot Proceeds toward Sodom

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 him-
self 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.

God Renews the Promise to Abram

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.[a]
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
Oaks[b] of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar
to the LORD.

14

The War of the Kings

1 In those days Amraphel king of Shinar,[c] 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[d]).
4 For twelve years they had been subject to Chedor-
laomer, 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 them-
selves for battle in the Valley of Siddim[e]
9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of
Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of
Ellasar— four kings against five.

Abram Rescues Lot

10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and as
the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some men

[a] **13:15** Cited in Galatians 3:16

[b] **13:18** Or *Terebinths* or *Great Trees*

[c] **14:1** That is, Babylonia; also in verse 9

[d] **14:3** That is, the Dead Sea

[e] **14:8** That is, the Valley of the Dead Sea

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 Oaks[a] of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshcol and Aner, all of whom were bound by treaty[b] 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.

Melchizedek Blesses Abram

(Psalm 110:1–7; Hebrews 7:1–10)

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[c] —
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,
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

God's Covenant with Abram

(Romans 4:1–12; Hebrews 11:8–19)

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."[d]
6 Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness.[e]
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."

God Confirms His Promise

(Numbers 34:1–15; Romans 4:13–25)

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

16

Hagar and Ishmael

1 Now Abram's wife Sarai had borne him no children, but she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar.
2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Look now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go to my

[a] **14:13** Or *Terebinths* or *Great Trees*

[b] **14:13** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.

[c] **14:18** Hebrew *El-Elyon*; also in verses 19, 20, and 22; cited in Hebrews 7:1

[d] **15:5** Cited in Romans 4:18

[e] **15:6** Cited in Romans 4:3, Romans 4:22, Galatians 3:6, and James 2:23

[f] **15:14** Cited in Acts 7:6–7

maidservant; 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 maidservant Hagar and gave her to Abram to be his wife.
4 And he slept with Hagar, and she conceived. But when Hagar realized that she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.[a]
5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be upon you! I delivered my servant 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 servant 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[b] of the LORD found Hagar by a spring of water in the desert — the spring along the road to Shur.
8 "Hagar, servant 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,[c] 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,[d] " for she said, "Here I have seen the One who sees me!"
14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi.[e] 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.

17

Abraham to Father Many Nations

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty.[f] 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,[g] but your name will be Abraham,[h] for I have made you a father of many nations.[i]
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."

The Covenant of Circumcision

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 if any male is not circumcised, he 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.[j]
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.[k] 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.
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

[a] **16:4** Or *her mistress became despised in her sight*

[b] **16:7** Or *Angel* ; also in verses 9, 10, and 11; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized.

[c] **16:11** *Ishmael* means *God hears*.

[d] **16:13** Hebrew *El-Roi*

[e] **16:14** *Beer-lahai-roi* means *well of the Living One who sees me*.

[f] **17:1** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

[g] **17:5** *Abram* means *exalted father*.

[h] **17:5** *Abraham* means *father of many*.

[i] **17:5** Cited in Romans 4:17

[j] **17:15** Both *Sarai* and *Sarah* mean *princess*; the change in spelling may reflect the difference in dialect between Ur and Canaan.

[k] **17:19** *Isaac* means *he laughs*.

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;
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

The Three Visitors

1 Then the LORD appeared to Abraham by the Oaks[a] 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,[b] 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.

Sarah Laughs at the Promise

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."[c]
15 But Sarah was afraid, so she denied it and said, "I did not laugh." "No," replied the LORD, "but you did laugh."

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

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 through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed.
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 two 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.

[a] **18:1** Or *Terebinths* or *Great Trees*

[b] **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).

[c] **18:14** Cited in Romans 9:9

19

Lot Welcomes the Angels

(Judges 19:1–30)

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 face-
down,
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.

Lot Flees to Zoar

12 Then the two 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 punish-
ment 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 dis-
aster 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.[a]
23 And by the time the sun had risen over the land, Lot
had reached Zoar.

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

(Luke 17:20–37)

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 every-
thing 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 re-
turned 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.

Lot and His Daughters

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.

[a] **19:22** *Zoar* means *small.*

37 The older daughter gave birth to a son and named him Moab.[a] 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.[b] He is the father of the Ammonites of today.

20

Abraham, Sarah, and Abimelech

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?
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, menservants and maidservants, 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.[c] 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 maidservants, 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

The Birth of Isaac

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[d] 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."
8 So the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was weaned.

Sarah Turns against Hagar

(Galatians 4:21–30)

9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking her son,[e]
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!"[f]
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 maidservant. Listen to everything that Sarah tells you, for through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned.[g]
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.[h]

[a] **19:37** *Moab* sounds like the Hebrew for *from my father*.

[b] **19:38** *Ben-ammi* means *son of my people*.

[c] **20:16** Or *a thousand shekels of silver*; that is, approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver

[d] **21:3** *Isaac* means *he laughs*.

[e] **21:9** LXX and Vulgate; Hebrew lacks *her son*

[f] **21:10** Cited in Galatians 4:30

[g] **21:12** Cited in Romans 9:7 and Hebrews 11:18

[h] **21:16** Hebrew; LXX *the child lifted up his 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.

The Covenant at Beersheba

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.”
31 So that place was called Beersheba,[a] 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.[b]
34 And Abraham resided in the land of the Philistines
for a long time.

22

The Offering of Isaac

(John 3:1–21)

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 moun-
tains, 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 ser-
vants. “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.

The LORD Provides the Sacrifice

11 Just then the angel[c] 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.
[d] ”
13 Then Abraham looked up and saw behind him a ram
[e] 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 Pro-
vide.[f] 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,
16 saying, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD,
that because you have done this and have not with-
held your only son,
17 I will surely bless you, and I will multiply your
descendants[g] like the stars in the sky and the sand
on the seashore. Your descendants will possess the
gates of their enemies.
18 And through your offspring all nations of the earth
will be blessed,[h] 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.

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[a] **21:31** *Beersheba* means *well of seven* or *well of the oath*.

[b] **21:33** Hebrew *El-Olam*

[c] **22:11** Or *Angel* ; also in verses 12 and 15

[d] **22:12** Or *from Me*

[e] **22:13** Most MT manuscripts; other Hebrew manuscripts, SP, LXX, and Syriac *saw one ram*

[f] **22:14** Hebrew *YHWH Yireh*

[g] **22:17** Cited in Hebrews 6:14

[h] **22:18** Cited in Acts 3:25

The Sons of Nahor

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

The Death and Burial of Sarah

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,[a]
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 hun-
dred shekels of silver,[b] but what is that between you
and me? Bury your dead.”
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

A Wife for Isaac

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 house-
hold, 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 Canaan-
ites 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 unwill-
ing 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 concern-
ing 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 home-
town in Aram-naharaim.[c]
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.”

Rebekah Is Chosen

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.

[a] **23:3** Or *sons of Heth*; also in verses 5, 7, 10, 16, 18, and 20

[b] **23:15** *400 shekels* is approximately 10.1 pounds or 4.6 kilograms of silver; also in verse 16.

[c] **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 low-
ered 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,[a] and two gold
bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels.[b]
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 pre-
pared 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 cat-
tle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants,
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.'
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 grand-
daughter 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 mas-
ter."
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."

[a] **24:22** *A beka* is half a shekel, or approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams.

[b] **24:22** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams.

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 sis-
ter, 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.

Isaac Marries Rebekah

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 ap-
proaching.
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

Abraham and Keturah

(1 Chronicles 1:32–33)

1 Now Abraham had taken another wife, named Ketu-
rah,
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.

The Death of Abraham

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.

The Descendants of Ishmael

(1 Chronicles 1:28–31)

12 This is the account of Abraham’s son Ishmael, whom
Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah’s maidservant, bore to
Abraham.
13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael in the or-
der 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.[a] And they lived in hostility toward all their
brothers.

Jacob and Esau

(Malachi 1:1–5; Romans 9:6–29)

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[b] 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 sep-
arated; one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger.”[c]
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.[d]
26 After this, his brother came out grasping Esau’s heel;
so he was named Jacob.[e] 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.

Esau Sells His Birthright

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.[f])
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.

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[a] **25:18** Or *Assyria*

[b] **25:20** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

[c] **25:23** Cited in Romans 9:12

[d] **25:25** *Esau* sounds like a Hebrew term that means *hairy*.

[e] **25:26** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives*.

[f] **25:30** *Edom* means *red*.

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

God's Promise to Isaac

(Genesis 12:1–9)

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.
4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the
stars in the sky, and I will give them all these lands,
and through your offspring all nations of the earth
will be blessed,
5 because Abraham listened to My voice and kept My
charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My
laws."

Isaac Deceives Abimelech

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."

Isaac's Prosperity

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 fresh water[a] there.
20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's
herdsmen and said, "The water is ours!" So he
named the well Esek,[b] because they contended with
him.
21 Then they dug another well and quarreled over that
one also; so he named it Sitnah.[c]
22 He moved on from there and dug another well, and
they did not quarrel over it. He named it Rehoboth[d] 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."
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.

Isaac's Covenant with Abimelech

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,[e] and to this day the name of
the city is Beersheba.[f]

Esau's Wives

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.

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[a] **26:19** Or *flowing water* or *living water*

[b] **26:20** *Esek* means *contention*.

[c] **26:21** *Sitnah* means *enmity* or *hostility*.

[d] **26:22** *Rehoboth* means *broad places* or *open spaces*.

[e] **26:33** *Shibah* can mean *oath* or *seven*.

[f] **26:33** *Beersheba* means *well of seven* or *well of the oath*.

35 And they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

27

Isaac Blesses Jacob

(Hebrews 11:20)

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 re-
vealed 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."
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."

Esau's Lost Hope

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?[a]
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 ser-
vants; 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 bless-
ing, 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

[a] **27:36** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.*

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.[a] If Jacob takes a Hittite wife from among them, what good is my life?”

28

Jacob’s Departure

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,[b] 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[c] 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.”
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.

Esau Marries Mahalath

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.

Jacob’s Ladder

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 at the top[d] 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 be blessed through 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!”

The Stone of Bethel

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,[e] 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

Jacob Meets Rachel

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.
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

[a] **27:46** Or *daughters of Heth*

[b] **28:2** That is, northwest Mesopotamia; also in verses 5, 6, and 7

[c] **28:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

[d] **28:13** Or *there beside him*

[e] **28:19** *Bethel* means *house of God.*

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.

Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

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,[a] 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 servant girl Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her maidservant.
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.
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 servant girl Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maidservant.
30 Jacob slept with Rachel as well, and indeed, he loved Rachel more than Leah. So he worked for Laban another seven years.

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah

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,[b] 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.[c]
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.[d]
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.[e] Then Leah stopped having children.

30

Dan and Naphtali

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 maidservant Bilhah. Sleep with her, that she may bear children for me,[f] so that through her I too can build a family."
4 So Rachel gave Jacob her servant 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.[g]
7 And Rachel's servant 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.[h]

Gad and Asher

9 When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob as a wife.
10 And Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son.
11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!"[i] So she named him Gad.[j]
12 When Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son,
13 Leah said, "How happy I am! For the women call me happy." So she named him Asher.[k]
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."

[a] **29:17** Or *had delicate eyes*

[b] **29:32** *Reuben* means *Look, a son* and also sounds like the Hebrew for *He has seen my misery*.

[c] **29:33** *Simeon* probably means *one who hears*.

[d] **29:34** *Levi* sounds like the Hebrew for *being attached to* or *feeling affection for*.

[e] **29:35** *Judah* sounds like the Hebrew for *praise*.

[f] **30:3** Literally *bear children on my knees*

[g] **30:6** *Dan* means *He has judged* or *He has vindicated*.

[h] **30:8** *Naphtali* sounds like the Hebrew for *wrestling*.

[i] **30:11** Alternate MT reading (see also LXX); the other alternate reads *"A troop is coming!"*

[j] **30:11** *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *good fortune*, or alternately for *band of raiders*.

[k] **30:13** *Asher* means *happy*.

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.

Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah

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 maidservant to my husband.” So she named him
Issachar.[a]
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.[b]
21 After that, Leah gave birth to a daughter and named
her Dinah.

Joseph

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,[c] and said, “May the LORD
add to me another son.”

Jacob Prospers

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 house-
hold?”
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.”
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, al-
mond, and plane trees, and peeled the bark, expos-
ing 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, maidservants and menservants,
and camels and donkeys.

31

Jacob Flees from Laban

1 Now Jacob heard that Laban’s sons were saying, “Ja-
cob 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 coun-
tenance 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.

[a] **30:18** *Issachar* sounds like the Hebrew for *wages* or *reward.*

[b] **30:20** *Zebulun* sounds like the Hebrew for *honor.*

[c] **30:24** *Joseph* means *may He add.*

11 In that dream the angel[a] 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 por-
tion 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 in Paddan-aram,
[b] 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[c] Laban the Aramean by
not telling him that he was running away.
21 So he fled with all his possessions, crossed the Eu-
phrates,[d] and headed for the hill country of Gilead.

Laban Pursues Jacob

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 maidservants, 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.
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 house-
hold— 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.”

Jacob’s Covenant with Laban

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.[e]
48 Then Laban declared, “This mound is a witness be-
tween you and me this day.” Therefore the place was
called Galeed.
49 It was also called Mizpah,[f] because Laban said,
“May the LORD keep watch between you and me
when we are absent from each other.

[a] **31:11** Or *Angel*

[b] **31:18** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

[c] **31:20** Or *stole the heart of*; also in verses 26 and 27

[d] **31:21** Hebrew *the River*

[e] **31:47** The Aramaic *Jegar-sahadutha* and the Hebrew *Galeed* both mean *heap of witnesses*.

[f] **31:49** *Mizpah* means *watchtower*.

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.
55 Early the next morning, Laban got up and kissed
his grandchildren and daughters and blessed them.
Then he left to return home.

32

Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau

1 Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met
him.
2 When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is the camp of
God." So he named that place Mahanaim.[a]
3 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother
Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.
4 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.
5 I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, menservants, and maid-
servants. I have sent this message to inform my
master, so that I may find favor in your sight.'"
6 When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said,
"We went to your brother Esau, and now he is com-
ing to meet you— he and four hundred men with
him."
7 In great fear and distress, Jacob divided his people
into two camps, as well as the flocks and herds and
camels.
8 He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one camp,
then the other camp can escape."
9 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,'
10 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.
11 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.
12 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.'"
13 Jacob spent the night there, and from what he had
brought with him, he selected a gift for his brother
Esau:
14 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams,
15 30 milk camels with their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls,
20 female donkeys, and 10 male donkeys.
16 He entrusted them to his servants in separate herds
and told them, "Go on ahead of me, and keep some
distance between the herds."
17 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?'
18 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.'"
19 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.
20 You are also to say, 'Look, your servant Jacob is right
behind us.'" For he thought, "I will appease Esau[b]
with the gift that is going before me. After that I can
face him, and perhaps he will accept me.[c] "
21 So Jacob's gifts went on before him, while he spent
the night in the camp.

Jacob Wrestles with God

22 During the night Jacob got up and took his two
wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons,
and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.
23 He took them and sent them across the stream, along
with all his possessions.
24 So Jacob was left all alone, and there a man[d] wres-
tled with him until daybreak.
25 When the man saw that he could not overpower
Jacob, he struck the socket of Jacob's hip and dislo-
cated it as they wrestled.
26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."
But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you
bless me."
27 "What is your name?" the man asked. "Jacob," he
replied.
28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Ja-
cob,[e] but Israel,[f] because you have struggled with
God and with men, and you have prevailed."
29 And Jacob requested, "Please tell me your name."
But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he
blessed Jacob there.
30 So Jacob named the place Peniel,[g] saying, "Indeed,
I have seen God face to face, and yet my life was
spared."
31 The sun rose above him as he passed by Penuel,[h]
and he was limping because of his hip.
32 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.

[a] **32:2** *Mahanaim* means *two camps.*

[b] **32:20** Or *I will appease his face*

[c] **32:20** Literally *perhaps he will lift up my face*

[d] **32:24** Or *Man*; here and in verses 25–28; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized

[e] **32:28** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.*

[f] **32:28** *Israel* means *he struggles with God.*

[g] **32:30** *Peniel* means *the face of God.*

[h] **32:31** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; see verse 30.

33

Jacob Meets Esau

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 maidservants.
2 He put the maidservants 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 maidservants 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."
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[a] 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,[b] where he built a
house for himself and shelters for his livestock; that
is why the place was called Succoth.

Jacob Settles in Shechem

18 After Jacob had come from Paddan-aram,[c] 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.[d]
20 There he set up an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.[e]

34

The Defiling of Dinah

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[f] 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."
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!"

The Revenge of Dinah's Brothers

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 sister and go."

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[a] **33:11** Or *blessing* or *treaty of peace*

[b] **33:17** *Succoth* means *booths* or *shelters* or *tabernacles*; twice in this verse.

[c] **33:18** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

[d] **33:19** Hebrew *a hundred kesitahs*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known

[e] **33:20** *El-Elohe-Israel* means *God is the God of Israel* or *mighty is the God of Israel.*

[f] **34:7** Or *against Israel*

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

Jacob Returns to Bethel

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 oak[a]
near Shechem.
5 As they set out, a terror from God fell over the sur-
rounding 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,[b] 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[c] below Bethel. So Jacob named it
Allon-bacuth.[d]
9 After Jacob had returned from Paddan-aram,[e] God
appeared to him again and blessed him.
10 And God said to him, "Though your name is Jacob,
[f] you will no longer be called Jacob. Instead, your
name will be Israel.[g] " So God named him Israel.
11 And God told him, "I am God Almighty.[h] 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.[i]

Benjamin Born, Rachel Dies

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.[j] But his father called him Ben-
jamin.[k]
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.

The Sons of Jacob

(1 Chronicles 2:1–2)

21 Israel again set out and pitched his tent beyond the
Tower of Eder.

[a] **35:4** Or *terebinth* or *great tree*

[b] **35:7** *El-bethel* means *God of Bethel.*

[c] **35:8** Or *great tree*

[d] **35:8** *Allon-bacuth* means *oak of weeping.*

[e] **35:9** That is, northwest Mesopotamia; also in verse 26

[f] **35:10** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.*

[g] **35:10** *Israel* means *he struggles with God.*

[h] **35:11** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

[i] **35:15** *Bethel* means *house of God.*

[j] **35:18** *Ben-oni* could mean *son of my sorrow* or *son of my strength.*

[k] **35:18** *Benjamin* means *son of my right hand.*

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:
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 maidservant Bilhah were Dan
and Naphtali.
26 And the sons of Leah's maidservant Zilpah were Gad
and Asher. These are the sons of Jacob, who were
born to him in Paddan-aram.

The Death of Isaac

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

The Descendants of Esau

(1 Chronicles 1:35–37)

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 Ko-
rah. 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 sup-
port 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 Base-
math.
11 The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho,
Gatam, and Kenaz.
12 Additionally, Timna, a concubine of Esau's son Elip-
haz, 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,[a] Gatam, and Amalek. They are the chiefs of
Eliphaz in the land of Edom, and they are the grand-
sons of Adah.
17 These are the sons of Esau's son Reuel: Chiefs Na-
hath, 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 daugh-
ter of Anah.
19 All these are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and
they were their chiefs.

The Descendants of Seir

(1 Chronicles 1:38–42)

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.[b] 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 wilder-
ness 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 Dishon:[c] 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.

The Kings of Edom

(1 Chronicles 1:43–54)

31 These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom
before any king reigned over the Israelites:[d]
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 de-
feated Midian in the country of Moab, reigned in his
place. And the name of his city was Avith.

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[a] **36:16** Hebrew; SP (also in verse 11 and 1 Chronicles 1:36) does not include *Korah*.

[b] **36:22** *Hemam* is a variant of *Homam*; see 1 Chronicles 1:39.

[c] **36:26** Hebrew *Dishan*, a variant of *Dishon*

[d] **36:31** Or *before an Israelite king reigned over them:*

36 When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah reigned
in his place.
37 When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the
Euphrates[a] 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, Hadad[b]
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,
43 Magdiel, and Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom,
according to their settlements in the land they pos-
sessed. Esau was the father of the Edomites.

37

Joseph's Dreams

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 seven-
teen years old, he was tending the flock with his
brothers, 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.[c]
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.

Joseph Sold into Egypt

(Acts 7:9–14)

12 Some time later, Joseph's brothers had gone to pas-
ture 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 an-
swered. "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 an-
other.
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 broth-
ers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for
twenty shekels of silver[d] 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?"

Jacob Mourns Joseph

31 Then they took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a young
goat, and dipped the robe in its blood.

[a] **36:37** Hebrew *the River*

[b] **36:39** Some MT manuscripts, SP, and Syriac (see also 1 Chronicles 1:50); other MT manuscripts *Hadar*

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

[d] **37:28** *20 shekels* is approximately 8 ounces or 228 grams of silver.

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 Midianites[a] sold Joseph in Egypt to
Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the
guard.

38

Judah and Tamar

(1 Chronicles 2:3–4)

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.
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 She-
lah 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 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 Adul-
lamite 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.[b] 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!”
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.

The Birth of Perez and Zerah

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.[c]
30 Then his brother came out with the scarlet thread
around his wrist, and he was named Zerah.[d]

39

Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife

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.

[a] **37:36** Hebrew *the Medanites*

[b] **38:23** Or *we will become despised*

[c] **38:29** *Perez* means *breaking out*.

[d] **38:30** *Zerah* can mean *scarlet* or *brightness*.

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 per-
sonal 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 at-
tend 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.

Joseph Falsely Imprisoned

13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand
and had run out of the house,
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 con-
fined. 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

The Cupbearer and the Baker

1 Some time later, the king's cupbearer and baker of-
fended 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 con-
fined.
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 hang you on a tree.[a] 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 hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had described to them in his interpretation.[b]
23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot all about him.

41

The Dreams of Pharaoh

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.
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."

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams

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 of the harvest[c] 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."

Joseph Given Charge of Egypt

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[d] abides?"

[a] **40:19** Or *and impale you on a pole*; similarly in verse 22

[b] **40:22** Literally *had interpreted to them*

[c] **41:34** See LXX; MT *a fifth from the land*

[d] **41:38** Or *the spirit of the gods*

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 peo-
ple 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 fin-
ger, 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!”[a] 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,
[b] and he gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera,
priest of On,[c] to be his wife. And Joseph took charge
of all the land of Egypt.

The Seven Years of Plenty

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,[d] saying,
“God has made me forget all my hardship and all my
father’s household.”
52 And the second son he named Ephraim,[e] saying,
“God has made me fruitful in the land of my afflic-
tion.”

The Famine Begins

53 When the seven years of abundance in the land of
Egypt came to an end,
54 the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had
said. And although there was famine in every coun-
try, 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

Joseph’s Brothers Sent to Egypt

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 broth-
ers, 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.

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[a] **41:43** That is, *“Abrek,”* probably an Egyptian word that sounds similar to the Hebrew for *kneel*

[b] **41:45** *Zaphenath-paneah* probably means *Revealer of Mysteries* or *God speaks and lives*.

[c] **41:45** That is, Heliopolis, as in LXX; also in verse 50

[d] **41:51** *Manasseh* sounds like the Hebrew for *making to forget*.

[e] **41:52** *Ephraim* sounds like the Hebrew for *making fruitful* or *twice fruitful*.

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.

Joseph's Brothers Return to Canaan

25 Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain,
to return each man's silver[a] 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 broth-
ers. "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

The Return to Egypt with Benjamin

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."
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 person-
ally 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[b] 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.

Joseph's Hospitality to His Brothers

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."

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

[b] **43:14** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

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."
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 Ben-
jamin, 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. Regain-
ing his composure, he said, "Serve the meal."
32 They separately served Joseph, his brothers, and
the Egyptians. They ate separately because the Egyp-
tians 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

Benjamin and the Silver Cup

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?[a]
5 Is this not the cup[b] 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."
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 don-
keys, 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."

Judah Pleads for Benjamin

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.'

[a] **44:4** LXX includes *Why have you stolen my silver cup?*

[b] **44:5** Hebrew *Is it not this which*

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 over-
whelm him.”

45

Joseph Reveals His Identity

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 your-
selves 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 deliv-
erance.[a]
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.

Joseph Sends for His Father

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.

Pharaoh Invites Jacob to Egypt

16 When the news reached Pharaoh’s house that
Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and his ser-
vants 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.’
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 Ben-
jamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver[b] 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 don-
keys 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!”

The Revival of Jacob

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

Jacob’s Journey to Egypt

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.

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

[b] **45:22** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms of silver.

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.

Those Who Went to Egypt

(Exodus 1:1–7)

7 Jacob took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons,
and his daughters and granddaughters — all his
offspring.

The Children of Leah

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,[a] Jamin, Ohad, Jachin,
Zohar,[b] 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.
The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.
13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah,[c] Job,[d] and Shim-
ron.
14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.
15 These are the sons of Leah born to Jacob in Paddan-
aram,[e] in addition to his daughter Dinah. The total
number of sons and daughters was thirty-three.

The Children of Zilpah

16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion,[f] Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri,
Arodi,[g] 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.

The Children of Rachel

19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Ben-
jamin.
20 Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph in the
land of Egypt by Asenath daughter of Potiphera,
priest of On.[h]
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 — four-
teen in all.

The Children of Bilhah

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[i] who had been born to
Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's family who
went to Egypt were seventy[j] in all.

Jacob Arrives in Egypt

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 there 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 house-
hold, "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."

47

Jacob Settles in Goshen

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,

[a] **46:10** *Jemuel* is another name for *Nemuel*; see Numbers 26:12.

[b] **46:10** *Zohar* is a variant of *Zerah*; see Numbers 26:13 and 1 Chronicles 4:24.

[c] **46:13** Hebrew; SP and Syriac *Puah*; see 1 Chronicles 7:1.

[d] **46:13** Hebrew; SP and some LXX manuscripts *Jashub*; see Numbers 26:24 and 1 Chronicles 7:1.

[e] **46:15** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

[f] **46:16** SP and LXX *Zephon*; see also Numbers 26:15.

[g] **46:16** *Arodi* is a variant of *Arod*; see Numbers 26:17.

[h] **46:20** That is, Heliopolis, as in LXX

[i] **46:27** Hebrew; LXX *the nine sons*, probably including Joseph's grandsons through Ephraim and Manasseh; see 1 Chronicles 7:14–29.

[j] **46:27** Hebrew (see also Exodus 1:5); LXX (see also Acts 7:14) *seventy-five*

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 pre-
sented him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed
Pharaoh.
8 "How many years have you lived?" Pharaoh asked.
9 "My travels[a] 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.

The Famine Continues

13 There was no food, however, in all that region, be-
cause 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."
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 be-
came Pharaoh's,
21 and Joseph reduced the people to servitude[b] 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 servants."
26 So Joseph established a law that a fifth of the pro-
duce 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.

The Israelites Prosper in Goshen

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.[c]

48

Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh

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[d] 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 broth-
ers in the territory they inherit.
7 Now as for me, when I was returning from Paddan,
[e] 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).

[a] **47:9** Hebrew *sojourns*; twice in this verse

[b] **47:21** SP, LXX, Vulgate; Hebrew *removed the people to the cities*

[c] **47:31** Hebrew; LXX *Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff*; see Hebrews 11:21.

[d] **48:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

[e] **48:7** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

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 be-
fore whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life to
this day,
16 the angel[a] 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
the ridge of land[b] that I took from the Amorites with
my sword and bow.”

49

Jacob Blesses His Sons

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 be-
ginning 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[c] 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,[d] 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,[e] until Shiloh[f] 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, lying down between the
sheepfolds.[g]
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 provide justice for his people[h] 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 salvation, O LORD.
19 Gad[i] will be attacked by raiders, but he will attack
their heels.
20 Asher’s food will be rich; he shall provide royal deli-
cacies.
21 Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns.[j]
22 Joseph is a fruitful vine— a fruitful vine by a spring,
whose branches scale the wall.[k]
23 The archers attacked him with bitterness; they
aimed at him in hostility.

[a] **48:16** Or *Angel*

[b] **48:22** Or *one portion of the land*; Hebrew *shekem*, which sounds like the town and district called *Shechem*

[c] **49:5** Or *dwelling places*

[d] **49:8** *Judah* sounds like the Hebrew for *praise*.

[e] **49:10** Or *from his descendants*

[f] **49:10** Or *until the one to whom tribute belongs*

[g] **49:14** Or *saddlebags* or *hearths*

[h] **49:16** Or *Dan shall judge his people*; *Dan* means *He has judged* or *He has vindicated*.

[i] **49:19** *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *raid* and also for *band of raiders* .

[j] **49:21** Or *gives beautiful words* or *bears fawns of the fold*

[k] **49:22** Or *Joseph is a wild donkey, a wild donkey by a spring, with his wild colts beside the wall*

24 Yet he steadied his bow, and his strong arms were
tempered by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob,
in the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,
25 by the God of your father who helps you, and by
the Almighty[a] 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 the ancient mountains[b] 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, 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.

The Death of Jacob

29 Then Jacob instructed them, "I am about to be gath-
ered 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

Mourning and Burial for Jacob

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 ser-
vants 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.[c]
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.

Joseph Comforts His Brothers

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."
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.

The Death of Joseph

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
brought up[d] 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.

[a] **49:25** Hebrew *Shaddai*

[b] **49:26** Or *of my ancestors*

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

[d] **50:23** Or *born* or *placed at birth*

Exodus

Book of Exodus

1

The Israelites Multiply in Egypt

(Genesis 46:7–27)

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[a] in all,
including Joseph, who was already in Egypt.
6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that genera-
tion died,
7 but the Israelites were fruitful and increased rapidly;
they multiplied and became exceedingly numerous,
so that the land was filled with them.

Oppression by a New King

(Acts 7:15–19)

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.[b] "
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, ob-
serve 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 ar-
rives."
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 to the Hebrews[c] you must throw into the
Nile, but every daughter you may allow to live."

2

The Birth and Adoption of Moses

(Acts 7:20–22; Hebrews 11:23)

1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite
woman,
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[d] 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[e] and explained, "I drew him out
of the water."

The Rejection and Flight of Moses

(Acts 7:23–29)

11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to
his own people[f] 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?[g] Are you planning to kill me as you

[a] **1:5** MT (see also Genesis 46:27); DSS and LXX (see also Acts 7:14) *seventy-five*

[b] **1:10** Or *and take the country*

[c] **1:22** SP, LXX, and Targum Yonaton; Hebrew does not include *to the Hebrews*.

[d] **2:3** The Hebrew can also mean *ark*; also in verse 5; see Genesis 6:14.

[e] **2:10** *Moses* sounds like a Hebrew term that means *to lift out*.

[f] **2:11** Or *his brothers*

[g] **2:14** Cited in Acts 7:27 and Acts 7:35

killed the Egyptian?[a] ” 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,[b] 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,[c] saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

God Hears the Cry of the Israelites

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

Moses at the Burning Bush

(Acts 7:30–38)

1 Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro,[d] the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb,[e] the mountain of God.
2 There the angel[f] 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.”[g]
6 Then He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”[h]

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.”[i]
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.”[j]
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.[k] 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 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

[a] **2:14** LXX *Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?* Cited in Acts 7:28
[b] **2:18** *Reuel* was also called *Jethro*; see Exodus 3:1.
[c] **2:22** *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *foreigner*.
[d] **3:1** Moses’ father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18.
[e] **3:1** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai
[f] **3:2** Or *Angel*
[g] **3:5** Cited in Acts 7:33
[h] **3:6** Cited in Matthew 22:32, Mark 12:26, Luke 20:37, and Acts 7:32
[i] **3:10** Cited in Acts 7:34
[j] **3:12** Cited in Acts 7:7
[k] **3:14** Or I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE

to go unless a mighty hand compels him.[a]
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

Moses' Staff

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,[b] 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."

Moses' Hand

6 Furthermore, the LORD said to Moses, "Put your hand inside your cloak.[c] " So he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, his hand was leprous,[d] 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 And the LORD said, "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."

The Appointment of Aaron

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."

Moses Leaves for Egypt

18 Then Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro[e] 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 harden[f] 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[g] 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.[h] "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.)

The People Believe Moses and Aaron

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 Moses performed the signs before the people,

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[a] **3:19** Literally *except by a mighty hand*

[b] **4:3** Hebrew *nachash*, in contrast to Aaron's staff, which became a *tannin* in Exodus 7:10

[c] **4:6** Hebrew *into your bosom*; twice in this verse and twice in verse 7

[d] **4:6** The Hebrew word traditionally translated as *leprous* was used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

[e] **4:18** Moses' father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18.

[f] **4:21** Or *stiffen* or *strengthen*

[g] **4:24** Hebrew *him*

[h] **4:25** Hebrew *his feet*

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.

5

Pharaoh's First Refusal

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."

Bricks and Straw

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?"

The Cry of the Israelites

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

God Promises Deliverance

1 But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh, for because of My mighty hand he will let the people go; because of My 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,[a] 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?[b] "

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.

[a] **6:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

[b] **6:12** Hebrew *I have uncircumcised lips*; also in verse 30

Genealogies of Moses and Aaron

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,[a] 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.
21 The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.
22 The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan,[b] and
Sithri.
23 And Aaron married Elisheba, the daughter of Am-
minadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him
Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.
24 The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah, and Abias-
aph.[c] 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

God Commands Moses and Aaron

1 The LORD answered Moses, "See, I have made you
like 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 com-
manded them.
7 Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-
three when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Aaron's Staff

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.[d] "
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 ser-
pent. But Aaron's staff swallowed up the other staffs.
13 Still, Pharaoh's heart was hardened,[e] and he would
not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

The First Plague: Blood

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is
unyielding;[f] he refuses to let the people go.
15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning as you see him walk-
ing 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 com-
manded; in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials,
Aaron raised the staff[g] 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.

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[a] **6:15** *Zohar* is a variant of *Zerah*; see Numbers 26:13 and 1 Chronicles 4:24.

[b] **6:22** *Elzaphan* is a variant of *Elizaphan*; see Numbers 3:30.

[c] **6:24** *Abiasaph* is a variant of *Ebiasaph*; see 1 Chronicles 6:23 and 1 Chronicles 9:19.

[d] **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

[e] **7:13** Or *stiffened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 22

[f] **7:14** Or *heavy* or *stubborn*

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

22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same things by
their magic arts. So Pharaoh's heart was hardened,
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.

8

The Second Plague: Frogs

1 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.
2 But if you refuse to let them go, I will plague your
whole country with frogs.
3 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.
4 The frogs will come up on you and your people and
all your officials.'"
5 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.'"
6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of
Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land
of Egypt.
7 But the magicians did the same thing by their magic
arts, and they also brought frogs up onto the land
of Egypt.
8 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."
9 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?"
10 "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.
11 The frogs will depart from you and your houses and
your officials and your people; they will remain only
in the Nile."
12 After Moses and Aaron had left Pharaoh, Moses
cried out to the LORD for help with the frogs that He
had brought against Pharaoh.
13 And the LORD did as Moses requested, and the frogs
in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields died.
14 They were piled into countless heaps, and there was
a terrible stench in the land.
15 When Pharaoh saw that there was relief, however,
he hardened[a] his heart and would not listen to
Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

The Third Plague: Gnats

16 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.'"
17 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.
18 The magicians tried to produce gnats using their
magic arts, but they could not. And the gnats re-
mained on man and beast.
19 "This is the finger of God," the magicians said to
Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened,[b] and
he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had
said.

The Fourth Plague: Flies

20 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.
21 But if you will not let My people go, I will send
swarms of flies[c] 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.
22 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.
23 I will make a distinction[d] between My people and
your people. This sign will take place tomorrow.'"
24 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.
25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and
said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within this land."
26 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 Egyptians. If we offer
sacrifices that are detestable before the Egyptians,
will they not stone us?
27 We must make a three-day journey into the wilder-
ness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He
commands us."
28 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."
29 "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."
30 Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,

[a] **8:15** Or *made heavy*; also in verse 32

[b] **8:19** Or *stiffened* or *strengthened*

[c] **8:21** Literally *a noxious mixture*; also in verses 22, 24, 29, and 31

[d] **8:23** LXX and Vulgate; Hebrew *I will set redemption*

31 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.
32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time as well,
and he would not let the people go.

9

The Fifth Plague: Livestock

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, don-
keys, 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 live-
stock of the Israelites had died. But Pharaoh's heart
was hardened,[a] and he would not let the people go.

The Sixth Plague: Boils

8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take hand-
fuls 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, be-
cause the boils had broken out on them and on all
the Egyptians.
12 But the LORD hardened[b] Pharaoh's heart, and he
would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said
to Moses.

The Seventh Plague: Hail

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[c]
and your officials and your people, so you may know
that there is no one like Me in all the earth.
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 raised you up[d] for this very purpose, that
I might display My power to you,[e] and that My name
might be proclaimed in all the earth.[f]
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 our 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 thun-
der had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his
heart — he and his officials.

[a] **9:7** Or *made heavy*; also in verse 34

[b] **9:12** Or *stiffened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 35

[c] **9:14** Hebrew *against your heart* or *against your inner man*

[d] **9:16** Or *have spared you*

[e] **9:16** LXX *in you*

[f] **9:16** Cited in Romans 9:17

35 So Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.

10

The Eighth Plague: Locusts

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened[a] 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.
19 And the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind that carried off the locusts and blew them into the Red Sea.[b] Not a single locust remained anywhere in Egypt.
20 But the LORD hardened[c] Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go.

The Ninth Plague: Darkness

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 hardened 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

The Plague on the Firstborn Foretold

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,

[a] **10:1** Or *made heavy*

[b] **10:19** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[c] **10:20** Or *stiffened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 27

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 servant girl 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.'[a] 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."
10 Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before
Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened[b] Pharaoh's heart
so that he would not let the Israelites go out of his
land.

12

The First Passover

(Numbers 9:1–14)

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[c] 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 accord-
ingly.
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 congrega-
tion of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight.[d]
7 They are to take some of the blood and put it on
the sides and tops of the doorframes[e] 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,[f] 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.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

(Leviticus 23:4–8; Numbers 28:16–25; Deuteronomy 16:1–8)

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,
[g] 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.
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 unleav-
ened 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 top and sides of
the doorframe. 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 top and sides
of the doorframe 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

[a] **11:7** Some translators close this quotation at the end of the verse.

[b] **11:10** Or *stiffened* or *strengthened*

[c] **12:3** The Hebrew word can mean *lamb* or *kid*; also in verses 4 and 5.

[d] **12:6** Hebrew *between the two evenings*

[e] **12:7** Literally *on the two doorposts and on the lintel*; similarly in verses 22 and 23

[f] **12:11** Literally *Gird up your loins*

[g] **12:17** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten

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.

The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn

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.

The Exodus Begins

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[a] with about 600,000 men on foot, besides women and children.
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[b] 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.

Instructions for the Passover

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

The Dedication of the Firstborn

(Deuteronomy 15:19–23)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Consecrate to Me every firstborn male.[c] 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,[d] 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.
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 Law 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.

[a] **12:37** *Succoth* means *booths* or *shelters* or *tabernacles.*

[b] **12:40** MT; SP *in Canaan and Egypt*; LXX *in Egypt and Canaan*

[c] **13:2** Cited in Luke 2:23

[d] **13:4** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April.

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."

The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

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 Red Sea.[a] And the Israelites left the land of Egypt arrayed for battle.[b]
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."[c]
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

Pharaoh Pursues the Israelites

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 harden[d] 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." 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 hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out defiantly.[e]
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 salvation, 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."

Parting the Red Sea

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 harden 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[f] 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.[g] 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.
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.

[a] **13:18** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[b] **13:18** LXX *left the land of Egypt in the fifth generation*

[c] **13:19** Genesis 50:25

[d] **14:4** Or *stiffen* or *strengthen*; similarly in verses 8 and 17

[e] **14:8** Or *marching out boldly*; literally *marching out with an upraised hand*

[f] **14:19** Or *Angel*

[g] **14:20** LXX *and the night passed*

25 He caused their chariot wheels to wobble,[a] 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 retreating, 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

The Song at the Sea

(Judges 5:1–31)

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 salvation. 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 Red Sea.[b]
5 The depths have covered them; they sank there 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; 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[c] 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.
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.”

The Waters of Marah

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, 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,[d] 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

Manna and Quail from Heaven

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

[a] **14:25** Or *to swerve* or *to come off* or *to bind*; see also SP, LXX, and Syriac.

[b] **15:4** Or *the Sea of Reeds*; also in verse 22

[c] **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* .

[d] **15:23** *Marah* means *bitter*.

Sin,[a] 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."
9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Tell the whole congrega-
tion of Israel, 'Come before the LORD, for He has
heard your grumbling.'"
10 And as Aaron was speaking to the whole congrega-
tion 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[b] 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[c] 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 gath-
ered much had no excess, and he who gathered little
had no shortfall.[d] 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.

The Sabbath Observed

(Genesis 2:1–3; Hebrews 4:1–11)

22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much food
— two omers per person[e] — 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 com-
manded, and it did not smell or contain any maggots.
25 "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a Sab-
bath 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 Sab-
bath; 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.

The Jar of Manna

31 Now the house of Israel called the bread manna.[f] 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,[g] 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.)[h]

[a] **16:1** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*.

[b] **16:12** Hebrew *Between the two evenings*

[c] **16:16** *An omer* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters; also in verses 18, 32, 33, and 36.

[d] **16:18** Cited in 2 Corinthians 8:15

[e] **16:22** *2 omers* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters per person.

[f] **16:31** *Manna* sounds like the Hebrew for *What is it?* (see verse 15).

[g] **16:34** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

[h] **16:36** *An ephah* was a dry measure having the capacity of about 20 dry quarts or 22 liters.

17

Water from the Rock

(Numbers 20:1–13)

1 Then the whole congregation of Israel left the Desert of Sin,[a] 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.[b] 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[c] and Meribah[d] because the Israelites quarreled, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Defeat of the Amalekites

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.
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.[e]
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."

[a] **17:1** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*.
[b] **17:6** *Horeb* is another name for Sinai.
[c] **17:7** *Massah* means *testing*.
[d] **17:7** *Meribah* means *quarreling*.
[e] **17:15** Hebrew *YHWH Nissi*

18

The Visit of Jethro

1 Now Moses' father-in-law Jethro,[f] 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,[g] for Moses had said, "I have been a foreigner in a foreign land."
4 The other son was named Eliezer,[h] 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.

Jethro Advises Moses

(Deuteronomy 1:9–18)

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.

[f] **18:1** Moses' father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18.
[g] **18:3** *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *sojourner*.
[h] **18:4** *Eliezer* means *God is my helper*.

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.
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 peo-
ple 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 every-
thing he said.
25 So Moses chose capable men from all Israel and
made them heads over the people as leaders of thou-
sands, 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

Israel at Mount Sinai

1 In the third month, on the same day of the month
[a] 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.
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.'[b] Only when the ram's horn sounds
a long blast may they approach the mountain.[c] "
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."

The LORD Visits Sinai

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 bring 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

The Ten Commandments

(Deuteronomy 5:6–21)

1 And God spoke all these words:

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

[b] **19:13** Cited in Hebrews 12:20

[c] **19:13** Or *may they go up on the mountain*

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 before Me.[a]
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 genera-
tions[b] of those who love Me and keep My command-
ments.
7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God
in vain, for the LORD will not leave anyone unpun-
ished who takes His name in vain.
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 manser-
vant or maidservant 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.[c]
13 You shall not murder.[d]
14 You shall not commit adultery.[e]
15 You shall not steal.[f]
16 You shall not bear false witness against your neigh-
bor.[g]
17 You shall not covet[h] your neighbor’s house. You
shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manser-
vant or maidservant, or his ox or donkey, or any-
thing that belongs to your neighbor.”

Moses Comforts the People

(Deuteronomy 5:22–33; Hebrews 12:18–29)

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 ap-
proached the thick darkness where God was.

Idolatry Forbidden

(1 Corinthians 10:14–22)

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 sacri-
fice 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

Hebrew Servants

(Deuteronomy 15:12–18)

1 “These are the ordinances that you are to set before
them:
2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, 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 servant 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 the judges.[i]
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 servant, she is not
to go free as the menservants do.
8 If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master who had
designated her for himself,[j] 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.

Personal Injury Laws

12 Whoever strikes and kills a man must surely be put
to death.

[a] **20:3** Or *besides Me*

[b] **20:6** Or *to thousands*

[c] **20:12** Cited in Matthew 15:4, Matthew 19:19, Mark 7:10, Luke 18:20, and Ephesians 6:2–3

[d] **20:13** Cited in Matthew 5:21, Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20, Romans 13:9, and James 2:11

[e] **20:14** Cited in Matthew 5:27, Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20, Romans 13:9, and James 2:11

[f] **20:15** Cited in Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20, and Romans 13:9

[g] **20:16** Cited in Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, and Luke 18:20

[h] **20:17** Cited in Romans 7:7 and Romans 13:9

[i] **21:6** Or *before God*

[j] **21:8** Or *so that he does not designate her for himself*

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 curses[a] his father or mother must
surely be put to death.[b]
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 manservant or maidservant with
a rod, and the servant 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 her child is born prematurely,[c] 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,[d] 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 manservant
or maidservant, he must let the servant go free as
compensation for the eye.
27 And if he knocks out the tooth of his manservant
or maidservant, he must let the servant go free as
compensation for the tooth.
28 If an ox[e] 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.
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 manservant or maidservant, the
owner must pay thirty shekels of silver[f] to the
master of that servant, 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."

22

Property Laws

1 "If a man steals an ox[g] or a sheep and slaughters or
sells it, he must repay five oxen for an ox and four
sheep for a sheep.
2 If a thief is caught breaking in and is beaten to death,
no one shall be guilty of bloodshed.
3 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.
4 If what was stolen is actually found alive in his pos-
session— whether ox or donkey or sheep— he must
pay back double.
5 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.
6 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.
7 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.
8 If the thief is not found, the owner of the house must
appear before the judges[h] to determine whether he
has taken his neighbor's property.
9 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 the judges. The one whom the judges
find guilty[i] must pay back double to his neighbor.
10 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,
11 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.
12 But if the animal was actually stolen from the neigh-
bor, he must make restitution to the owner.

[a] **21:17** Or *dishonors* or *reviles*

[b] **21:17** Cited in Matthew 15:4 and Mark 7:10

[c] **21:22** Literally *and her children come out*

[d] **21:24** Cited in Matthew 5:38

[e] **21:28** Or *a bull*; also in verses 29–36

[f] **21:32** *30 shekels* is approximately 12 ounces or 342 grams of silver.

[g] **22:1** Or *a bull* or *a cow*; also in verses 4, 9, and 10

[h] **22:8** Or *before God*; also in verse 9

[i] **22:9** Or *whom God condemns*

13 If the animal was torn to pieces, he shall bring it as
evidence; he need not make restitution for the torn
carcass.
14 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.
15 If the owner was present, no restitution is required.
If the animal was rented, the fee covers the loss.

Laws of Social Responsibility

16 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.
17 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.
18 You must not allow a sorceress to live.
19 Whoever lies with an animal must surely be put to
death.
20 If anyone sacrifices to any god other than the LORD
alone, he must be set apart for destruction.[a]
21 You must not exploit or oppress a foreign resident,
for you yourselves were foreigners in the land of
Egypt.
22 You must not mistreat any widow or orphan.
23 If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to Me in
distress, I will surely hear their cry.
24 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.
25 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.
26 If you take your neighbor's cloak as collateral, re-
turn it to him by sunset,
27 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.
28 You must not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of
your people.[b]
29 You must not hold back offerings from your gra-
naries or vats. You are to give Me the firstborn of
your sons.
30 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.
31 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

Justice and Mercy

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.
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 your-
selves know how it feels to be foreigners; for you
were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

Sabbath Laws

(Leviticus 25:1–7; Deuteronomy 15:1–6)

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 sev-
enth day you must cease, so that your ox and your
donkey may rest and the son of your maidservant
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.

The Three Feasts of Pilgrimage

(Leviticus 23:1–3)

14 Three times a year you are to celebrate a feast to Me.
15 You are to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread[c]
as I commanded you: At the appointed time in the
month of Abib[d] 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[e] with the
firstfruits of the produce from what you sow in the
field. And keep the Feast of Ingathering[f] 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.

[a] **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.

[b] **22:28** LXX *or speak evil about the ruler of your people*; cited in Acts 23:5

[c] **23:15** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[d] **23:15** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April.

[e] **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*(see Acts 2:1).

[f] **23:16** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is later called *the Feast of Tabernacles* (or *Booths* or *Shelters*).

God's Angel to Lead

(Deuteronomy 7:12–26)

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 annihi-
late them.
24 You must not bow down to their gods or serve them
or follow their practices. Instead, you are to demol-
ish them and smash their sacred stones to pieces.
25 So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will
bless[a] 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 Red Sea
[b] to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the desert
to the Euphrates.[c] 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

The Covenant Sealed

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."[d]
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.

Moses on the Mountain

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."
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 moun-
tain, and he remained on the mountain forty days
and forty nights.

25

Offerings for the Tabernacle

(Exodus 35:4–9)

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;[e] 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.

[a] **23:25** LXX and Vulgate *I will bless*

[b] **23:31** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[c] **23:31** Hebrew *the River*

[d] **24:8** Cited in Hebrews 9:20

[e] **25:5** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals

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.

The Ark of the Covenant

(Exodus 37:1–5)

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.[a]
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,[b] which I
will give you.

The Mercy Seat

(Exodus 37:6–9)

17 And you are to construct a mercy seat[c] of pure gold,
two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half
wide.[d]
18 Make two cherubim of hammered gold at the ends
of the mercy seat,
19 one cherub on one end and one on the other, all
made from one piece of gold.
20 And the cherubim are to have wings that spread
upward, overshadowing the mercy seat. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the mercy
seat.
21 Set the mercy seat 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 mercy seat,
between the two cherubim that are over the ark of
the Testimony;[e] I will speak with you about all that
I command you regarding the Israelites.

The Table of Showbread

(Exodus 37:10–16; Leviticus 24:5–9)

23 You are also to make a table of acacia wood two
cubits long, a cubit wide, and a cubit and a half high.
[f]
24 Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding
around it.
25 And make a rim around it a handbreadth wide[g] 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.

The Lampstand

(Exodus 37:17–24; Numbers 8:1–4)

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.[h]
40 See to it that you make everything according to the
pattern shown you on the mountain.[i] ”

26

The Ten Curtains for the Tabernacle

(Exodus 36:8–13)

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[j] — 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.

[a] **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).

[b] **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.

[c] **25:17** Or *an atonement cover*; here and throughout Exodus

[d] **25:17** The mercy seat was approximately 3.75 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (114.3 centimeters long and 68.6 centimeters wide).

[e] **25:22** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

[f] **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).

[g] **25:25** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.

[h] **25:39** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

[i] **25:40** Cited in Hebrews 8:5

[j] **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).

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.

The Eleven Curtains of Goat Hair

(Exodus 36:14–19)

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.[a]
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[b] 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.[c]

The Frames and Bases

(Exodus 36:20–34)

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.[d]
17 Two tenons[e] 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.
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.

The Veil

(Exodus 36:35–36)

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[f] behind the veil. So the veil will
separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.[g]
34 Put the mercy seat on the ark of the Testimony in the
Most Holy Place.
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.

The Curtain for the Entrance

(Exodus 36:37–38)

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, over-
lay them with gold, use hooks of gold, and cast five
bronze bases for them.”

27

The Bronze Altar

(Exodus 38:1–7)

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.[h]
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.

[a] **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).

[b] **26:13** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters.

[c] **26:14** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals

[d] **26:16** Each frame was approximately 15 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (4.6 meters long and 68.6 centimeters wide).

[e] **26:17** That is, projecting pieces of wood made for insertion into another piece; similarly in verse 19.

[f] **26:33** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verse 34

[g] **26:33** Or *the Holy of Holies*; also in verse 34

[h] **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).

8 Construct the altar with boards so that it is hollow.
It is to be made just as you were shown on the
mountain.

The Courtyard

(Exodus 38:9–20)

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[a] on one
side,
10 with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, and
silver hooks and bands on the posts.
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,[b] 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,[c]
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,
[d] 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,[e] with curtains of finely spun
linen five cubits high,[f] 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.

The Oil for the Lamps

(Leviticus 24:1–4)

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,[g] 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

Garments for the Priests

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 gar-
ments for Aaron’s consecration, so that he may serve
Me as priest.
4 These are the garments that they shall make: a breast-
piece, 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.

The Ephod

(Exodus 39:1–7)

6 They are to make the ephod of finely spun linen
embroidered with gold, and with blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn.
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.

The Breastpiece

(Exodus 39:8–21)

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.[h]
17 And mount on it a setting of gemstones, four rows
of stones:[i] 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.

[a] **27:9** *100 cubits* is approximately 150 feet or 45.7 meters; also in verse 11.

[b] **27:12** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters; also in verse 13.

[c] **27:14** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters; also in verse 15.

[d] **27:16** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters.

[e] **27:18** The courtyard was approximately 150 feet long and 75 feet wide (45.7 meters long and 22.9 meters wide).

[f] **27:18** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.

[g] **27:21** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

[h] **28:16** The breastpiece, when folded over, was approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters in both length and width.

[i] **28:17** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain.

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.
30 And place the Urim and Thummim[a] in the breast-
piece 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.

Additional Priestly Garments

(Exodus 39:22–31)

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,[b] 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.[c]
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 conse-
crate 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

Consecration of the Priests

(Leviticus 8:1–13)

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 dia-
dem to the turban.
7 Then take the anointing oil and anoint him by pour-
ing it on his head.
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.

The Order of the Sacrifices

(Leviticus 8:22–36)

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 sin offering.[d]
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 offer-
ing to the LORD.

[a] **28:30** Literally *Lights and Perfections*

[b] **28:32** The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain; possibly *a coat of mail.*

[c] **28:36** That is, *the LORD*

[d] **29:14** Or *purification offering*; also in verse 36

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 cover-
ing 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 unleav-
ened 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 ordi-
nation.
28 This will belong to Aaron and his sons as a regular
portion from the Israelites, for it is the heave offer-
ing 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.
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.

Food for the Priests

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 sin offering each day for atone-
ment. 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.

The Daily Offerings

(Numbers 28:1–8)

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.[a]
40 With the first lamb offer a tenth of an ephah of fine
flour,[b] mixed with a quarter hin of oil from pressed
olives,[c] 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.

God Will Dwell among the People

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

The Altar of Incense

(Exodus 37:25–29)

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.[d] 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.
4 And make two gold rings below the molding on oppo-
site 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[e] — before the mercy seat 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,[f] he must
burn the incense perpetually before the LORD for
the generations to come.

[a] **29:39** Hebrew *between the two evenings*; also in verse 41

[b] **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).

[c] **29:40** Hebrew *a quarter hin of pressed oil*; that is, approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters

[d] **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).

[e] **30:6** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verse 26

[f] **30:8** Hebrew *between the two evenings*

9 On this altar you must not offer unauthorized[a] 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 sin offering[b] of atonement. The altar is most holy to the LORD."

The Census Offering

(2 Samuel 24:1–9; 1 Chronicles 21:1–6)

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,[c] according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.[d] This half shekel is an offering to the LORD.
14 Everyone twenty years of age or older who crosses over 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."

The Bronze Basin

(Exodus 38:8)

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."

The Anointing Oil

22 Then the LORD said to Moses,
23 "Take the finest spices: 500 shekels of liquid myrrh,[e] half that amount (250 shekels) of fragrant cinnamon,[f] 250 shekels of fragrant cane,[g]
24 500 shekels of cassia[h] — all according to the sanctuary shekel — and a hin of olive oil.[i]
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.'"

The Incense

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[j] 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

Bezalel and Oholiab

(Exodus 35:30–35)

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[k] and the mercy seat upon it, and all the other furnishings of the tent—

[a] **30:9** Or *strange*

[b] **30:10** Or *purification offering*

[c] **30:13** *A half shekel* is approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams; also in verse 15.

[d] **30:13** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).

[e] **30:23** *500 shekels* is approximately 12.6 pounds or 5.7 kilograms of myrrh.

[f] **30:23** *250 shekels* is approximately 6.3 pounds or 2.9 kilograms of cinnamon.

[g] **30:23** *250 shekels* is approximately 6.3 pounds or 2.9 kilograms of cane.

[h] **30:24** *500 shekels* is approximately 12.6 pounds or 5.7 kilograms of cassia.

[i] **30:24** *A hin* is approximately 0.97 gallons or 3.67 liters of olive oil.

[j] **30:36** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

[k] **31:7** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

8 the table with its utensils, the pure gold lampstand
with all its utensils, the altar of incense,
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 gar-
ments 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."

The Sign of the Sabbath

(Numbers 15:32–36)

12 And the LORD said to Moses,
13 "Tell the Israelites, 'Surely you must keep My Sab-
baths, 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.'"

Moses Receives the Tablets

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

The Golden Calf

(Deuteronomy 9:7–29; Acts 7:39–43)

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!"[a]
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.[b]
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 them-
selves 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.
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 moun-
tains 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 Is-
rael, to whom You swore by Your very self when
You declared, 'I will make your descendants as nu-
merous 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 shout-
ing, 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!'

[a] **32:1** Cited in Acts 7:40

[b] **32:6** Or *to play*; cited in 1 Corinthians 10:7

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 laugh-
ingstock[a] 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.'"
28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day
about three thousand of the people fell dead.
29 Afterward, Moses said, "Today you have been or-
dained[b] for service to the LORD, since each man
went against his son and his brother; so the LORD
has bestowed 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

The Command to Leave Sinai

(Deuteronomy 1:1–8)

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 Abra-
ham, 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.[c]

The Tent of Meeting

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.
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.

The Promise of God's Presence

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."[d]
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."

[a] **32:25** Or *and become an object of derision*

[b] **32:29** Or *have ordained yourselves*

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

[d] **33:19** Cited in Romans 9:15

34

New Stone Tablets

(Deuteronomy 10:1–11)

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 orig-
inals. 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 genera-
tions,[a] 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.”

The LORD Renews the Covenant

(2 Corinthians 3:7–18)

10 And the LORD said, “Behold, I am making a
covenant. Before all your people I will perform won-
ders 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[b] with the inhabi-
tants 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.[c]
For seven days at the appointed time in the month
of Abib,[d] you are to eat unleavened bread as I com-
manded you. For in the month of Abib you came out
of Egypt.
19 The first offspring of every womb belongs to Me, in-
cluding 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[e] with
the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of
Ingathering[f] 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.
24 For I will drive out the nations before you and en-
large 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.[g]
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.

[a] **34:7** Hebrew *to thousands*

[b] **34:12** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.

[c] **34:18** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[d] **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.

[e] **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*(see Acts 2:1).

[f] **34:22** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is later called *the Feast of Tabernacles* (or *Booths* or *Shelters*).

[g] **34:28** Hebrew *the Ten Words*

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

The Sabbath

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.”

Offerings for the Tabernacle

(Exodus 25:1–9)

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;[a] acacia wood;
8 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and
for the fragrant incense;
9 and onyx stones and gemstones to be mounted on the
ephod and breastpiece.

The Skilled Craftsmen

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 mercy seat, 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 court-
yard, 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.”

The People Offer Gifts

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.

Bezalel and Oholiab

(Exodus 31:1–11)

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 crafts-
manship,
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

The People Bring More than Enough

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 — every-
one 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

[a] **35:7** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals; also in verse 23

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.

The Ten Curtains for the Tabernacle

(Exodus 26:1–6)

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;[a] 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.

The Eleven Curtains of Goat Hair

(Exodus 26:7–14)

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.[b]
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.[c]

The Frames and Bases

(Exodus 26:15–30)

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.[d]
22 Two tenons[e] 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.

The Veil

(Exodus 26:31–35)

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.

The Curtain for the Entrance

(Exodus 26:36–37)

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

Constructing the Ark

(Exodus 25:10–16)

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.[f]
2 He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside and out, and made a gold molding around it.

[a] **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).
[b] **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).
[c] **36:19** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals
[d] **36:21** Each frame was approximately 15 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (4.6 meters long and 68.6 centimeters wide).
[e] **36:22** That is, projecting pieces of wood made for insertion into another piece; similarly in verse 24.
[f] **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.

The Mercy Seat

(Exodus 25:17–22)

6 He constructed a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a
half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.[a]
7 He made two cherubim of hammered gold at the ends
of the mercy seat,
8 one cherub on one end and one on the other, all made
from one piece of gold.
9 And the cherubim had wings that spread upward,
overshadowing the mercy seat. The cherubim faced
each other, looking toward the mercy seat.

The Table of Showbread

(Exodus 25:23–30; Leviticus 24:5–9)

10 He also made the table of acacia wood two cubits
long, a cubit wide, and a cubit and a half high.[b]
11 He overlaid it with pure gold and made a gold mold-
ing around it.
12 And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide[c]
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.

The Lampstand

(Exodus 25:31–40; Numbers 8:1–4)

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 ex-
tended 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.[d]

The Altar of Incense

(Exodus 30:1–10)

25 He made the altar of incense out of acacia wood. It
was square, a cubit long, a cubit wide, and two cubits
high.[e] 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.
27 He made two gold rings below the molding on oppo-
site 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

The Bronze Altar

(Exodus 27:1–8)

1 Bezalel constructed[f] the altar of burnt offering from
acacia wood. It was square, five cubits long, five
cubits wide, and three cubits high.[g]
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.

The Bronze Basin

(Exodus 30:17–21)

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.

The Courtyard

(Exodus 27:9–19)

9 Then he constructed the courtyard. The south side of
the courtyard was a hundred cubits long[h] 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.

[a] **37:6** The mercy seat was approximately 3.75 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (114.3 centimeters long and 68.6 centimeters wide).

[b] **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).

[c] **37:12** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.

[d] **37:24** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

[e] **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).

[f] **38:1** Literally *He constructed*

[g] **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).

[h] **38:9** *100 cubits* is approximately 150 feet or 45.7 meters.

12 The west side was fifty cubits long[a] 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,[b] 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[c] and, like the curtains of the courtyard, five cubits high,[d]
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.

An Inventory of Materials

(Ezra 2:68–70; Nehemiah 7:70–73)

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,[e] according to the sanctuary shekel.
25 The silver from those numbered among the congregation totaled 100 talents and 1,775 shekels,[f] according to the sanctuary shekel—
26 a beka per person, that is, half a shekel,[g] 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[h] 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[i] 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.[j]
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

The Ephod

(Exodus 28:6–14)

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[k] 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.
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.

The Breastpiece

(Exodus 28:15–30)

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.[l]
10 And they mounted on it four rows of gemstones:[m] 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;

[a] **38:12** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters.
[b] **38:14** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters.
[c] **38:18** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters.
[d] **38:18** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.
[e] **38:24** The total weight of the gold was approximately 1.1 tons or 1 metric ton.
[f] **38:25** The total weight of the silver was approximately 3.79 tons or 3.44 metric tons.
[g] **38:26** *A beka* is half a shekel, or approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams.
[h] **38:27** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver.
[i] **38:28** *1,775 shekels* is approximately 44.6 pounds or 20.2 kilograms of silver.
[j] **38:29** The total weight of the bronze was approximately 2.67 tons or 2.42 metric tons.
[k] **39:2** Literally *He made*
[l] **39:9** The breastpiece, when folded over, was approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters in both length and width.
[m] **39:10** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain.

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.

Additional Priestly Garments

(Exodus 28:31–43)

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,[a] with a collar around the opening so
that it would not tear.
24 They made pomegranates of blue, purple, and scar-
let 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 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 head-
bands 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.
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.[b]
31 Then they fastened to it a blue cord to mount it on
the turban, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Moses Approves the Work

32 So all the work for the tabernacle, the Tent of Meet-
ing, 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,[c] and the veil of the covering;
35 the ark of the Testimony[d] with its poles and the
mercy seat;
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 sanc-
tuary, 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 com-
manded. So Moses blessed them.

40

Setting Up the Tabernacle

(Acts 7:44–47; Hebrews 9:1–10)

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[e] 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 cur-
tain 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 fur-
nishings, and it shall be holy.
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.

[a] **39:23** The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain; possibly *a coat of mail.*

[b] **39:30** That is, *the LORD*

[c] **39:34** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals

[d] **39:35** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

[e] **40:3** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verses 5 and 21

15 Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so
that they may also serve Me as priests. Their anoint-
ing will qualify them for a permanent priesthood
throughout their generations.”
16 Moses did everything just as the LORD had com-
manded 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 mercy
seat 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 en-
trance to the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, and
offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offer-
ing, 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 taber-
nacle and the altar, and he hung the curtain for the
entrance to the courtyard. So Moses finished the
work.

The Cloud and the Glory

(Numbers 9:15–23)

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 be-
cause 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

Book of Leviticus

1

Laws for Burnt Offerings

(Leviticus 6:8–13)

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 atone-
ment 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 burn-
ing 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[a] 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.”

[a] **1:16** Or *the crop and feathers*

2

Laws for Grain Offerings

(Leviticus 6:14–23)

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 memo-
rial 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,[b] 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,[c]
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.”

[b] **2:5** That is, a shallow pan for baking or frying

[c] **2:7** That is, a deep pan or stew pan

3

Laws for Peace Offerings

(Leviticus 7:11–21)

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.
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

Laws for Sin Offerings

(Leviticus 5:1–13; Leviticus 6:24–30)

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 sin offering[a] 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 sin 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.
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 sin 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 sin 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 sin offering for the assembly.

[a] **4:3** Or *purification offering*; here and throughout Leviticus

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 commit-
ted, 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 sin offering.
25 Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the
sin 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 unintention-
ally 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 commit-
ted, 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 sin 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 offer-
ing, 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 sin offering, he
must bring an unblemished female.
33 And he is to lay his hand on the head of the sin
offering and slaughter it as a sin offering at the place
where the burnt offering is slaughtered.
34 Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the
sin 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 offer-
ings 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

Sins Requiring a Sin Offering

(Leviticus 4:1–35; Leviticus 6:24–30)

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 sin 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 sin 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 sin 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 sin
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 sin
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[a] as a sin offering. He must not put olive oil or
frankincense on it, because it is a sin offering.
12 He is to bring it to the priest, who shall take a hand-
ful from it as a memorial portion and burn it on the
altar atop the food offerings to the LORD; it is a sin
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."

Laws for Guilt Offerings

(Leviticus 6:1–7; Leviticus 7:1–10)

14 Then the LORD said to Moses,
15 "If someone acts unfaithfully and sins unintention-
ally against any of the LORD's holy things, he must
bring his guilt offering to the LORD: an unblemished
ram from the flock, of proper value[b] in silver
shekels according to the sanctuary shekel;[c] 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

[a] **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).

[b] **5:15** Or *flock or its equivalence*

[c] **5:15** *A shekel* is approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams of silver.

wrong he has committed in ignorance, and he will be forgiven.
19 It is a guilt offering; he was certainly guilty[a] before the LORD."

6

Sins Requiring a Guilt Offering

(Leviticus 5:14–19; Leviticus 7:1–10)

1 And the LORD said to Moses,
2 "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
3 or finds lost property and lies about it and swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that a man might commit—
4 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,
5 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.
6 Then he must bring to the priest his guilt offering to the LORD: an unblemished ram of proper value from the flock.
7 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."

The Burnt Offering

(Leviticus 1:1–17)

8 Then the LORD said to Moses,
9 "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.
10 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.
11 Then he must take off his garments, put on other clothes, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place.
12 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.
13 The fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it must not be extinguished.

The Grain Offering

(Leviticus 2:1–16)

14 Now this is the law of the grain offering: Aaron's sons shall present it before the LORD in front of the altar.
15 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.
16 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.
17 It must not be baked with leaven; I have assigned it as their portion of My food offerings. It is most holy, like the sin offering and the guilt offering.
18 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."
19 Then the LORD said to Moses,
20 "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[b] as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning and half in the evening.
21 It shall be prepared with oil on a griddle;[c] you are to bring it well-kneaded and present it as a grain offering broken[d] in pieces, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
22 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.
23 Every grain offering for a priest shall be burned completely; it is not to be eaten."

The Sin Offering

(Leviticus 4:1–35; Leviticus 5:1–13)

24 And the LORD said to Moses,
25 "Tell Aaron and his sons that this is the law of the sin offering: In the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered, the sin offering shall be slaughtered before the LORD; it is most holy.
26 The priest who offers it shall eat it; it must be eaten in a holy place, in the courtyard of the Tent of Meeting.
27 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.
28 The clay pot in which the sin offering is boiled must be broken; if it is boiled in a bronze pot, the pot must be scoured and rinsed with water.
29 Any male among the priests may eat it; it is most holy.
30 But no sin 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

The Guilt Offering

(Leviticus 5:14–19; Leviticus 6:1–7)

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.

[a] **5:19** Or *he has paid full compensation*

[b] **6:20** *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).

[c] **6:21** That is, a shallow pan for baking or frying

[d] **6:21** Or *baked*

3 And all the fat from it shall be offered: the fat tail, the
fat that covers the entrails,
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 sin 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[a] or on a griddle[b] 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.

The Peace Offering

(Leviticus 3:1–17)

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 unleav-
ened 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 pre-
sents 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."

Fat and Blood Forbidden

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.
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.'"

The Priests' Portion

28 Then the LORD said to Moses,
29 "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'Anyone who pre-
sents 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 por-
tion 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 pre-
sented to serve the LORD as priests.
36 On the day they were anointed, the LORD com-
manded 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 offer-
ing, the sin 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

Moses Consecrates Aaron and His Sons

(Exodus 29:1–9)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Take Aaron and his sons, their garments, the anoint-
ing oil, the bull of the sin 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."

[a] **7:9** That is, a deep pan or stew pan

[b] **7:9** That is, a shallow pan for baking or frying

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[a] in the breastpiece.
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 conse-
crated 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 head-
bands on them, just as the LORD had commanded
him.

The Priests' Sin Offering

14 Moses then brought the bull near for the sin offer-
ing, 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.

The Priests' Burnt Offering

18 Then Moses presented the ram for the burnt offer-
ing, 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 offer-
ing, a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD,
just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

The Ram of Ordination

(Exodus 29:10–30)

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 gar-
ments.
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 ordi-
nation 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

Aaron's First Offerings

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 sin 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 sin offering, a calf and a lamb — both a year
old and without blemish — for a burnt offering,
4 an ox[b] 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.'"

[a] **8:8** Literally *Lights and Perfections*

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

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 com-
manded 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 sin offering and your burnt offering
to make atonement for yourself and for the people.
And sacrifice the people’s offering to make atone-
ment for them, as the LORD has commanded.”
8 So Aaron approached the altar and slaughtered the
calf as a sin 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 sin 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.
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 sin offering, slaugh-
tered it, and offered it for sin like the first one.
16 He presented the burnt offering and offered it ac-
cording 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 com-
manded.
22 Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and
blessed them. And having made the sin 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

The Sin of Nadab and Abihu

(Numbers 3:1–4)

1 Now Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their
censers, put fire in them and added incense, and of-
fered unauthorized[a] 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,[b] 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 let your hair become disheveled[c]
and do not tear your garments, or else you will die,
and the LORD will be angry with the whole congre-
gation. 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.

Restrictions for Priests

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 gen-
erations to come.
10 You must distinguish between the holy and the com-
mon, 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

[a] **10:1** Or *strange*

[b] **10:4** *Elzaphan* is a variant of *Elizaphan*; see Numbers 3:30.

[c] **10:6** Or *Do not uncover your heads*

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 sin 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 sin 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 sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD. Since these things have happened to me, if I had eaten the sin offering today, would it have been acceptable in the sight of the LORD?"
20 And when Moses heard this explanation, he was satisfied.

11

Clean and Unclean Animals

(Deuteronomy 14:1–21; Acts 10:9–16)

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:[a] The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you.
5 The rock badger,[b] 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,[c] 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[d] 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.
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;

[a] **11:4** The precise identification of some of the birds and animals in this chapter is uncertain.
[b] **11:5** Or *The coney* or *The hyrax*
[c] **11:16** Literally *the daughter of the ostrich* or *the daughter of the owl*
[d] **11:26** Literally *a split hoof not completely divided*

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 any-
one who picks up the carcass must wash his clothes
and will be unclean until evening.
41 Every creature that moves along the ground is de-
testable; 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.[a] 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

Purification after Childbirth

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Say to the Israelites, 'A woman who becomes preg-
nant and gives birth to a son will be unclean for
seven days, as she is during the days of her menstru-
ation.
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 purifica-
tion 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 sin offering.
7 And the priest will present them before the LORD and
make atonement for her; and she shall be ceremoni-
ally 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,[b] one for a burnt
offering and the other for a sin offering. Then the
priest will make atonement for her, and she will be
clean.'"

13

Laws about Skin Diseases

(Numbers 5:1–4)

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,[c]
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 pro-
nounce 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,
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 pro-
nounce 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,

[a] **11:44** Here and in verse 45; cited in 1 Peter 1:16

[b] **12:8** Cited in Luke 2:24

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

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 let his hair hang loose,[a] 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.

Laws about Mildew

47 If any fabric is contaminated with mildew[b] — 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.
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.

[a] **13:45** Or *uncover his head*

[b] **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.

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

Cleansing from Skin Diseases

(Matthew 8:1–4; Mark 1:40–45; Luke 5:12–16)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "This is the law for the one afflicted with a skin
disease[a] 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[b] 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[c] mixed with olive oil, and one log of olive oil.[d]
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 Meet-
ing.
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 sin offering and burnt offering are
slaughtered. Like the sin offering, the guilt offering
belongs to the priest; it is most holy.
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 atone-
ment for him before the LORD.
19 Then the priest is to sacrifice the sin 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[e] 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 sin 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 offer-
ing, 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 atone-
ment for him before the LORD.
30 Then he must sacrifice the turtledoves or young
pigeons, whichever he can afford,
31 one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offer-
ing,[f] together with the grain offering. In this way

[a] **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.

[b] **14:5** Or *flowing water* or *living water*; here and in verses 6, 50, 51, and 52

[c] **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).

[d] **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

[e] **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).

[f] **14:31** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew includes *as he is able to afford,*

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."

Signs of Home Contamination

33 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
34 "When you enter the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your possession, and I put a contamination of mildew[a] 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.

Cleansing a Home

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,
57 to determine when something is clean or unclean. This is the law regarding skin diseases and mildew.[b] "

15

The Uncleanness of Men

(Deuteronomy 23:9–14)

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.

The Cleansing of Men

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,[c] 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

[a] **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.

[b] **14:57** The Hebrew translated here as *skin diseases and mildew* is one singular term; see the footnotes for verses 2 and 34.

[c] **15:13** Or *flowing water* or *living water*

entrance to the Tent of Meeting, and give them to the priest.
15 The priest is to sacrifice them, one as a sin 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.

The Uncleanness of Women

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.
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.

The Cleansing of Women

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 sin 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 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

The Day of Atonement

(Leviticus 23:26–32; Numbers 29:7–11)

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 Most Holy Place[a] behind the veil in front of the mercy seat[b] on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.
3 This is how Aaron is to enter the Holy Place: with a young bull for a sin 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 sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.
6 Aaron is to present the bull for his sin 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 the scapegoat,[c]
9 he shall present the goat chosen by lot for the LORD and sacrifice it as a sin offering.
10 But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement by sending it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.
11 When Aaron presents the bull for his sin offering and makes atonement for himself and his household, he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin 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 cover the mercy seat above the Testimony,[d] 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 mercy seat; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the mercy seat.
15 Aaron shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and bring its blood behind the veil, and with its blood he must do as he did with

[a] **16:2** Or *the Holy Place*; also in verses 16, 17, 20, 23, and 27

[b] **16:2** Or *atonement cover*; here and throughout this chapter

[c] **16:8** Literally *the other to Azazel*; similarly twice in verse 10 and once in verse 26

[d] **16:13** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

the bull's blood: He is to sprinkle it against the mercy seat and in front of it.
16 So he shall make atonement for the Most 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 Most 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 Most 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 Most Holy Place, and leave them there.
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 sin offering on the altar.
26 The man who released the goat as the scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may reenter the camp.
27 The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought into the Most 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 humble yourselves[a] 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 humble yourselves; it is a permanent statute.
32 The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest shall make atonement. He will put on the sacred linen garments
33 and make atonement for the Most Holy Place,[b] 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 all this was done as the LORD had commanded Moses.

17

The Place of Sacrifice

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,[c] 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 blood-guilt. 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[d] 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
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.

Laws against Eating Blood

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[e] of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for your souls upon the altar; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.
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.

[a] **16:29** Or *afflict your souls* or *deny yourselves*; also in verse 31

[b] **16:33** Or *the Holy Sanctuary*

[c] **17:3** Or *a bull* or *a cow*

[d] **17:7** Or *goat idols*

[e] **17:11** Literally *the soul*; also in verse 14

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 him-
self, then he shall bear his iniquity."

18

Unlawful Sexual Relations

(Matthew 5:27–30)

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.[a] I am the LORD.
6 None of you are to approach any close relative to have
sexual relations.[b] 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 sis-
ter, 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 daugh-
ter 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 rela-
tive.
14 You must not dishonor your father's brother by ap-
proaching his wife to have sexual relations with her;
she is your aunt.
15 You must not have sexual relations with your daugh-
ter-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 sacri-
ficed[c] 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 inhab-
itants.
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 abomi-
nations 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

Commandments for Holiness

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.[d]
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.
7 If any of it is eaten on the third day, it is tainted and
will not be accepted.

[a] **18:5** Cited in Romans 10:5 and Galatians 3:12; see also Ezekiel 20:11, 13, and 21.

[b] **18:6** Literally *to uncover (their) nakedness*; here and throughout this chapter

[c] **18:21** Hebrew *to make them pass through (the fire)*

[d] **19:2** Cited in 1 Peter 1:16

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.

Love Your Neighbor

(Romans 13:8–10)

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[a] 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.[b] I am the LORD.

Keep My Statutes

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 girl 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.[c] 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.
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 use dishonest measures of length, weight, or volume.
36 You shall maintain honest scales and weights, an honest ephah,[d] and an honest hin.[e] 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

Punishments for Disobedience

(Leviticus 26:14–39; Deuteronomy 28:15–68)

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.

[a] **19:16** Literally *blood*

[b] **19:18** Cited in Matthew 5:43, Matthew 19:19, Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27, Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:14, and James 2:8

[c] **19:23** Hebrew *as uncircumcised*; twice in this verse

[d] **19:36** *An ephah* is a dry measure of approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters.

[e] **19:36** *A hin* is a liquid measure of approximately 0.97 gallons or 3.67 liters.

9 If anyone curses[a] his father or mother, he must be put to death.[b] He has cursed his father or mother; his blood shall be upon him.

Punishments for Sexual Immorality

(Proverbs 5:1–23; 1 Corinthians 5:1–8)

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.
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,[c] 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,[d] 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.

Distinguish between Clean and Unclean

22 You are therefore to keep all My statutes and ordinances, 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

Holiness Required of Priests

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.
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 let his hair hang loose[e] 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."

Restrictions against Those with Blemishes

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;

[a] **20:9** Or *dishonors* or *reviles*; similarly again in this verse
[b] **20:9** Cited in Matthew 15:4 and Mark 7:10
[c] **20:17** Literally *and he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness*
[d] **20:18** Literally *uncovers her nakedness*; similarly in verse 19
[e] **21:10** Or *must not uncover his head*

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

Restrictions against the Unclean

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.
4 If a descendant of Aaron has a skin disease[a] 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 un-
clean 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 contri-
butions.
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."

Worthy Offerings

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, be-
cause 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[b] 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.
25 Neither you nor a foreigner shall present food to
your God from any such animal. 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,[c] 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[d] 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."

[a] **22:4** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy*, were used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

[b] **22:23** Or *a bull* or *a cow*

[c] **22:27** Or *a calf*

[d] **22:28** Or *a cow*

23

Feasts and Sabbaths

(Exodus 23:14–19)

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.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

(Exodus 12:14–28; Numbers 28:16–25; Deuteronomy 16:1–8)

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[a] day of the first month.
6 On the fifteenth day of the same month begins the
Feast of Unleavened Bread[b] 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.'"

The Feast of Firstfruits

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,
13 along with its grain offering of two-tenths of an
ephah of fine flour[c] mixed with oil — a food offer-
ing to the LORD, a pleasing aroma — and its drink
offering of a quarter hin of wine.[d]
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.

The Feast of Weeks

(Acts 2:1–13)

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 first-
fruits to the LORD.
18 Along with the bread you are to present seven un-
blemished 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 sin 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 first-
fruits. 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 as-
sembly, 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.'"

The Feast of Trumpets

(Numbers 29:1–6)

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.[e]
25 You must not do any regular work, but you are to
present a food offering to the LORD.'"

The Day of Atonement

(Leviticus 16:1–34; Numbers 29:7–11)

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
humble yourselves,[f] 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.
32 It will be a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you
shall humble yourselves. From the evening of the
ninth day of the month until the following evening
you are to keep your Sabbath."

[a] **23:5** Hebrew *begins between the two evenings of the fourteenth*

[b] **23:6** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[c] **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.

[d] **23:13** *A quarter hin* is approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters of wine.

[e] **23:24** Or *a sacred assembly, a memorial of shouting*

[f] **23:27** Or *afflict your souls* or *deny yourselves*; also in verse 32

The Feast of Tabernacles

(Nehemiah 8:13–18; Zechariah 14:16–21)

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 Tabernacles[a] 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[b] 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[c] 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

The Oil for the Lamps

(Exodus 27:20–21)

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[d] 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.

The Showbread

(Exodus 25:23–30; Exodus 37:10–16)

5 You are also to take fine flour and bake twelve loaves, using two-tenths of an ephah for each loaf,[e]
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."

Punishment for Blasphemy

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[f] 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.

An Eye for an Eye

(Matthew 5:38–48)

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.[g] 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.

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[a] **23:34** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering*(see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

[b] **23:40** Or *poplars*

[c] **23:42** Or *tabernacles* or *shelters*; twice in this verse, and also in verse 43; see the footnote for verse 34.

[d] **24:3** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

[e] **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).

[f] **24:14** Literally *the one who cursed*; also in verse 23

[g] **24:20** Cited in Matthew 5:38

25

The Seventh Year

(Exodus 23:10–13; Deuteronomy 15:1–6)

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.
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 manservant and maidservant, 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.

The Year of Jubilee

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.

Return of Property

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.

The Blessing of Obedience

(Deuteronomy 28:1–14)

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.

The Law of Redemption

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.

Redemption of the Poor

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.

Redemption of Bondmen

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 menservants and maidservants 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.

Redemption of Servants

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:
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

Additional Blessings of Obedience

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[a] among you, and My soul will not despise[b] you.
12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people.[c]
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.

Punishments for Disobedience

(Leviticus 20:1–9; Deuteronomy 28:15–68)

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,
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.

[a] **26:11** Or *My tabernacle*

[b] **26:11** Or *reject*; also in verse 30

[c] **26:12** Cited in 2 Corinthians 6:16

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[a] 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 daugh-
ters.
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 My soul will de-
spise 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 faint-
ness 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.
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 ene-
mies will waste away in their iniquity and will decay
in the sins of their fathers.

God Remembers Those Who Repent

40 But if they will confess their iniquity and that of
their fathers in the unfaithfulness that they prac-
ticed 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 Abra-
ham, 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 Is-
raelites through Moses on Mount Sinai.

27

Rules about Valuations

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them, ‘When some-
one 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,[b] according to the sanctuary shekel.
[c]
4 Or if it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty
shekels.[d]
5 And if the person is from five to twenty years of age,
then your valuation for the male shall be twenty
shekels,[e] and for the female ten shekels.[f]
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,[g] and for the female three shekels
of silver.[h]
7 And if the person is sixty years of age or older, then
your valuation shall be fifteen shekels[i] 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[j] before the
priest, who shall set the value according to what the
one making the vow can afford.
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.

[a] **26:26** Hebrew *staff*

[b] **27:3** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver; also in verse 16.

[c] **27:3** *A shekel* weighed approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams; also in verse 25.

[d] **27:4** *30 shekels* is approximately 12 ounces or 342 grams of silver.

[e] **27:5** *20 shekels* is approximately 8 ounces or 228 grams of silver.

[f] **27:5** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams of silver; also in verse 7.

[g] **27:6** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams of silver.

[h] **27:6** *3 shekels* is approximately 1.2 ounces or 34.2 grams of silver.

[i] **27:7** *15 shekels* is approximately 6 ounces or 171 grams of silver.

[j] **27:8** Or *present himself*

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 substi-
tute 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 ani-
mal, 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.[a]
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.[b]
26 But no one may consecrate a firstborn of the live-
stock, 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.
28 Nothing that a man sets apart[c] to the LORD from all
he owns — whether a man, an animal, or his inher-
ited land — can be sold or redeemed; everything so
devoted is most holy to the LORD.
29 No person set apart for destruction may be ran-
somed; he must surely be put to death.

Instruction on Tithes

(Deuteronomy 14:22–29; Deuteronomy 26:1–15; Nehemiah 13:10–14)

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 substi-
tute shall become holy; they cannot be redeemed.'"
34 These are the commandments that the LORD gave to
Moses for the Israelites on Mount Sinai.

[a] **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).

[b] **27:25** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).

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

Numbers

Book of Numbers

1

The First Census of Israel

(Numbers 26:1–4)

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.

The Leaders of the Tribes

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.

The Number of Every Tribe

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.

The Exemption of the Levites

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

The Order of the Camps

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 Deuel,[a]
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.
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

The Sons of Aaron

(Leviticus 10:1–7)

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 unauthorized[b] 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.

The Duties of the Levites

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.

[a] **2:14** Many MT manuscripts, SP, and Vulgate (see also Numbers 1:14); most MT manuscripts *Reuel*

[b] **3:4** Or *strange*

9 Assign the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they have been given exclusively to him[a] 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,
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."

The Numbering of the Levites

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.

The Gershonites

(Numbers 4:21–28; 1 Chronicles 23:7–11)

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.

The Kohathites

(Numbers 4:1–20; 1 Chronicles 23:12–20)

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.[b] 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[c] 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.

The Merarites

(Numbers 4:29–33; 1 Chronicles 23:21–23)

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.

Moses and Aaron

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.

The Redemption of the Firstborn

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[d] for each one, according to the sanctuary shekel of twenty gerahs.[e]
48 Give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for the excess among the Israelites."

[a] **3:9** Most MT manuscripts; some MT manuscripts, SP, and LXX (see also Numbers 8:16) *to Me*

[b] **3:28** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *8,300*; see the total in verse 39.

[c] **3:30** *Elizaphan* is a variant of *Elzaphan*; see Exodus 6:22 and Leviticus 10:4.

[d] **3:47** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams.

[e] **3:47** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).

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,[a] 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

The Duties of the Kohathites

(Numbers 3:27–32; 1 Chronicles 23:12–20)

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[b] with it.
6 They are to place over this a covering of fine leather,[c] 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.
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."

The Duties of the Gershonites

(Numbers 3:21–26; 1 Chronicles 23:7–11)

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.

The Duties of the Merarites

(Numbers 3:33–37; 1 Chronicles 23:21–23)

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."

The Numbering of the Levite Clans

34 So Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the congregation numbered the Kohathites by their clans and families,

[a] **3:50** *1,365 shekels* is approximately 34.3 pounds or 15.6 kilograms.

[b] **4:5** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

[c] **4:6** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals; also in verses 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 25; see Exodus 25:5.

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, every-
one who could serve at the Tent of Meeting. Moses
and Aaron numbered them according to the com-
mand 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

Cleansing the Camps

(Leviticus 13:1–46)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Command the Israelites to send away from the camp
anyone with a skin disease,[a] 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.

Confession and Restitution

(Luke 19:1–10)

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."

The Adultery Test

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.[b] 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 stom-
ach 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.
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 offer-
ing 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

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

[b] **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).

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

The Nazirite Vow

(Judges 13:1–25)
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,[a] 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 sin offering[b] 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.
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 sin 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 sin 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."

Aaron's Blessing

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

Offerings of Dedication

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."

[a] **6:2** *Nazirite* means *one separated* or *one consecrated.*

[b] **6:11** Or *purification offering*; here and throughout Numbers

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 ap-
proached 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,[a] and one silver bowl
weighing seventy shekels,[b] 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,[c] 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 sin 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 sil-
ver 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 in-
cense;
21 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
22 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary
shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a
grain offering;
26 one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with in-
cense;
27 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
28 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
33 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
34 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
39 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
40 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
45 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
46 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
51 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
52 one male goat for a sin 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.

[a] **7:13** *130 shekels* is approximately 3.3 pounds or 1.48 kilograms; here and throughout this chapter.

[b] **7:13** *70 shekels* is approximately 1.76 pounds or 797.8 grams; here and throughout this chapter.

[c] **7:14** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams; here and throughout this chapter.

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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
57 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
58 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
63 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
64 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
69 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
70 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
75 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
76 one male goat for a sin 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 hun-
dred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weigh-
ing 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 in-
cense;
81 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year
old for a burnt offering;
82 one male goat for a sin 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,[a] 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.[b]
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 sin offering.
88 All the livestock sacrificed for the peace offering to-
taled twenty-four bulls, sixty rams, sixty male goats,
and sixty male lambs a year old. This was the dedi-
cation 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 mercy
seat[c] on the ark of the Testimony.[d] Thus the LORD
spoke to him.

8

The Lampstand

(Exodus 25:31–40; Exodus 37:17–24)

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 blos-
soms, fashioned according to the pattern the LORD
had shown Moses.

Cleansing the Levites

5 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
6 "Take the Levites from among the Israelites and make
them ceremonially clean.

[a] **7:85** *2,400 shekels* is approximately 60.3 pounds or 27.4 kilograms.

[b] **7:86** *120 shekels* is approximately 3 pounds or 1.4 kilograms.

[c] **7:89** Or *atonement cover*

[d] **7:89** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

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.
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 sin 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 sin 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 first-
born 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 offer-
ing 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.

Retirement for Levites

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 perform-
ing 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 them-
selves are not to do the work. This is how you are to
assign responsibilities to the Levites."

9

The Second Passover

(Exodus 12:1–13)

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 ap-
pointed time.
3 You are to observe it at the appointed time, at twilight
on the fourteenth[a] 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 twi-
light on the fourteenth day of the first month. The
Israelites did everything just as the LORD had com-
manded 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 present-
ing 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.'"

The Cloud above the Tabernacle

(Exodus 40:34–38)

15 On the day that the tabernacle, the Tent of the Testi-
mony, 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 by day,[b] and at night it would
appear like fire.

[a] **9:3** Hebrew *between the two evenings of the fourteenth*; also in verses 5 and 11

[b] **9:16** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew does not include *by day*

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 com-
mand.
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

The Two Silver Trumpets

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 trum-
pets. 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."

From Sinai to Paran

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 Ammi-
nadab 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 Ger-
shonites 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 Ammi-
hud 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 com-
mand.
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 divi-
sions as they set out.
29 Then Moses said to Hobab, the son of Moses' father-
in-law Reuel[a] 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 what-
ever 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."

[a] **10:29** *Reuel* was also called *Jethro*; see Exodus 3:1.

36 And when it came to rest, he would say: “Return, O
LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel.”

11

The Complaints of the People

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,[a] 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.
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.

The Complaint of Moses

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.”

Seventy Elders Anointed

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.

The Quail and the Plague

31 Now a wind sent by the LORD came up, drove in quail from the sea, and brought them near the camp, about two cubits above the surface of the ground,[b] 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,[c] 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

[a] **11:3** *Taberah* means *burning*.

[b] **11:31** Or *up to two cubits deep*; that is, approximately 3 feet or 91.4 centimeters

[c] **11:32** *10 homers* is approximately 62.4 bushels or 2,200 liters.

against the people, and the LORD struck them with a severe plague.
34 So they called that place Kibroth-hattaavah,[a] 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

The Complaint of Miriam and Aaron

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.[b]
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.
10 As the cloud lifted from above the Tent, suddenly Miriam became leprous,[c] 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.

[a] **11:34** *Kibroth-hattaavah* means *graves of craving*.

[b] **12:7** Cited in Hebrews 3:5

[c] **12:10** The Hebrew word traditionally translated as *leprous* was used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

13

The Spies Explore Canaan

(Deuteronomy 1:19–25)

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[d] 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.
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,[e] 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.

The Reports of the Spies

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.

[d] **13:3** Literally *according to the mouth*

[e] **13:23** *Eshcol* means *cluster*; also in verse 24.

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

Israel’s Rebellion

(Deuteronomy 1:26–33)

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.
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.”

Moses Intercedes for Israel

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 magni-
fied, just as You have declared:
18 ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in loving
devotion,[a] 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.”

God’s Forgiveness and Judgment

(Deuteronomy 1:34–40)

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 Red Sea.[b] ”
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.
29 Your bodies will fall in this wilderness— all who
were numbered in the census, everyone twenty

[a] **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*.

[b] **14:25** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

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."

The Plague on the Ten Spies

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.

The Defeat at Hormah

(Deuteronomy 1:41–46)

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

Laws about Offerings

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[a] mixed with a quarter hin of olive oil.[b]
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[c] of fine flour mixed with a third of a hin of olive oil,[d]
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[e] mixed with half a hin of olive oil.[f]
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.

Offerings for Unintentional Sins

22 Now if you stray unintentionally and do not obey all these commandments that the LORD has spoken to Moses—

[a] **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).
[b] **15:4** Or *a quarter hin of oil*; that is, approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters; similarly in verse 5
[c] **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).
[d] **15:6** Or *a third of a hin of oil*; that is, approximately 1.3 quarts or 1.2 liters; similarly in verse 7
[e] **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).
[f] **15:9** Or *half a hin of oil*; that is, approximately 1.9 quarts or 1.8 liters; similarly in verse 10

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

A Sabbath-Breaker Stoned

(Exodus 31:12–17)

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.

The Law of Tassels

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

Korah's Rebellion

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![a] 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[b] 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.

[a] **16:3** Figuratively *You have gone too far* or *You have appropriated too much authority to yourselves*; similarly in verse 7

[b] **16:5** LXX *God has visited and knows those who are His*; cited in 2 Timothy 2:19

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 congre-
gation.
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 congre-
gation?"

Moses Separates the People

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 Abi-
ram had come out and stood at the entrances to their
tents with their wives and children and infants.

The Earth Swallows Korah

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 unprece-
dented, 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 van-
ished 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.

The Censers Reserved for Holy Use

36 Then the LORD said to Moses,
37 "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.
38 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."
39 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,
40 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.

Murmuring and Plague

(1 Corinthians 10:1–13)

41 The next day the whole congregation of Israel grum-
bled against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have
killed the LORD's people!"
42 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.
43 Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the Tent
of Meeting,
44 and the LORD said to Moses,
45 "Get away from this congregation so that I may con-
sume them in an instant." And Moses and Aaron fell
facedown.
46 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."
47 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.
48 He stood between the living and the dead, and the
plague was halted.
49 But those who died from the plague numbered
14,700, in addition to those who had died on account
of Korah.
50 Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the
Tent of Meeting, since the plague had been halted.

17

Aaron's Staff Buds

1 And the LORD said to Moses,
2 "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,
3 and write Aaron's name on the staff of Levi, because
there must be one staff for the head of each tribe.
4 Place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting in front of the
Testimony,[a] where I meet with you.
5 The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout,
and I will rid Myself of the constant grumbling of the
Israelites against you."
6 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.

[a] **17:4** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments; also in verse 10.

7 Then Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the
Tent of the Testimony.
8 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.
9 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.
10 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 grum-
bling against Me, lest they die."
11 So Moses did as the LORD had commanded him.
12 Then the Israelites declared to Moses, "Look, we are
perishing! We are lost; we are all lost!
13 Anyone who comes near the tabernacle of the LORD
will die. Are we all going to perish?"

18

Duties of Priests and Levites

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.
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 sanc-
tuary must be put to death."

Offerings for Priests and Levites

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 sin offerings or guilt offerings, that part belongs
to you and your sons.
10 You are to eat it as a most holy offering,[a] 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 cerem-
onially 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,[b] according to the sanctuary shekel, which is
twenty gerahs.[c]
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[d] 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.
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 re-
ceive 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

[a] **18:10** Or *You are to eat it in a most holy place*

[b] **18:16** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams of silver.

[c] **18:16** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).

[d] **18:19** That is, a perpetual covenant

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

The Red Heifer

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.

Purification of the Unclean

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 sin offering, put them in a jar, and pour fresh water[a] 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

Water from the Rock

(Exodus 17:1–7)

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?
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

[a] **19:17** Or *flowing water* or *living water*

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,[a] where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD, and He showed His holiness among them.

Edom Refuses Passage

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.

The Death of Aaron

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,
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

The Defeat of Arad

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.[b] "
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.[c]

The Bronze Serpent

4 Then they set out from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,[d] 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.

The Journey to Moab

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,

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

[b] **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.

[c] **21:3** *Hormah* means *destruction*.

[d] **21:4** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

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,[a] 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.[b]

The Defeat of Sihon

(Deuteronomy 2:24–37)

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 terri-
tory. Instead, he gathered his whole army and went
out to confront Israel in the wilderness. When he
came to Jahaz,[c] 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.[d]
25 Israel captured all the cities of the Amorites and oc-
cupied 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 Amor-
ites.
30 But we have overthrown them; Heshbon is de-
stroyed as far as Dibon. We demolished them as far
as Nophah, which reaches to Medeba.[e] "

The Defeat of Og

(Deuteronomy 3:1–11)

31 So Israel lived in the land of the Amorites.
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

Balak Summons Balaam

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[f] 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,

[a] **21:16** *Beer* means *well.*

[b] **21:20** Or *Jeshimon*

[c] **21:23** *Jahaz* is a variant of *Jahzah*; see 1 Chronicles 6:78.

[d] **21:24** Or *because the territory was rugged*; literally *because it was strong*

[e] **21:30** Or *We demolished them until fire spread to Medeba*

[f] **22:5** Hebrew *the River*

17 for I will honor you richly and do whatever you say.
So please come and put a curse on this people for
me!'"
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 don-
key, and went with the princes of Moab.

The Angel and Balaam's Donkey

22 Then God's anger was kindled because Balaam was
going along, and the angel[a] 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 stand-
ing 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 pas-
sage 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[b] 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 displeas-
ing 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?"
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 por-
tions 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

Balaam's First Oracle

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 be-
side 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 right-
eous; 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?"

Balaam's Second Oracle

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."

[a] **22:22** Or *Angel*; here through the rest of chapter 22; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized.
[b] **22:32** Or *reckless* or *contrary*

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 trou-
ble 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.[a]
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

Balaam's Third Oracle

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 wilder-
ness.
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,[b] 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,[c] like gardens be-
side 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."

Balak Dismisses Balaam

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."

Balaam's Fourth Oracle

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[d] 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 sur-
vivors of the city."

Balaam's Final Three Oracles

20 Then Balaam saw Amalek and lifted up an oracle,
saying: "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[e] takes you
captive."
23 Once more Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying: "Ah,
who can live unless God has ordained it?

[a] **23:28** Or *Jeshimon*

[b] **24:4** Hebrew *Shaddai*; also in verse 16

[c] **24:6** Or *like valleys*

[d] **24:17** SP *foreheads*; Hebrew *corners (of the head)*; LXX *princes*

[e] **24:22** Or *Assyria*; also in verse 24

24 Ships will come from the coasts of Cyprus;[a] 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

Moab Seduces Israel

(1 Corinthians 10:1–13)

1 While Israel was staying in Shittim,[b] 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."

The Zeal of Phinehas

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.
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."

[a] **24:24** Hebrew *Kittim*

[b] **25:1** Or *Acacia Grove*

26

The Second Census of Israel

(Numbers 1:1–4)

1 After the plague had ended, 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,[c] as the LORD has commanded Moses." And these were the Israelites who came out of the land of Egypt:

The Tribe of Reuben

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.

The Tribe of Simeon

12 These were the descendants of Simeon by their clans: The Nemuelite clan from Nemuel,[d] the Jaminite clan from Jamin, the Jachinite clan from Jachin,
13 the Zerahite clan from Zerah,[e] and the Shaulite clan from Shaul.
14 These were the clans of Simeon, and there were 22,200 men.

The Tribe of Gad

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,
16 the Oznite clan from Ozni, the Erite clan from Eri,
17 the Arodite clan from Arod,[f] and the Arelite clan from Areli.
18 These were the clans of Gad, and their registration numbered . . . 40,500.

The Tribe of Judah

19 The sons of Judah were Er and Onan, but they died in the land of Canaan.

[c] **26:4** *Take a census of the men* is implied but not included in the Hebrew; see verse 2.

[d] **26:12** *Nemuel* is another name for *Jemuel*; see Genesis 46:10.

[e] **26:13** *Zerah* is a variant of *Zohar*; see Genesis 46:10 and Exodus 6:15.

[f] **26:17** SP and Syriac *Arodi*; see Genesis 46:16.

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.

The Tribe of Issachar

23 These were the descendants of Issachar by their
clans: The Tolaite clan from Tola, the Punite clan
from Puvah,[a]
24 the Jashubite clan from Jashub,[b] and the Shim-
ronite clan from Shimron.
25 These were the clans of Issachar, and their registra-
tion numbered . . . 64,300.

The Tribe of Zebulun

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 registra-
tion numbered . . . 60,500.

The Tribe of Manasseh

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,[c] the Helekite clan from Helek,
31 the Asrielite clan from Asriel, the Shechemite clan
from Shechem,
32 the Shemidaite clan from Shemida, and the Hep-
herite 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 regis-
tration numbered . . . 52,700.

The Tribe of Ephraim

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 registra-
tion numbered . . . 32,500. These clans were the
descendants of Joseph.

The Tribe of Benjamin

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 Shupham,[d] and the
Huphamite clan from Hupham.
40 And the descendants of Bela from Ard and Naaman
were the Ardite clan from Ard[e] and the Naamite
clan from Naaman.
41 These were the clans of Benjamin, and their regis-
tration numbered . . . 45,600.

The Tribe of Dan

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 regis-
tration numbered . . . 64,400.

The Tribe of Asher

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.

The Tribe of Naphtali

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 registra-
tion numbered . . . 45,400.
51 These men of Israel numbered 601,730 in all.

Inheritance by Lot

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.
54 Increase the inheritance for a large tribe and de-
crease it for a small one; each tribe is to receive its
inheritance according to the number of those regis-
tered.
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."

The Levites Numbered

57 Now these were the Levites numbered by their
clans: The Gershonite clan from Gershon, the Ko-
hathite 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 Am-
ram she bore Aaron, Moses, and their sister Miriam.
60 Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar were born to
Aaron,

[a] **26:23** SP, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *the Puite clan from Puah*; see 1 Chronicles 7:1.

[b] **26:24** *Jashub* is a variant of *Job*; see Genesis 46:13.

[c] **26:30** *Iezer* is a variant of *Abiezer*; see Joshua 17:2.

[d] **26:39** A few MT manuscripts, SP, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also LXX); most MT manuscripts *Shephupham*

[e] **26:40** SP and Vulgate (see also LXX); MT does not include *from Ard.*

61 but Nadab and Abihu died when they offered unauthorized[a] 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.

Only Caleb and Joshua Remain

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

The Daughters of Zelophehad

(Numbers 36:1–13)

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,
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.'"

Moses Requests a Successor

(Deuteronomy 3:23–29)

12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go up this mountain of the Abarim range[b] 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[c] 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."

Joshua to Succeed Moses

(Deuteronomy 31:1–8)

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.[d] 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

The Daily Offerings

(Exodus 29:38–44)

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,[e]

[a] **26:61** Or *strange*

[b] **27:12** LXX *Go up Mount Nebo beyond the Jordan*

[c] **27:14** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7.

[d] **27:21** Literally *the Lights*

[e] **28:4** Hebrew *between the two evenings*; also in verse 8

[a] **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.

5 along with a tenth of an ephah of fine flour[a] as a
grain offering, mixed with a quarter hin of oil from
pressed olives.[b]
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.

The Sabbath Offerings

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[c] 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.

The Monthly Offerings

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 unblem-
ished,
12 along with three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour[d]
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[e]
with each bull, a third of a hin[f] 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 sin offering.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

(Exodus 12:14–28; Leviticus 23:4–8; Deuteronomy 16:1–8)

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 sin offering to make
atonement for you.
23 You are to present these in addition to the regular
morning burnt offering.
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 assem-
bly; you must not do any regular work.

The Feast of Weeks

(Deuteronomy 16:9–12)

26 On the day of firstfruits, when you present an offer-
ing of new grain to the LORD during the Feast of
Weeks,[g] 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

The Feast of Trumpets

(Leviticus 23:23–25)

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[h] with the bull,
two-tenths of an ephah[i] with the ram,
4 and a tenth of an ephah[j] with each of the seven male
lambs.

[b] **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

[c] **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.

[d] **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.

[e] **28:14** *Half a hin* is approximately 1.9 quarts or 1.8 liters of wine.

[f] **28:14** *A third of a hin* is approximately 1.3 quarts or 1.2 liters of wine.

[g] **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*(see Acts 2:1).

[h] **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.

[i] **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.

[j] **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.

5 Include one male goat as a sin 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.

The Day of Atonement

(Leviticus 16:1–34; Leviticus 23:26–32)

7 On the tenth day of this seventh month, you are to hold a sacred assembly, and you shall humble yourselves;[a] 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.
11 Include one male goat for a sin offering, in addition to the sin offering of atonement and the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offerings.

The Feast of Tabernacles

(Deuteronomy 16:13–17)

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 sin 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 sin 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 sin 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 sin 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 sin 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 sin 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 sin 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 bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed.
38 Include one male goat as a sin 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.”
40 So Moses spoke all this to the Israelites just as the LORD had commanded him.

30

Laws about Vows

(Matthew 5:33–37)

1 Then Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel, “This is what the LORD has commanded:
2 If a man makes a vow to the LORD or swears an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break

[a] **29:7** Or *afflict your souls* or *deny yourselves*

his word; he must do everything he has promised.[a]
3 And if a woman in her father's house during her
youth makes a vow to the LORD or obligates herself
by a pledge,
4 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.
5 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.
6 If a woman marries while under a vow or rash
promise by which she has bound herself,
7 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.
8 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.
9 Every vow a widow or divorced woman pledges to
fulfill is binding on her.
10 If a woman in her husband's house has made a vow
or put herself under an obligation with an oath,
11 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.
12 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 hus-
band has nullified them, and the LORD will absolve
her.
13 Her husband may confirm or nullify any vow or any
sworn pledge to deny herself.[b]
14 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.
15 But if he nullifies them after he hears of them, then
he will bear her iniquity."
16 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

Vengeance on Midian

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, every-
thing 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."

Division of the Spoils

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.

[a] **30:2** Cited in Matthew 5:33

[b] **30:13** Or *to fast*

30 From the Israelites' half, take one out of every fifty,
whether persons, cattle, donkeys, sheep, or other an-
imals, 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 sol-
diers 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.

The Voluntary Offering

48 Then the officers who were over the units of the
army — the commanders of thousands and of hun-
dreds — 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.[a]
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 hun-
dreds and brought it into the Tent of Meeting as a
memorial for the Israelites before the LORD.

32

The Tribes East of the Jordan

(Deuteronomy 3:12–22; Joshua 13:8–14)

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, Se-
bam,[b] Nebo, and Beon,
4 which the LORD conquered before the congregation
of Israel, are suitable for livestock — and your ser-
vants 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 cross-
ing 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[c] to go
ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them
into their place. Meanwhile, our little ones will re-
main in the fortified cities for protection from the
inhabitants of the land.
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

[a] **31:52** *16,750 shekels* is approximately 420.8 pounds or 190.9 kilograms.

[b] **32:3** Hebrew; see verse 38, and similarly in SP and LXX *Sibmah*

[c] **32:17** LXX *we will arm ourselves for battle*

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

33

Forty-Two Journeys of the Israelites

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[b] 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 Pi-hahiroth[c] 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 Red Sea.[d]
11 They set out from the Red Sea and camped in the Desert of Sin.[e]
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.
30 They set out from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.
31 They set out from Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan.

[a] **32:41** *Havvoth-jair* means *the villages of Jair*.

[b] **33:3** Or *marched out boldly*; literally *marched out with an upraised hand*

[c] **33:8** Some Hebrew manuscripts, SP, and Vulgate; see verse 7; most MT manuscripts *Hahiroth*

[d] **33:10** Or *the Sea of Reeds*; also in verse 11

[e] **33:11** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*; also in verse 12.

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[a] 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[b] 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.[c]

Instructions for Occupying Canaan

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."

[a] **33:45** *Iyim* is another name for *Iye-abarim*; see verse 44.

[b] **33:47** Or *the mountains beyond the river*; also in verse 48

[c] **33:49** Or *the Meadow of the Acacias*; that is, an area in the lowlands of Moab

34

The Boundaries of Canaan

(Genesis 15:8–21)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
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,[d]
4 cross south of the Ascent of Akrabbim,[e] 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.[f]
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.[g]
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."

Leaders to Divide the Land

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;

[d] **34:3** That is, the Dead Sea; also in verse 12

[e] **34:4** Or *the Ascent of Scorpions* or *Scorpion Pass*

[f] **34:5** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 6 and 7

[g] **34:11** That is, the Sea of Galilee

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.

35

Forty-Eight Cities for the Levites

(Joshua 21:1–45; 1 Chronicles 6:54–81)

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[a] from the wall on every side.
5 You are also to measure two thousand cubits[b] 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 larger 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."

Six Cities of Refuge

(Deuteronomy 4:41–43; Deuteronomy 19:1–14; Joshua 20:1–9)

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,
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."

[a] **35:4** *1,000 cubits* is approximately 1,500 feet or 457.2 meters.

[b] **35:5** *2,000 cubits* is approximately 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters.

36

Zelophehad's Daughters Marry

(Numbers 27:1–11)

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 any-
one 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 inher-
itance."
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

Book of Deuteronomy

1

The Command to Leave Horeb

(Exodus 33:1–6)

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[a] 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:[b]
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,[c] 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."

Moses Appoints Leaders

(Exodus 18:13–27)

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.

Twelve Spies Sent Out

(Numbers 13:1–33)

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 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."

Israel's Rebellion

(Numbers 14:1–12)

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 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.

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[a] **1:2** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai; also in verses 6 and 19

[b] **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.

[c] **1:7** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

Israel's Penalty

(Numbers 14:20–35)

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 Red Sea.[a] "

The Defeat at Hormah

(Numbers 14:40–45)

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 pre-
sumptuously 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 from 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

Wanderings in the Wilderness

1 Then we turned back and headed for the wilderness
by way of the Red Sea,[b] 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 jour-
ney 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.
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[c] and settled in their place.)

[a] **1:40** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[b] **2:1** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[c] **2:23** That is, Crete

The Defeat of Sihon

(Numbers 21:21–30)

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 messen-
gers 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 de-
liver 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[a] the people of every city, including
women and children. We left no survivors.
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

The Defeat of Og

(Numbers 21:31–35)

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,[b] 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,[c] is still in Rabbah of the
Ammonites.)

Land Division East of the Jordan

(Numbers 32:1–42; Joshua 13:8–14)

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 coun-
try 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 en-
tire 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 re-
gion of Argob as far as the border of the Geshurites
and Maacathites. He renamed Bashan after himself,
Havvoth-jair,[d] by which it is called to this day.
15 To Machir I gave Gilead,
16 and to the Reubenites and Gadites I gave the terri-
tory 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.
17 The Jordan River in the Arabah bordered it from
Chinnereth to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea[e])
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

[a] **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.

[b] **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.

[c] **3:11** Og's bed was approximately 14 feet long and 6 feet wide (4.3 meters long and 1.8 meters wide).

[d] **3:14** Or *the villages of Jair*

[e] **3:17** That is, the Dead Sea

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."

Moses Forbidden to Cross the Jordan

(Numbers 27:12–17)
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

An Exhortation to Obedience

(Deuteronomy 11:1–7)
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."
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,[a] 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[b] 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.

A Warning against Idolatry

(Deuteronomy 12:29–32; Ezekiel 6:1–7)
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.
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,[c] 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—

[a] **4:10** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai; also in verse 15
[b] **4:13** Hebrew *the Ten Words*
[c] **4:24** Cited in Hebrews 12:29

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.
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.

The LORD Alone Is God

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 God[a] 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 their de-
scendants after them 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.

Cities of Refuge

(Numbers 35:9–34; Deuteronomy 19:1–14; Joshua 20:1–9)

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 Manas-
sites.

Introduction to the Law

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

5

The Covenant at Horeb

1 Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:
[d] 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.
[e]
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.

The Ten Commandments

(Exodus 20:1–17)

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 before Me.[f]
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 beneath.
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,

[a] **4:33** Or *of a god*

[b] **4:48** Or *Sion*; Syriac *Sirion*

[c] **4:49** That is, the Dead Sea

[d] **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.

[e] **5:2** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

[f] **5:7** Or *besides Me*

[a] **5:10** Hebrew *loving devotion to thousands*; forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving de-*

10 but showing loving devotion to a thousand generations[a] 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 manservant or maidservant, nor your ox or donkey or any of your livestock, nor the foreigner within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant 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.[b]
17 You shall not murder.[c]
18 You shall not commit adultery.[d]
19 You shall not steal.[e]
20 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.[f]
21 You shall not covet[g] your neighbor's wife. You shall not covet your neighbor's house or field, or his manservant or maidservant, or his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Moses Intercedes for the People

(Exodus 20:18–21; Hebrews 12:18–29)

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

The Greatest Commandment

(Matthew 22:34–40; Mark 12:28–34)

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 our God, the LORD is One.[h]
5 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.[i]
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,

votion; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

[b] **5:16** Cited in Matthew 15:4, Matthew 19:19, Mark 7:10, Luke 18:20, and Ephesians 6:2–3

[c] **5:17** Cited in Matthew 5:21, Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20, Romans 13:9, and James 2:11

[d] **5:18** Cited in Matthew 5:27, Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20, Romans 13:9, and James 2:11

[e] **5:19** Cited in Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20, and Romans 13:9

[f] **5:20** Cited in Matthew 19:18, Mark 10:19, and Luke 18:20

[g] **5:21** Cited in Romans 7:7 and Romans 13:9

[h] **6:4** Or *The LORD our God is One LORD* or *The LORD is our God, the LORD is One* or *The LORD is our God, the LORD alone*; cited in Mark 12:29

[i] **6:5** Cited in Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, and Luke 10:27

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.[a]
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.[b]
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 your God
swore to give your fathers,
19 driving out all your enemies before you, as the LORD
has said.

Teach Your Children

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 devas-
tating 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

Drive Out the Nations

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 Je-
busites, seven nations larger and stronger than you
—
2 and when the LORD your God has delivered them
over to you to defeat them, then you must devote
them to complete destruction.[c] Make no treaty[d]
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 devo-
tion 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 ordi-
nances that I am giving you to follow this day.

The Promises of God

(Exodus 23:20–33)

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:
19 the great trials that you saw, the signs and wonders,
and the mighty hand and outstretched arm by which

[a] **6:13** Or *serve Him, and take your oaths only in His name*; cited in Matthew 4:10 and Luke 4:8

[b] **6:16** *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7; cited in Matthew 4:7 and Luke 4:12.

[c] **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.

[d] **7:2** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.

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

Remember the LORD Your God

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 every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.[a]
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.
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

Assurance of Victory

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.

[a] **8:3** Cited in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4

The Golden Calf

(Exodus 32:1–35; Acts 7:39–43)

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[a] 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[b] 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,[c] at Massah,[d] and at Kibroth-hattaavah.[e]
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.
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

New Stone Tablets

(Exodus 34:1–9)

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[f] 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[g] 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.

[a] **9:8** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai
[b] **9:19** LXX *And I am greatly terrified*; cited in Hebrews 12:21
[c] **9:22** *Taberah* means *burning*; see Numbers 11:3.
[d] **9:22** *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7.
[e] **9:22** *Kibroth-hattaavah* means *graves of craving*; see Numbers 11:34.
[f] **10:4** Hebrew *the Ten Words*
[g] **10:6** Or *from the wells of the Bene-jaakan*

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."

A Call to Obedience

(Joshua 24:14–28)

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 every-
thing in it.
15 Yet the LORD has set His affection on your fathers
and loved them. And He has chosen you, their de-
scendants after them, above all the peoples, even to
this day.
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 your-
selves 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

Obedience and Discipline

(Deuteronomy 4:1–14)

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 out-
stretched 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 Red Sea
[a] 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.

God's Great Blessings

(Joshua 1:1–9)

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 pos-
sess 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,
14 then I will provide[b] 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 live-
stock, 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.

Remember God's Words

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 multi-
plied 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.

[a] **11:4** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[b] **11:14** Hebrew; SP, LXX, and Vulgate *He will provide*; also in verse 15

24 Every place where the sole of your foot treads will
be yours. Your territory will extend from the wilder-
ness to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to
the Western Sea.[a]
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.

A Blessing and a Curse

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 Oak[b] 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.

12

One Place for Worship

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 every
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 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 offer-
ings you vow to the LORD.
12 And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God
— you, your sons and daughters, your menservants
and maidservants, 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 menservants and maidservants, 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.

[a] **11:24** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

[b] **11:30** SP, LXX, and Syriac (see Genesis 12:6); Hebrew *Oaks* or *Terebinths* or *Great Trees*

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.

A Warning against Idolatry

(Deuteronomy 4:15–31; Ezekiel 6:1–7)

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.
32 See that you do everything I command you; do not
add to it or subtract from it.

13

Idolaters to Be Put to Death

1 If a prophet or dreamer of dreams arises among you
and proclaims a sign or wonder to you,
2 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,"
3 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.
4 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.
5 Such a prophet or dreamer must be put to death, be-
cause 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.[a]
6 If your very own brother, or your son or daughter,
or the wife you embrace,[b] or your closest friend
secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and worship
other gods" (which neither you nor your fathers
have known,
7 the gods of the peoples around you, whether near or
far, whether from one end of the earth or the other),
8 you must not yield to him or listen to him. Show him
no pity, and do not spare him or shield him.
9 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.
10 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.
11 Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will
never again do such a wicked thing among you.

Idolatrous Cities to Be Destroyed

12 If, regarding one of the cities the LORD your God is
giving you to inhabit, you hear it said
13 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),
14 then you must inquire, investigate, and interrogate
thoroughly. And if it is established with certainty
that this abomination has been committed among
you,
15 you must surely put the inhabitants of that city to
the sword. Devote to destruction[c] all its people and
livestock.
16 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.
17 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,
18 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

Clean and Unclean Animals

(Leviticus 11:1–47; Acts 10:9–16)

1 You are sons of the LORD your God; do not cut your-
selves 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:[d] 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.
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.[e] 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,

[a] **13:5** Cited in 1 Corinthians 5:13

[b] **13:6** Hebrew *the wife of your bosom*

[c] **13:15** 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 17.

[d] **14:4** The precise identification of some of the birds and animals in this chapter is uncertain.

[e] **14:7** Or *the coney* or *the hyrax*

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,[a] 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.

Giving Tithes

(Leviticus 27:30–34; Deuteronomy 26:1–15; Nehemiah 13:10–14)

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.
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

The Seventh Year

(Exodus 23:10–13; Leviticus 25:1–7)

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.

Generosity in Lending and Giving

(Matthew 6:1–4)

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[b] 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.

Hebrew Servants

(Exodus 21:1–11)

12 If a fellow Hebrew, a man or a woman, is sold[c] 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 servant for life. And treat your maidservant the same way.
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.

[a] **14:15** Literally *the daughter of the ostrich* or *the daughter of the owl*

[b] **15:7** Or *make strong* or *make courageous*

[c] **15:12** Or *sells himself*

Firstborn Animals

(Exodus 13:1–16)

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

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

(Exodus 12:14–28; Leviticus 23:4–8; Numbers 28:16–25)

1 Observe the month of Abib[a] 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.

The Feast of Weeks

(Numbers 28:26–31)

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[b] 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 menservants and maidservants, 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.

The Feast of Tabernacles

(Numbers 29:12–40)

13 You are to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles[c] 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 menservants and maidservants, 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,[d] the Feast of Weeks,[e] and the Feast of Tabernacles.[f] 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.

Judges and Justice

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.

Forbidden Forms of Worship

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

Detestable Sacrifices

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.

[a] **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.
[b] **16:10** That is, Shavuot; see footnotes for verse 16.
[c] **16:13** Or *Booths* or *Shelters*; see footnotes for verse 16.
[d] **16:16** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.
[e] **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*(see Acts 2:1).
[f] **16:16** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering*(see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

Purge the Idolater

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.[a]

Courts of Law

8 If a case is too difficult for you to judge, whether the
controversy within your gates is regarding blood-
shed, 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 every-
thing 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.

Guidelines for a King

(1 Samuel 8:1–9)

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 broth-
ers.
16 But the king must not acquire many horses for him-
self 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 country-
men, and he will not turn aside from the command-
ment, to the right or to the left, in order that he and
his sons may reign many years over his kingdom in
Israel.

18

Provision for Priests and Levites

(1 Corinthians 9:1–18)

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.

Sorcery Forbidden

(Acts 8:9–25)

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,[b] practices divination or
conjury, interprets omens, practices sorcery,
11 casts spells, consults a medium or spiritist, or in-
quires 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.

[a] **17:7** Cited in 1 Corinthians 5:13

[b] **18:10** Literally *makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire*

A Prophet Like Moses

(Acts 3:11–26)

15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet
like me from among your brothers. You must listen
to him.[a]
16 This is what you asked of the LORD your God at
Horeb[b] on the day of the assembly, when you said,
"Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God or
see this great fire anymore, so that we 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.[c]
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

Cities of Refuge

(Numbers 35:9–34; Deuteronomy 4:41–43; Joshua 20:1–9)

1 When the LORD your God has cut off the nations
whose land He is giving you, and when you have dri-
ven 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 build roads for yourselves[d] 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 intending
to harm him:
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 did not intend any harm.
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.

The Testimony of Two or Three Witnesses

(Matthew 18:15–20)

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 wit-
nesses.[e]
16 If a false witness testifies against someone, accusing
him of a crime,
17 both parties to the dispute must stand in the pres-
ence 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.[f]
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,[g] hand for hand, and foot for foot.

20

Laws of Warfare

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 faint-

[a] **18:15** Cited in Acts 3:22

[b] **18:16** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

[c] **18:19** See Acts 3:23.

[d] **19:3** Or *You are to survey the way*

[e] **19:15** Cited in Matthew 18:16 and 2 Corinthians 13:1

[f] **19:19** Cited in 1 Corinthians 5:13

[g] **19:21** Cited in Matthew 5:38

hearted 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 [a] — 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. Use them to build siege works against the city that is waging war against you, until it falls.

21

Atonement for an Unsolved Murder

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.
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.

Marrying a Captive Woman

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.

Inheritance Rights of the Firstborn

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.

[a] **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.

A Rebellious Son

(Luke 15:11–32)

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, "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,[a] and
all Israel will hear and be afraid.

Cursed Is Anyone Hung on a Tree

22 If a man has committed a sin worthy of death, and
he is executed, and you hang his body on a tree,[b]
23 you must not leave the body on the tree overnight,
but you must be sure to bury him that day, because
anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse.[c]
You must not defile the land that the LORD your God
is giving you as an inheritance.

22

Various Laws

1 If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, you
must not ignore it;[d] 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 defiled[e] — 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.

Marriage Violations

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 say to the elders, "I gave my daughter in mar-
riage 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[f] 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.[g]
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,[h] and she must

[a] **21:21** Cited in 1 Corinthians 5:13

[b] **21:22** Or *impale his body on a pole*; similarly in verse 23

[c] **21:23** LXX; Hebrew *anyone who is hanged is under God's curse*; cited in Galatians 3:13

[d] **22:1** Or *you must not hide yourself*

[e] **22:9** Or *will be forfeited to the sanctuary*

[f] **22:19** *100 shekels* is approximately 2.5 pounds or 1.1 kilograms of silver.

[g] **22:21** Here and in verse 24; cited in 1 Corinthians 5:13

[h] **22:29** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver.

become his wife because he has violated her. He must not divorce her as long as he lives.
30 A man is not to marry his father's wife, so that he will not dishonor his father's marriage bed.[a]

23

Exclusion from the Congregation

1 No man with crushed or severed genitals may enter the assembly of the LORD.
2 No one of illegitimate birth may enter the assembly of the LORD, nor may any of his descendants, even to the tenth generation.
3 No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even to the tenth generation.
4 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[b] to curse you.
5 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.
6 You are not to seek peace or prosperity from them as long as you live.
7 Do not despise an Edomite, for he is your brother. Do not despise an Egyptian, because you lived as a foreigner in his land.
8 The third generation of children born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Uncleanness in the Camp

(Leviticus 15:1–12)

9 When you are encamped against your enemies, then you shall keep yourself from every wicked thing.
10 If any man among you becomes unclean because of a nocturnal emission, he must leave the camp and stay outside.
11 When evening approaches, he must wash with water, and when the sun sets he may return to the camp.
12 You must have a place outside the camp to go and relieve yourself.
13 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.
14 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.

Miscellaneous Laws

15 Do not return a slave to his master if he has taken refuge with you.
16 Let him live among you wherever he chooses, in the town of his pleasing. Do not oppress him.
17 No daughter or son of Israel is to be a shrine prostitute.
18 You must not bring the wages of a prostitute, whether female or male,[c] into the house of the LORD your God to fulfill any vow, because both are detestable to the LORD your God.
19 Do not charge your brother interest on money, food, or any other type of loan.
20 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.
21 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.
22 But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty of sin.
23 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.
24 When you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, but you must not put any in your basket.
25 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

Marriage and Divorce Laws

(Matthew 5:31–32; Luke 16:18)

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,[d] 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.

Additional Laws

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.[e]
8 In cases of infectious skin diseases,[f] be careful to diligently follow everything the Levitical priests in-

[a] **22:30** Or *uncover his father's skirt*

[b] **23:4** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia.

[c] **23:18** Hebrew *or a dog*

[d] **24:1** Cited in Matthew 5:31; see also Mark 10:4.

[e] **24:7** Cited in 1 Corinthians 5:13

[f] **24:8** Forms of the Hebrew *tzaraath*, traditionally translated as *leprosy*, were used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

struct 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.[a]
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

Fairness and Mercy

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.[b]

Widowhood and Marriage

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.[c]
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.

Standard Weights and Measures

(Proverbs 11:1–3; Ezekiel 45:10–12)

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.

Revenge on the Amalekites

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

Offering Firstfruits and Tithes

(Leviticus 27:30–34; Deuteronomy 14:22–29; Nehemiah 13:10–14)

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,

[a] **24:16** Cited in 2 Kings 14:6 and 2 Chronicles 25:4

[b] **25:4** Cited in 1 Corinthians 9:9 and 1 Timothy 5:18

[c] **25:5** Cited in Matthew 22:24, Mark 12:19, and Luke 20:28

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 for-
eigner dwelling among you — in all the good things
the LORD your God has given to you and your house-
hold.
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 of-
fered 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.”

Obey the LORD’s Commands

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

The Altar on Mount Ebal

(Joshua 8:30–35)

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.”

Curses Pronounced from Ebal

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 for-
eigner, 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 violated his father's marriage bed.'[a] 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.'[b] And let all the people say, 'Amen!'"

28

The Blessings of Obedience

(Leviticus 25:18–22)

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.

The Curses of Disobedience

(Leviticus 20:1–9; Leviticus 26:14–39)

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 Him.[c]
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 drought,[d] 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 tumors 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 violate 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.

[a] **27:20** Or *uncovered his father's skirt*

[b] **27:26** LXX *Cursed is every man who does not continue in all the words of this law*; cited in Galatians 3:10

[c] **28:20** Hebrew *Me*

[d] **28:22** Or *sword*

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.
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 nei-
ther 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 pur-
sue 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 desti-
tution. 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 through-
out 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,[a] 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 gates.[b]
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[c] 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 gates.
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 extra-
ordinary 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 Law,
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 na-
tions, 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.”

[a] **28:54** Hebrew *the wife of his bosom*

[b] **28:55** Or *within all your cities*; similarly in verse 57

[c] **28:56** Hebrew *the husband of her bosom*

29

The Covenant in Moab

1 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.[a]

2 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.
3 You saw with your own eyes the great trials, and those miraculous signs and wonders.
4 Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a mind to understand, eyes to see, or ears to hear.
5 For forty years I led you in the wilderness, yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out.
6 You ate no bread and drank no wine or strong drink, so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.
7 When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out against us in battle, but we defeated them.
8 We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.
9 So keep and follow the words of this covenant, that you may prosper in all you do.
10 All of you are standing today before the LORD your God— you leaders of tribes,[b] elders, officials, and all the men of Israel,
11 your children and wives, and the foreigners in your camps who cut your wood and draw your water—
12 so that you may enter into the covenant of the LORD your God, which He is making with you today, and into His oath,
13 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.
14 I am making this covenant and this oath not only with you,
15 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.
16 For you yourselves know how we lived in the land of Egypt and how we passed through the nations on the way here.
17 You saw the abominations and idols among them made of wood and stone, of silver and gold.
18 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,[c]
19 because when such a person hears the words of this oath,[d] 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.
20 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
21 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 Law.
22 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.
23 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.
24 So all the nations will ask, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?'
25 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.
26 They went and served other gods, and they worshiped gods they had not known— gods that the LORD had not given to them.
27 Therefore the anger of the LORD burned against this land, and He brought upon it every curse written in this book.
28 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 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

The Promise of Restoration

(Nehemiah 1:1–11)

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 you from captivity[e] 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,[f] He will gather you and return you from there.[g]
5 And the LORD your God will bring you into the land your fathers possessed, and you will take possession

[a] **29:1** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai
[b] **29:10** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew *you leaders, tribes*
[c] **29:18** See Hebrews 12:15
[d] **29:19** Or *curse*
[e] **30:3** Or *restore your fortunes*
[f] **30:4** Or *to the extremity of the heavens*
[g] **30:4** Cited in Nehemiah 1:8–9

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 Law, and if you turn to Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

The Choice of Life or Death

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[a] 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[b] 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,[c] 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,
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

Joshua to Succeed Moses

(Numbers 27:18–23)

1 When Moses had finished speaking[d] 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."[e]
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."

The Reading of the Law

(Nehemiah 8:1–8)

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 Tabernacles,[f]
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."

God Commissions Joshua

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.

[a] **30:12** Cited in Romans 10:6

[b] **30:13** See Romans 10:7.

[c] **30:14** Cited in Romans 10:8

[d] **31:1** DSS and LXX; MT *When Moses went out and spoke*

[e] **31:6** Cited in Hebrews 13:5; here and in verse 8

[f] **31:10** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* 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 their inclination, 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."

The Law Placed in the Ark

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 Law 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."

Moses Begins His Song

30 Then Moses recited aloud to the whole assembly of Israel the words of this song from beginning to end:

32

The Song of Moses

(Revelation 15:1–4)

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.[a]
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 God.[b]
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[c] 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.[d]
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.
15 But Jeshurun[e] grew fat and kicked— becoming fat, bloated, and gorged. He abandoned the God who made him and scorned the Rock of his salvation.
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.

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[a] **32:5** Cited in Philippians 2:15

[b] **32:8** DSS; LXX *according to the number of the angels of God*; MT *according to the number of the sons of Israel*

[c] **32:10** Literally *the pupil*

[d] **32:11** *Pinions* are the outer parts of a bird's wings, including the flight feathers.

[e] **32:15** *Jeshurun* means *the upright one* , a term of endearment for Israel.

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;[a] I will make them angry by a nation without understanding.[b]
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, 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.[c]
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; I will repay.[d] 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[e] 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 heavens, with Him, and let all God's angels worship Him.][f] Rejoice, O nations, with His people;[g] for He will avenge the blood of His children.[h] He will take vengeance on His adversaries [and repay those who hate Him];[i] He will cleanse His land and His people.
44 Then Moses came with Joshua[j] 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."

Moses' Death Foretold

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

Moses Blesses the Twelve Tribes

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 us[k] from Seir; He shone forth from Mount

[a] **32:21** Or *not a nation*; see also LXX.
[b] **32:21** Cited in Romans 10:19
[c] **32:31** Hebrew; LXX *but our enemies are void of understanding*
[d] **32:35** LXX; Hebrew *Vengeance is Mine, and recompense*; cited in Romans 12:19 and Hebrews 10:30
[e] **32:36** Or *will judge His people*; see also LXX; cited in Hebrews 10:30
[f] **32:43** See DSS and LXX; MT lacks *Rejoice, O heavens, with Him, and let all God's angels worship Him.*Cited in Hebrews 1:6
[g] **32:43** Cited in Romans 15:10
[h] **32:43** DSS and LXX; MT *servants*
[i] **32:43** LXX and Vulgate; MT lacks *and repay those who hate Him*
[j] **32:44** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *Hoshea*, a variant of *Joshua*
[k] **33:2** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *upon them*

Paran and came with myriads of holy ones, with flaming fire at His right hand.[a]
3 Surely You love the people; all the holy ones are in Your hand, and they sit down at Your feet;[b] 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[c] when the leaders of the people gathered, when the tribes of Israel came together.
6 Let Reuben live and not die, nor[d] his men be few."
7 And concerning Judah he said: "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 to Levi and Your Urim to Your godly one,[e] whom You tested at Massah[f] and contested at the waters of Meribah.[g]
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[h] 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; God shields[i] 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."
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 sea[j] 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. Your enemies will cower before you, and you shall trample their high places."

34

The Death of Moses

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,[k]
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[l] in a valley in the land of Moab facing Beth-peor, and no one to this day knows the location of his grave.

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[a] **33:2** Or *with myriads of holy ones from the south, from His mountain slopes*

[b] **33:3** Or *they follow in Your steps*

[c] **33:5** *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, a term of endearment for Israel; also in verse 26.

[d] **33:6** Or *but let*

[e] **33:8** DSS and LXX; MT does not include *to Levi*; literally *Let Your Perfections and Your Lights be to Your godly one*.

[f] **33:8** *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7.

[g] **33:8** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7.

[h] **33:9** Hebrew *they kept*, most likely referring to Levi in the plural; similarly twice in verse 10

[i] **33:12** LXX; Hebrew *He shields*

[j] **33:23** Or *the west*

[k] **34:2** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

[l] **34:6** SP and some LXX manuscripts *they buried him*

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[a] that Moses did in the
sight of all Israel.

[a] **34:12** Or *terrifying deeds*

Joshua

Book of Joshua

1

God Instructs Joshua

(Deuteronomy 11:8–17)

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.[a]
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.[b]
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 com-
manded 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 Law 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 coura-
geous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for
the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua Takes Charge

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.
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

Rahab Welcomes the Spies

(Hebrews 11:30–31)

1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from
Shittim,[c] 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.

The Promise to Rahab

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 Red Sea[d] 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.[e]
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

[a] **1:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea

[b] **1:5** Cited in Hebrews 13:5

[c] **2:1** Or *Acacia Grove*

[d] **2:10** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[e] **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.

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 pur-
suers 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
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 hap-
pened 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

Crossing the Jordan

1 Early the next morning Joshua got up and left Shittim
[a] 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[b]
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.
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 up-
stream as Adam, a city in the area of Zarethan, while
the water flowing toward the Sea of the Arabah
(the Salt Sea[c]) 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

Twelve Stones from the Jordan

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 ap-
pointed 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."

[a] **3:1** Or *Acacia Grove*

[b] **3:4** *2,000 cubits* is approximately 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters.

[c] **3:16** That is, the Dead Sea

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,[a] 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.
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 Tes-
timony[b] 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 re-
turned to their course and overflowed all the banks
as before.

The Camp at Gilgal

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 Red Sea,[c] 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

The Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal

1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan
and all the Canaanite kings along the coast[d] heard
how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan
before the Israelites until they had crossed over,[e]
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.
[f] "
3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons
of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.[g]
4 Now this is why Joshua circumcised them: All those
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.
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[h] 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.

The Commander of the LORD's Army

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 Comman-
der of the LORD's army." Then Joshua fell facedown
in reverence[i] and asked Him, "What does my Lord
have to say to His servant?"

[a] **4:9** Some translators *And Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan*

[b] **4:16** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

[c] **4:23** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[d] **5:1** That is, along the Mediterranean coast; literally *along the sea*

[e] **5:1** Or *until we had crossed over*

[f] **5:2** Literally *again the second time*

[g] **5:3** *Gibeath-haaraloth* means *the hill of the foreskins.*

[h] **5:9** *Gilgal* sounds like the Hebrew for *roll.*

[i] **5:14** Or *and paid homage* or *and worshiped*

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

The Walls of Jericho

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[a] and all your people will charge straight into the city.[b] "
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!"
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.[c] 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."[d]
27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

7

The Defeat at Ai

1 The Israelites, however, acted unfaithfully regarding the things devoted to destruction.[e] Achan[f] son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi,[g] 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

[a] **6:5** Or *fall under itself* or *fall flat*; similarly in verse 20

[b] **6:5** Literally *and the people will go up, every man straight ahead*; similarly in verse 20

[c] **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.

[d] **6:26** See 1 Kings 16:34.

[e] **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.

[f] **7:1** *Achan* means *troubler*; also called *Achar* in 1 Chronicles 2:7.

[g] **7:1** *Zabdi* is a variant of *Zimri*; also in verses 17 and 18; see LXX and 1 Chronicles 2:6.

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 the quarries[a] 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 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.’”

The Sin of Achan

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,[b] two hundred shekels of silver,[c] and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels,[d] 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[e] to this day.

8

The Conquest of Ai

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.
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

[a] **7:5** Or *as far as Shebarim*

[b] **7:21** That is, Babylonia

[c] **7:21** *200 shekels* is approximately 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of silver.

[d] **7:21** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of gold.

[e] **7:26** *Achor* means *trouble*.

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 men of Ai 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 battle lance[a] toward Ai, for into your hand I will deliver the city." So Joshua held out his battle lance 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 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 battle lance until he had devoted to destruction[b] 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[c] and made it a permanent heap of ruins, a desolation to this day.
29 He hung the king of Ai on a tree[d] until evening, and at sunset Joshua commanded that they take down the body from the tree 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.

Joshua Renews the Covenant

(Deuteronomy 27:1–10)

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 Law of Moses: "an altar of uncut stones on which no iron tool has been used."[e] 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 Law.
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

The Deceit of the Gibeonites

1 Now when news of this reached all the kings west of the Jordan — those in the hill country, the foothills,[f] and all along the coast of the Great Sea[g]

[a] **8:18** Or *javelin*; twice in this verse, and also in verse 26

[b] **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.

[c] **8:28** *Ai* means *ruin*.

[d] **8:29** Or *He impaled the king of Ai on a pole*

[e] **8:31** Exodus 20:25; Deuteronomy 27:5

[f] **9:1** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[g] **9:1** That is, the Mediterranean 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,[a] 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.
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[b] 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."
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

The Day the Sun Stood Still

1 Now Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and devoted it to destruction[c] — 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.

[a] **9:4** Or *set out with provisions*

[b] **9:6** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; also in verses 7, 11, 15, and 16.

[c] **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 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."[a]
13 So the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the
nation took vengeance upon its enemies.[b] Is this not
written in the Book of Jashar?[c] "So the sun stopped
in the middle of the sky and delayed going down
about a full day."[d]
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.

The Victory at Makkedah

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 forti-
fied 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 hung their bodies on five trees[e] and left
them there until evening.
27 At sunset Joshua ordered that they be taken down
from the trees 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 de-
struction everyone in the city, leaving no survivors.
So he did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to
the king of Jericho.

Conquest of the Southern Cities

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.
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 destruc-
tion 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 destruc-
tion 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,[f] 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.

[a] **10:12** See Jasher 88:63.

[b] **10:13** Or *triumphed over its enemies*

[c] **10:13** Or *the Book of the Upright One*, commonly cited as *Jasher*

[d] **10:13** See Jasher 88:64.

[e] **10:26** Or *impaled their bodies on five poles*; similarly in verse 27

[f] **10:40** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

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

Conquest of the Northern Cities

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,[a] and in
Naphoth-dor[b] to the west;
3 to the Canaanites in the east and west; to the Amor-
ites, 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 multi-
tude 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 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 chari-
ots.
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.[c] 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 destruc-
tion, 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 peo-
ple 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.

Joshua Takes the Whole Land

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 harden[d] their hearts to en-
gage 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 allot-
ments to their tribes. Then the land had rest from
war.

12

The Kings Defeated East of the Jordan

1 Now these are the kings of the land whom the
Israelites struck down and whose lands they took be-
yond 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,
3 as well as the Arabah east of the Sea of Chinnereth
[e] to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea[f]), eastward
through Beth-jeshimoth, and southward below the
slopes of Pisgah.
4 And Og king of Bashan,[g] 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.

[a] **11:2** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea; also in verse 16

[b] **11:2** Or *in the heights of Dor*; *Naphoth-dor* is a variant of *Naphath-dor*; see Joshua 12:23.

[c] **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.

[d] **11:20** Or *stiffen* or *strengthen*

[e] **12:3** That is, the Sea of Galilee

[f] **12:3** That is, the Dead Sea

[g] **12:4** LXX; Hebrew *And the territory of Og king of Bashan*

The Kings Defeated West of the Jordan

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,[a] the Arabah, the slopes,
the wilderness, and the Negev — the lands of the Hit-
tites, 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,[b] one; the king of
Goiim in Gilgal,[c] one;
24 and the king of Tirzah, one. So there were thirty-one
kings in all.

13

Lands Yet Unconquered

(Judges 1:1–7)

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[d] of the Sidonians to Aphek, as far as the
border of the Amorites;
5 the land of the Gebalites;[e] 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 com-
manded you.
7 Now therefore divide this land as an inheritance to
the nine tribes and the half-tribe of Manasseh.”

The Inheritance East of the Jordan

(Numbers 32:1–42; Deuteronomy 3:12–22)

8 The other half of Manasseh, along with the Reuben-
ites 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.

Reuben’s Inheritance

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,
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.

Gad’s Inheritance

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 De-

[a] **12:8** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[b] **12:23** Or *in the heights of Dor*; *Naphath-dor* is a variant of *Naphoth-dor*; see Joshua 11:2.

[c] **12:23** Hebrew; LXX *Goyim in Galilee*

[d] **13:4** Or *Arah*

[e] **13:5** Or *the area of Byblos*

bir;[a]
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 [b]).
28 This was the inheritance of the clans of the Gadites, including the cities and villages.

Manasseh's Eastern Inheritance

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

Land Division West of the Jordan

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.
5 So the Israelites did as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they divided the land.

Caleb Requests Hebron

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

Judah's Inheritance

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,[c]
3 proceeded south of the Ascent of Akrabbim,[d] 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.[e] This was their[f] 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.
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).

[a] **13:26** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *Li-debir*, a variant of *Lo-debar*; see 2 Samuel 9:4, 2 Samuel 17:27, and Amos 6:13.
[b] **13:27** That is, the Sea of Galilee
[c] **15:2** That is, the Dead Sea; also in verse 5
[d] **15:3** Or *the Ascent of Scorpions* or *Scorpion Pass*
[e] **15:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 11, 12, and 47
[f] **15:4** LXX; Hebrew *your*

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.

Caleb's Portion and Conquest

(Judges 1:8–26)

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 daugh-
ter 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[a]
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.

The Cities of Judah

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.
33 These were in the foothills:[b] Eshtaol, Zorah, Ash-
nah,
34 Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam,
35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,
36 Shaaraim, Adithaim, and Gederah (or 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 Janim, 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.

16

Ephraim's Inheritance

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(that is, Luz)[c] 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.[d]
4 So Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, re-
ceived 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.

[a] **15:18** Hebrew and some LXX manuscripts; other LXX manuscripts *and he urged her*; see Judges 1:14.

[b] **15:33** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[c] **16:2** LXX (See also Joshua 18:13); Hebrew *from Bethel to Luz*

[d] **16:3** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 6 and 8

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

Manasseh's Western Inheritance

1 Now this was the allotment for the tribe of Manasseh
as Joseph's firstborn son, namely for Machir the first-
born 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,[a] 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 daugh-
ters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.
4 They approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of
Nun, and the leaders, and said, "The LORD com-
manded 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 in-
heritance 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 in-
clude the inhabitants of En-tappuah.
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 bor-
der of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook
and ended at the Sea.[b]
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 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 al-
though they are strong, you can drive them out."

18

The Remainder Divided

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, accord-
ing 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 Man-
asseh have already received the inheritance that
Moses the servant of the LORD gave them beyond
the Jordan to the east."
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.

[a] **17:2** *Abiezer* is a variant of *Iezer*; see Numbers 26:30.

[b] **17:9** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verse 10

Benjamin's Inheritance

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 south-
ern 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 of Beth-arabah
[a] 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,[b] 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-ammoni, Ophni, and Geba— twelve cities,
along with their villages.
25 Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,
26 Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah,
27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,
28 Zelah, Haeleph, Jebus[c] (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah,
[d] and Kiriath-jearim[e] — fourteen cities, along with
their villages. This was the inheritance of the clans
of the tribe of Benjamin.

19

Simeon's Inheritance

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 (or 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 de-
scendants was too large for them. So the Simeonites
received an inheritance within Judah's portion.

Zebulun's Inheritance

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 Iph-
tah-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.

Issachar's Inheritance

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.

Asher's Inheritance

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.
28 It went on to Ebron,[f] Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah,
as far as Greater Sidon.

[a] **18:18** LXX; Hebrew *slope facing the Arabah*

[b] **18:19** That is, the Dead Sea

[c] **18:28** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *the Jebusite*

[d] **18:28** Hebrew *Gibeath*

[e] **18:28** LXX; Hebrew *Kiriath*

[f] **19:28** Some Hebrew manuscripts *Abdon*; see Joshua 21:30.

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[a] 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.

Naphtali's Inheritance

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[b] 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.

Dan's Inheritance

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.

Joshua's Inheritance

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[c] 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.

20

Six Cities of Refuge

(Numbers 35:9–34; Deuteronomy 4:41–43; Deuteronomy 19:1–14)

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

Forty-Eight Cities for the Levites

(Numbers 35:1–8; 1 Chronicles 6:54–81)

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.

[a] **19:29** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

[b] **19:34** Hebrew; LXX *west, and the Jordan*

[c] **19:50** *Timnath-serah* is also known as *Timnath-heres*; see Judges 2:9.

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 pasture-
lands, 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, Gib-
bethon,
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, to-
gether 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 pasture-
lands, 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, Ma-
hanaim,
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 pas-
turelands; 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

The Eastern Tribes Return Home

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."

The Altar of Witness

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.

10 And when they came to Geliloth[a] 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 Man-
asseh have built an altar on the border of the land of
Canaan, at Geliloth 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 commit-
ted 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 pos-
session 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[b] son of Zerah unfaithful regarding
what was set apart for destruction,[c] 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.
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, sac-
rifices, 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 con-
gregation — 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 descen-
dants 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. Con-
sequently, 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 Wit-
ness, for they said,[d] "It is a witness between us that
the LORD is God."

23

Joshua's Charge to Leaders

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, be-
cause 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

[a] **22:10** Or *to the circle of stones* or *to the region*; similarly in verse 11

[b] **22:20** *Achan* means *troubler*; also called *Achar* in 1 Chronicles 2:7.

[c] **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.

[d] **22:34** Literally *named the altar, for*

the Great Sea.[a]
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 Law 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.
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 na-
tions 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

Joshua Reviews Israel's History

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[b] and worshiped other
gods.
3 But I took your father Abraham from beyond the Eu-
phrates 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 Egyp-
tians by what I did there, and afterward I brought
you out.
6 When I brought your fathers out of Egypt and you
reached the Red Sea,[c] the Egyptians pursued them
with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea.
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.
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.'

Choose Whom You Will Serve

(Deuteronomy 10:12–22)

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.

[a] **23:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea

[b] **24:2** Hebrew *the River*; also in verses 3, 14, and 15

[c] **24:6** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

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 Law
of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there
under the oak[a] 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.

Joshua's Death and Burial

(Judges 2:6–9)

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[b] 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.[c] 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.

[a] **24:26** Or *terebinth*

[b] **24:30** *Timnath-serah* is also known as *Timnath-heres*; see Judges 2:9.

[c] **24:32** Hebrew *a hundred kesitahs*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known.

Judges

Book of Judges

1

The Conquest of Canaan Proceeds

(Joshua 13:1–7)

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.

The Capture of Jerusalem and Hebron

(Joshua 15:13–19)

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.[a]
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[b] 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[c] 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.[d] So it was called Hormah.[e]
18 And Judah also captured[f] 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.

The Failure to Complete the Conquest

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,

[a] **1:9** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[b] **1:14** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate *and he urged her*; see Joshua 15:18.

[c] **1:16** That is, Jericho

[d] **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.

[e] **1:17** *Hormah* means *destruction*.

[f] **1:18** Hebrew; LXX *But Judah did not capture*

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[a] to Sela and beyond.

2

Israel Rebuked at Bochim

1 Now the angel[b] 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?
3 So now I tell you that I will not drive out these people before you; they will be thorns 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[c] and offered sacrifices there to the LORD.

Joshua's Death and Burial

(Joshua 24:29–33)

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[d] in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

Israel's Unfaithfulness

(Isaiah 43:22–28; Jeremiah 2:23–37)

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.[e] 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 He had sworn to them. So they were greatly distressed.

Judges Raised Up

16 Then the LORD raised up judges,[f] who saved them from the hands of those who plundered them.
17 Israel, however, did not listen to their judges. 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 judge for the Israelites, He was with that judge and saved them from the hands of their enemies while the judge 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 judge 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.
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

Nations Left to Test Israel

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

[a] **1:36** Or *the Ascent of Scorpions* or *Scorpion Pass*

[b] **2:1** Or *Angel* ; also in verse 4

[c] **2:5** *Bochim* means *weepers*.

[d] **2:9** *Timnath-heres* is also known as *Timnath-serah*; see Joshua 19:50 and Joshua 24:30.

[e] **2:14** Literally *of plunderers who plundered them*

[f] **2:16** Or *governors* or *leaders*; here and throughout the book of Judges

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.

Othniel

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,[a] 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 judge 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.

Ehud

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.[b]
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.[c] 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.
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.

Shamgar

31 After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath. And he too saved Israel, striking down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad.

4

Deborah and Barak

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 judging 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, be-

[a] **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.
[b] **3:13** That is, Jericho
[c] **3:16** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters.

cause 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
[a] 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.

Jael Kills Sisera

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 de-
stroyed him.

5

The Song of Deborah and Barak

(Exodus 15:1–21)

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 quaked 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 volun-
teers among the people. Bless the LORD!
10 You who ride white donkeys, who sit on saddle blan-
kets, and you who travel the road, ponder
11 the voices of the singers[b] at the watering places.
There they shall recount the righteous acts of the
LORD, the righteous deeds of His villagers[c] 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!'
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 bear-
ers 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 was great
indecision.[d]
16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds to hear the
whistling for the flocks? In the clans of Reuben there
was great indecision.
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; Naph-
tali, 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.

[a] **4:11** Or *brother-in-law*

[b] **5:11** Or *archers* or *those who divide the sheep*

[c] **5:11** Or *warriors*

[d] **5:15** Or *much searching of heart*; also in verse 16

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.
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 You shine like the sun at its bright-
est.” And the land had rest for forty years.

6

Midian Oppresses Israel

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 Mid-
ianites, Amalekites, and other people of the east
would come up and invade them,
4 encamping against them as far as Gaza and destroy-
ing 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 be-
cause 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 fear[a] the gods of the Amorites, in whose land
you dwell.’ But you did not obey Me.”

The Call of Gideon

11 Then the angel[b] of the LORD came and sat down
under the oak[c] in Ophrah that belonged to Joash
the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing
wheat in a winepress to hide it from the Midianites.
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, say-
ing, ‘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[d] 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.[e] He placed
the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot and
brought them out to present to Him under the oak.
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.[f] To this day it stands in
Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Gideon Destroys Baal’s Altar

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.”

[a] **6:10** Or *worship*

[b] **6:11** Or *Angel* ; also in verses 12, 20, 21, and 22; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized.

[c] **6:11** Or *terebinth* or *great tree*; also in verse 19

[d] **6:14** LXX *The angel of the LORD* or *The Angel of the LORD* ; also in verse 16

[e] **6:19** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 25.5 pounds or 11.6 kilograms of flour).

[f] **6:24** Hebrew *YHWH Shalom*

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."
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,[a] that is to say, "Let Baal contend with him," because he had torn down Baal's altar.

The Sign of the Fleece

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

Gideon's Army of Three Hundred

1 Early in the morning Jerubbaal[b] (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.
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.

The Sword of Gideon

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."

Gideon Defeats Midian

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.[c]
17 "Watch me and do as I do," Gideon said. "When I come to the outskirts of the camp, do exactly as I do.

[a] **6:32** *Jerubbaal* probably means *let Baal contend.*

[b] **7:1** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; see Judges 6:32.

[c] **7:16** Literally *and put rams' horns and empty jars—large jars with torches inside—into the hand of all*

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[a] as far as the border of
Abel-meholah near Tabbath.
23 Then the men of Israel were called out from Naph-
tali, 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 Midian-
ites and seize the waters of the Jordan 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

Gideon Defeats Zebah and Zalmunna

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 accom-
plished 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 com-
pared to you?" When he had said this, their anger[b]
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[c] 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 hun-
dred 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 in-
terrogated 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 Zal-
munna 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.
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.

Gideon's Ephod

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.)

[a] **7:22** Some Hebrew manuscripts *Zeredah*

[b] **8:3** Or *their spirit*

[c] **8:8** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; also in verses 9 and 17; see Genesis 32:30.

25 "We will give them gladly," they replied. So they
spread out a garment, and each man threw an ear-
ring from his plunder onto it.
26 The weight of the gold earrings he had requested
was 1,700 shekels,[a] in addition to the crescent or-
naments, 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.

Forty Years of Peace

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[b] son of Joash — returned home
and settled down.
30 Gideon had seventy sons of his own,[c] since he had
many wives.
31 His concubine, who dwelt in Shechem, also bore him
a son, and he named him Abimelech.

Gideon's Death

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 Jerub-
baal (that is, Gideon) for all the good things he had
done for Israel.

9

Abimelech's Conspiracy

1 Now Abimelech son of Jerubbaal[d] went to his
mother's brothers at Shechem and said to them and
to all the clan of his mother,
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 Abim-
elech, for they said, "He is our brother."
4 So they gave him seventy shekels of silver[e] 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 Jerub-
baal, survived, because he hid himself.
6 Then all the leaders of Shechem and Beth-millo gath-
ered beside the oak[f] at the pillar in Shechem and
proceeded to make Abimelech their king.

Jotham's Parable

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 them-
selves. 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.'
15 But the thornbush replied, 'If you really are anoint-
ing 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 maidser-
vant, 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 con-
sume 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.

Gaal Conspires with the Shechemites

22 After Abimelech had reigned over Israel for three
years,
23 God sent a spirit of animosity[g] 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

[a] **8:26** *1,700 shekels* is approximately 42.7 pounds or 19.4 kilograms.

[b] **8:29** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; also in verse 35; see Judges 6:32.

[c] **8:30** Hebrew *who came from his own loins*

[d] **9:1** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; here and throughout this chapter; see Judges 6:32.

[e] **9:4** *70 shekels* is approximately 1.76 pounds or 797.8 grams of silver.

[f] **9:6** Or *terebinth* or *great tree*

[g] **9:23** Or *a harmful spirit*

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; I would say to him, 'Muster your army and come out!'"[a]

The Fall of Shechem

30 When Zebul the governor of the city heard the words of Gaal son of Ebed, he burned with anger.
31 So he covertly sent messengers to Abimelech[b] to say, "Look, Gaal son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem and are stirring up[c] the city against you.
32 Now then, tonight you and the people with you are to come and lie in wait in the fields.
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,[d] and one company is coming by way of the Diviners' Oak.[e] "
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.[f]
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.

Abimelech's Punishment

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.
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

Tola

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.

[a] **9:29** LXX; Hebrew *I would remove Abimelech." And he said to him, "Muster your army and come out!"*

[b] **9:31** Or *he sent messengers to Abimelech in Arumah*; see verse 41.

[c] **9:31** Or *besieging* or *closing up*

[d] **9:37** Literally *the navel of the earth*

[e] **9:37** Or *the Diviners' Terebinth* or *the diviners' tree*

[f] **9:46** *El-berith* was another name for *Baal-berith*; see verse 4.

[a] **10:2** Or *governed* or *led* ; here and throughout the book of Judges

2 Tola judged[a] Israel twenty-three years, and when he died, he was buried in Shamir.

Jair

3 Tola was followed by Jair the Gileadite, who judged 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.[b]
5 When Jair died, he was buried in Kamon.

Oppression by the Philistines and Ammonites

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[c] 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.
17 Then the Ammonites were called to arms and camped in Gilead, and the Israelites assembled and camped at Mizpah.
18 And 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

Jephthah Delivers Israel

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 Red Sea[d] 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.
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,

[b] **10:4** Or *the villages of Jair*

[c] **10:12** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *Midianites*

[d] **11:16** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

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 Zip-
por, 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.

Jephthah's Tragic Vow

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 ad-
vanced 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 Am-
monites 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 tam-
bourines 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 moun-
tains 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 virgin-
ity 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

Jephthah Defeats Ephraim

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 Gilea-
dites 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 cor-
rectly, they seized him and killed him at the fords of
the Jordan. So at that time 42,000 Ephraimites were
killed.
7 Jephthah judged Israel six years, and when he died,
he was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.[a]

Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon

8 After Jephthah, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged 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 else-
where. Ibzan judged Israel seven years.
10 Then Ibzan died, and he was buried in Bethlehem.
11 After Ibzan, Elon the Zebulunite judged 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,
judged Israel.
14 He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on
seventy donkeys. And he judged 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

The Birth of Samson

(Numbers 6:1–21)

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.

[a] **12:7** LXX *in his city in Gilead*

2 Now there was a man from Zorah named Manoah,
from the clan of the Danites, whose wife was barren
and had no children.
3 The angel[a] 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[b] 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 reap-
peared!”
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
word comes 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.
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,[c] between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14

Samson’s Marriage

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.

Samson’s Riddle

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 Sam-
son prepared a feast there, as was customary for the
bridegroom.
11 And when the Philistines saw him,[d] 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

[a] **13:3** Or *Angel*; here and throughout chapter 13; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized.

[b] **13:5** Or *set apart*

[c] **13:25** *Mahaneh-dan* means *camp of Dan.*

[d] **14:11** Or *when the bride’s parents saw him*; literally *when they saw him*

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.
15 So on the fourth[a] 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

Samson's Revenge

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 accom-
panied 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 his wife was given 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[b] with a great slaugh-
ter, and then went down and stayed in the cave at
the rock of Etam.
9 Then the Philistines went up, camped in Judah, and
deployed themselves near the town of Lehi.[c]
10 "Why have you attacked us?" said the men of Judah.
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 your-
selves."
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.[d] 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.[e]
18 And being very thirsty, Samson cried out to the
LORD, "You have accomplished this great deliver-
ance 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 wa-
ter came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength
returned, and he was revived. That is why he named
it En-hakkore,[f] and it remains in Lehi to this day.
20 And Samson judged Israel for twenty years in the
days of the Philistines.

16

Samson Escapes Gaza

1 One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a pros-
titute 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

[a] **14:15** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew *seventh*

[b] **15:8** Literally *he struck them hip and thigh*

[c] **15:9** Literally *and spread out in Lehi*

[d] **15:16** Or *I have made them into donkeys*

[e] **15:17** *Ramath-lehi* means *the hill of the jawbone.*

[f] **15:19** *En-hakkore* means *the spring of him who calls.*

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.

Samson and Delilah

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 him up and subdue him. Then each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.[a] ”
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 and tighten it with a pin, I will become as weak as any other man.[b] ”
14 So while he slept, Delilah took the seven braids of his hair and wove them into the web.[c] 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.

Delilah Learns the Secret

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,[d] and his strength left him.
20 Then she called out, “Samson, the Philistines are here!” 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.

Samson’s Vengeance and Death

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.

[a] **16:5** *1,100 shekels* is approximately 27.6 pounds or 12.5 kilograms of silver.
[b] **16:13** See LXX and Vulgate; Hebrew does not include *and tighten it with a pin, I will become as weak as any other man.*
[c] **16:14** See LXX and Vulgate; Hebrew does not include *So while he slept, Delilah took the seven braids of his hair and wove them into the web.*
[d] **16:19** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *he began to grow weak*

31 Then Samson's brothers and his father's family
came down, carried him back, and buried him be-
tween Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father
Manoah. And he had judged Israel twenty years.

17

Micah's Idolatry

1 Now a man named Micah from the hill country of
Ephraim
2 said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of
silver[a] 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[b] and gave them to
a silversmith, who made them into a 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[c]
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 Ju-
dah 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[d]
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 be-
came 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

The Danites Settle in Laish

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 inher-
itance 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 recog-
nized 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 deter-
mine 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?"
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 Ju-
dah. That is why the place west of Kiriath-jearim is
called Mahaneh-dan[e] to this day.
13 And from there they traveled to the hill country of
Ephraim and came to Micah's house.

The Danites Take Micah's Idols

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

[a] **17:2** *1,100 shekels* is approximately 27.6 pounds or 12.5 kilograms of silver; also in verse 3.

[b] **17:4** *200 shekels* is approximately 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of silver.

[c] **17:5** Hebrew *filled the hand of*; also in verse 12

[d] **17:10** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams of silver.

[e] **18:12** *Mahaneh-dan* means *camp of Dan*.

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.
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 idols for themselves, and Jonathan son of Gershom, the son of Moses,[a] 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 Micah's graven image, and it was there the whole time the house of God was in Shiloh.

19

The Crime of the Benjamites

(Genesis 19:1–11)

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[b] 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."
13 He continued, "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;[c] 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.

[a] **18:30** Some Hebrew and LXX manuscripts and Vulgate; other Hebrew and LXX manuscripts *the son of Manasseh*
[b] **19:2** LXX *became angry with him*
[c] **19:18** LXX *I am going to my home*; see verse 29.

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!"

20

The Decree of the Assembly

1 Then all the Israelites from Dan to Beersheba and
from the land of Gilead came out, and the congre-
gation 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 in-
tended 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
Gibeah[a] 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 war-
rior.

Civil War against Benjamin

18 The Israelites set out, went up to Bethel, and in-
quired 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 Ben-
jamin 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.
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 offer-
ings 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 Ben-
jamites, or should we stop?" The LORD answered,

[a] **20:10** One Hebrew manuscript; most Hebrew manuscripts *Geba*, a variant of *Gibeah*

"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 west of Gibeah.[a]
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."
40 But when the 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

Wives for the Benjamites

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[b] every male, as well as every female who has had relations with a man."
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?"

[a] **20:33** Some LXX manuscripts and Vulgate; Hebrew *charged from their positions in Maareh-geba* or *charged from their positions into the open space of Geba*

[b] **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.

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 com-
plain, 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 inheri-
tance, 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.

Ruth

Book of Ruth

1

Naomi Becomes a Widow

(1 Timothy 5:3–16)

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.

Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

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,[a] 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.
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.

The Return to Bethlehem

19 So Naomi and Ruth traveled until they came to Beth-
lehem. 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,[b] " she replied. "Call me Mara,
[c] because the Almighty[d] 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

Boaz Meets Ruth

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

[a] **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*.

[b] **1:20** *Naomi* means *pleasant*.

[c] **1:20** *Mara* means *bitter*.

[d] **1:20** Hebrew *Shaddai*; also in verse 21

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 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.[a]
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.[b] "
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

Ruth's Redemption Assured

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.
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[c] over me, for you are a kinsman-redeemer.[d] "
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.[e]
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[f] and placed it on her. Then he went[g] into the city.

[a] **2:17** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 29 pounds or 13.2 kilograms of barley).

[b] **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.

[c] **3:9** Or *Spread your wing*; the word for *wing* can also mean *corner of a garment*; see Ruth 2:12.

[d] **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.

[e] **3:12** That is, more closely related

[f] **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)

[g] **3:15** Most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac *she went*

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

Boaz Redeems Ruth

1 Meanwhile, Boaz went to the gate and sat down there.
Soon the kinsman-redeemer[a] of whom he had spo-
ken came along, and Boaz said, “Come over here, my
friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down.
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 you[b] 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 inher-
itance.”
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 re-
deem it.”
7 Now in former times in Israel, concerning the re-
demption 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 peo-
ple 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.”

Boaz Marries Ruth

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 kins-
man-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.

The Line of David

(Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38)

18 Now these are the generations of Perez: 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 Salmon,[c]
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.

[a] **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.

[b] **4:4** Many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *he*

[c] **4:20** A few Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Vulgate (see also verse 21 and LXX of 1 Chronicles 2:11); most Hebrew manuscripts *Salma*

1 Samuel

First Book of Samuel

1

Elkanah and His Wives

(Psalm 113:1–9)

1 Now there was a man named Elkanah who was from Ramathaim-zophim[a] in the hill country of Ephraim. He was the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu,[b] 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 a double portion,[c] for he loved her even though 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?"

Hannah Prays for a Son

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.

The Birth of Samuel

19 The next morning they got up early to bow in worship before the LORD, and then they returned home to Ramah. 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,[d] 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."[e]
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."[f] 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 a three-year-old bull,[g] an ephah of flour,[h] 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." So they worshiped[i] the LORD there.

2

Hannah's Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Luke 1:46–56)

1 At that time Hannah prayed: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn[j] is exalted in the LORD. My mouth

[a] **1:1** Or *from Ramathaim, a Zuphite*; see LXX and 1 Chronicles 6:26 and 35.

[b] **1:1** *Elihu* is also called *Eliab* and *Eliel*; see 1 Chronicles 6:27 and 34.

[c] **1:5** Or *a choice portion*

[d] **1:20** *Samuel* sounds like the Hebrew for *heard of God.*

[e] **1:22** MT; DSS include *I will offer him as a Nazirite for all time.*

[f] **1:23** MT; DSS, LXX, and Syriac *your word*

[g] **1:24** DSS, LXX, and Syriac; MT *three bulls*

[h] **1:24** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 25.5 pounds or 11.6 kilograms of flour).

[i] **1:28** One DSS manuscript; MT *he worshiped*

[j] **2:1** Or *strength* ; also in verse 10

speaks boldly against my enemies, for I rejoice in Your salvation.
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.
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.

Eli's Wicked Sons

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 they[a] 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 she dedicated to the LORD.[b] " 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.
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[c] 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.

A Prophecy against the House of Eli

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[d] My sacrifice and offering that I have prescribed for My 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 My 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.[e] All your descendants[f] will die by the sword of men.[g]

[a] **2:17** DSS and LXX; MT *men*

[b] **2:20** DSS; MT *in place of the one requested from the LORD*

[c] **2:25** Or *the judges*

[d] **2:29** Or *scorn*

[e] **2:33** Hebrew; LXX *his eyes will fail and his heart will grieve*

[f] **2:33** Or *increase*

[g] **2:33** DSS and LXX; MT *will die as mortals* or *will die in the prime of life*

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.
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

The LORD Calls Samuel

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
blasphemed God[a] 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.'"

Samuel Shares the Vision

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.
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, be-
cause there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His
word.

4

The Philistines Capture the Ark

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 it
may go[b] 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. "The gods have entered[c]
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.

[a] **3:13** LXX; Hebrew *made themselves contemptible*

[b] **4:3** Or *He may go*

[c] **4:7** Or *A god has entered*

The Death of Eli

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 commo-
tion?" 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.
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 Phine-
has, 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 judged[a] 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,[b] saying, "The glory
has departed[c] 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

The Ark Afflicts the Philistines

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
his statue.[d]
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 re-
turned 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.[e]
7 And when the men of Ashdod saw what was happen-
ing, 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!"
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[f] 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

The Ark Returned to Israel

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[g] 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

[a] **4:18** Or *governed* or *led*

[b] **4:21** *Ichabod* means *no glory*.

[c] **4:21** Or *gone into exile*; also in verse 22

[d] **5:2** Literally *set it beside Dagon*

[e] **5:6** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate include *And rats appeared in their land, and death and destruction were throughout the city.*

[f] **5:11** Or *He will not*

[g] **6:6** Or *make heavy*; similarly again in this verse

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.
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. And the large rock[a] on which they placed the ark of the LORD stands 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,[b] 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

Samuel Subdues the Philistines

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 judged[c] 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."
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.[d] He named it Ebenezer,[e] 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 judged Israel all the days of his life.
16 Every year he would go on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all these places.
17 Then he would return to Ramah because his home was there, and there he judged Israel and built an altar to the LORD.

[a] **6:18** Or *great meadow*; Hebrew *Abel-haggedolah*

[b] **6:19** A few late Hebrew manuscripts and Josephus; most Hebrew manuscripts *70 men and 50,000 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*

[c] **7:6** Or *governed* or *led*; similarly in verses 15, 16, and 17

[d] **7:12** Hebrew; LXX and Syriac *Jeshanah*

[e] **7:12** *Ebenezer* means *stone of help*.

8

Israel Demands a King

(Deuteronomy 17:14–20)

1 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges[a] over Israel.
2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second was Abijah. They were judges in Beer-sheba.
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."

Samuel's Warning

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.
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 menservants and maidservants and your best cattle[b] 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."

God Grants the Request

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

Saul Chosen as King

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.[c] I will give it to the man of God, and he will tell us our way."
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.

[a] **8:1** Or *governors* or *leaders*; similarly in verses 2, 5, 6, and 20

[b] **8:16** LXX; Hebrew *your best young men*

[c] **9:8** *A quarter shekel* is approximately 0.1 ounces or 2.85 grams of silver.

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.
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

Samuel Anoints Saul

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?[a]
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 Oak[b] 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,[c] 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."

Samuel's Signs Fulfilled

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,[d] 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.

Saul Proclaimed King

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

[a] **10:1** Hebrew; 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.*

[b] **10:3** Or *Terebinth* or *Great Tree*

[c] **10:5** Hebrew *Gibeath-Elohim*, meaning *the hill of God*

[d] **10:10** *Gibeah* means *the hill.*

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.[a] 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.[b]

11

Saul Defeats the Ammonites

1 Then Nahash[c] the Ammonite came up and laid siege to Jabesh-gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty[d] 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.
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[e] 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.

Saul Confirmed as King

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 worked salvation 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

Samuel's Farewell Address

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[f] 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[g] appointed Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.

[a] **10:21** LXX includes *And he brought the family of the Matrites near, man by man.*

[b] **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.*

[c] **11:1** DSS and LXX *About a month later Nahash*

[d] **11:1** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.

[e] **11:8** DSS and LXX *70,000*

[f] **12:3** Hebrew *And I will restore it*; LXX *Testify against me, and I will restore it*

[g] **12:6** Hebrew; 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,[a] 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,[b] 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,[c] Barak,[d] Jephthah,
and Samuel,[e] 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 Am-
monites 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.[f]
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.[g]
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.
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

War with the Philistines

1 Saul was thirty years old[h] when he became king, and
he reigned over Israel forty-two years.[i]
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 three thousand[j] chariots, six thousand horse-
men, 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.

Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice

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

[a] **12:8** Hebrew; LXX includes *and the Egyptians oppressed them*

[b] **12:9** LXX *the army of Jabin king of Hazor*

[c] **12:11** *Jerubbaal* is another name for *Gideon* and probably means *let Baal contend*; see Judges 6:32.

[d] **12:11** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew *Bedan*

[e] **12:11** LXX and Syriac *Samson*

[f] **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.*

[g] **12:15** Hebrew; LXX *against your king*

[h] **13:1** A few late LXX manuscripts; MT *Saul was a son of a year*

[i] **13:1** Or *over Israel forty years*(see Acts 13:21); MT *over Israel two years*

[j] **13:5** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac; Hebrew *thirty thousand*

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."
15 Then Samuel set out from Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin.[a] And Saul numbered the troops who were with him, about six hundred men.

Israel without Weapons

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 sickles.[b]
21 The charge was a pim[c] for sharpening a plowshare or mattock, a third of a shekel for sharpening a pitchfork or an axe, and a third of a shekel for repointing an oxgoad.[d]
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

Jonathan's Victory over the Philistines

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[e] 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.
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[f] 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.[g]
16 Now when Saul's watchmen at Gibeah in Benjamin looked and saw the troops melting away and scattering in every direction,[h]
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.)[i]
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."

[a] **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.*
[b] **13:20** LXX; Hebrew *and plowshares*; (so plowshare appears twice in the Hebrew).
[c] **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.
[d] **13:21** Hebrew does not include the currency unit *of a shekel* charged for sharpening a pitchfork, an axe, or an oxgoad; alternatively, possibly *a third of a pim* for each.
[e] **14:2** Or *around the rock of Rimmon* or *in the pomegranate cave*; see Judges 20:45, Judges 20:47, and Judges 21:13.
[f] **14:14** Hebrew *half a yoke*. A *yoke* was the amount of land plowed by a pair of yoked oxen in one day.
[g] **14:15** Or *and a terrible panic spread*
[h] **14:16** Or *melting away and going here and there*
[i] **14:18** Hebrew; LXX *"Bring the ephod." For at that time he wore the ephod before the Israelites.*

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.

Jonathan Eats the Honey

24 Now the men of Israel were in distress that day,
for Saul had placed the troops under an oath, say-
ing, "Cursed is the man who eats any food before
evening, before I have taken vengeance on my ene-
mies." So none of the troops tasted any food.
25 Then all the troops entered the forest, and there was
honey on the ground.
26 And when they entered the forest and saw the flow-
ing 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.[a]
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."

The People Save Jonathan

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, "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."[b] And Jonathan and Saul
were selected, but the people were cleared of the
charge.
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.

Saul's Victories

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[c]
of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned,
he routed them.[d]
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.

[a] **14:27** Or *his strength was renewed*; similarly in verse 29

[b] **14:41** LXX and Vulgate; MT contains only the short quotation, *"Give a perfect (lot)."*

[c] **14:47** MT; DSS and LXX *king*

[d] **14:47** Or *he inflicted punishment on them* from Hebrew; LXX *he was victorious*

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

Saul's Disobedience

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[a] 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.
9 Saul and his troops spared Agag, along with the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves[b] 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.

Samuel Denounces Saul

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."

Saul's Confession

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."
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 cheerfully,[c] for he thought, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."[d]
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.

[a] **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.

[b] **15:9** Or *the grown bulls*

[c] **15:32** Or *cautiously* or *in chains*; see DSS and LXX.

[d] **15:32** Or *"Surely this is the bitterness of death."* See DSS and LXX.

16

Samuel Anoints David

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,[a] 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.”
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 hand-
some 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.

David Serves Saul

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and
a spirit of distress[b] from the LORD began to torment
him.
15 Saul’s servants said to him, “Surely a spirit of dis-
tress from God is tormenting you.
16 Let our lord command your servants here to seek
out someone who can skillfully play the harp. When-
ever the spirit of distress from God is upon you, he
is to play it, and you will be well.”
17 And Saul commanded his servants, “Find me some-
one 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 spirit of
distress would depart from him.

17

Goliath’s Challenge

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,[c]
5 and he had a bronze helmet on his head. He wore a
bronze coat of mail weighing five thousand shekels,[d]
6 and he had armor of bronze on his legs and a javelin
of bronze slung between his shoulders.
7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver’s beam,
and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.[e] 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 bat-
tle? 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.

David Accepts the Challenge

12 Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an
Ephrathite from Bethlehem of Judah who had eight

[a] **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.

[b] **16:14** Or *a harmful spirit*; similarly in verses 15, 16, and 23

[c] **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).

[d] **17:5** *5,000 shekels* is approximately 125.6 pounds or 57 kilograms.

[e] **17:7** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms.

sons. And in the days of Saul, Jesse was old and well along in years.[a]
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[b] 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 an assurance from them.[c]
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 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."

David Slays Goliath

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.

[a] **17:12** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew *he had become advanced among men*

[b] **17:17** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters of roasted grain.

[c] **17:18** Or *some token from them* or *some pledge from them*

The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face-down 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 Gath[a] 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

Jonathan Befriends David

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.

Saul Envies David

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 with singing and dancing, with joyful songs, and with tambourines and other instruments.[b]
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 spirit of distress[c] 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.

David Marries Michal

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 So when it was time[d] 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,
27 David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. He brought their foreskins and pre-

[a] **17:52** LXX; Hebrew *of Gai*; that is, *of the valley*

[b] **18:6** Possibly *three-stringed instruments* or *cymbals* or *lutes* or *lyres*

[c] **18:10** Or *a harmful spirit*

[d] **18:19** Or *But when it was time*

sented 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

Saul Tries to Kill David

(Psalm 59:1–17)

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 salvation 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 spirit of distress[a] 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[b] 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!" 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 they 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

Jonathan Helps David

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,[c] 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.'

[a] **19:9** Or *a harmful spirit*

[b] **19:13** Or *a household god*; Hebrew *teraphim*; also in verse 16

[c] **20:5** That is, the New Moon feast; also in verses 18, 24, and 27

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?”

Jonathan and David Renew Their Covenant

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.” 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,[a] 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.[b]
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, opposite
Jonathan and beside Abner,[c] 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.”

Saul Seeks to Kill Jonathan

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 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 treat-
ment 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 arrow 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 of the stone,[d] 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.’”

[a] **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*.

[b] **20:19** *Ezel* means *departure*.

[c] **20:25** LXX; Hebrew *by the wall. Jonathan arose and Abner sat down by Saul’s side,*

[d] **20:41** Hebrew *from the south side*; LXX *from beside the stone*

Then David got up and departed, and Jonathan went back into the city.

21

David Takes the Consecrated Bread

(Matthew 12:1–8; Mark 2:23–28; Luke 6:1–5)

1 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?"
2 "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.
3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever can be found."
4 "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."
5 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!"
6 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.
7 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.

David Flees to Gath

(Psalm 34:1–22; Psalm 56:1–13)

8 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."
9 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."
10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.
11 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'?"
12 Now David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.
13 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.
14 Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you can see that the man is insane! Why have you brought him to me?
15 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

David Flees to Adullam and Mizpeh

(Psalm 57:1–11; Psalm 142:1–7)

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 stay[a] with you until I learn what God will do for me."
4 So he left them in the care of 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.

Saul Slays the Priests of Nob

(Psalm 52:1–9)

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.
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, the captain of your bodyguard and 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

[a] **22:3** Syriac and Vulgate; Hebrew *go forth*

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

David Delivers Keilah

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."
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.)

Saul Pursues David

(Psalm 54:1–7)

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?[a] 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,
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.[b]
29 And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En-gedi.

[a] **23:11** Some manuscripts omit this question.

[b] **23:28** *Sela-hammahlekoth* means *Rock of Escape.*

24

David Spares Saul

1 After Saul had returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the wilderness of En-gedi.”
2 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.
3 Soon Saul came to the sheepfolds along the road, where there was a cave, and he went in to relieve himself.[a] And David and his men were hiding in the recesses of the cave.
4 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.
5 Afterward, David’s conscience was stricken because he had cut off the corner of Saul’s robe.
6 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.”
7 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.
8 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
9 and said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Look, David intends to harm you’?
10 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.’
11 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.
12 May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD take vengeance on you, but my hand will never be against you.
13 As the old proverb says, ‘Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.’ But my hand will never be against you.
14 Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?
15 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.”

David’s Oath to Saul

16 When David had finished saying these things, Saul called back, “Is that your voice, David my son?” Then Saul wept aloud
17 and said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you have rewarded me with good, though I have rewarded you with evil.
18 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.
19 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.
20 Now I know for sure that you will be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.
21 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.”
22 So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

25

The Death of Samuel

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.[b]

David, Nabal, and Abigail

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.
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.

[a] **24:3** Literally *cover his feet*, a euphemism for relieving oneself

[b] **25:1** Hebrew and some LXX manuscripts; other LXX manuscripts *Maon*

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 house-
hold. For he is such a scoundrel that nobody can
speak to him!"

Abigail Intercedes for Nabal

18 Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves
of bread, two skins of wine, five butchered sheep,
five seahs of roasted grain,[a] 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 David,[b] 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,[c] 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, be-
cause 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.[d]
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 con-
science 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 morn-
ing 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.

David Marries Abigail

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 be-
come 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 at-
tended 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[e] son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

26

David Again Spares Saul

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.

[a] **25:18** *5 seahs* is approximately 33 dry quarts or 36.5 liters of roasted grain.
[b] **25:22** Some LXX manuscripts; MT *David's enemies*
[c] **25:25** *Nabal* means *fool*.
[d] **25:29** Literally *fling away the souls of your enemies as from the pocket of a sling*
[e] **25:44** *Palti* is a variant of *Paltiel*; see 2 Samuel 3:15.

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, 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.

David Reproves Abner

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."

Saul Acknowledges His Sin

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 righteous-
ness 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 pre-
vail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned
home.

27

David and the Philistines

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,[a] 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 Girzites, 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

[a] **27:2** *Maoch* is a variant of *Maacah*; see 1 Kings 2:39.

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

The Philistines Gather against Israel

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.”
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[a] or prophets.

Saul and the Medium of Endor

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 a god[b] 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.
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

The Philistines Reject David

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.

[a] **28:6** Literally *Lights*

[b] **28:13** Or *I see a spirit* or *I see a divine being*

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

The Amalekites Raid Ziklag

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 and all[a] 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 daugh-
ters 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.

David Destroys the Amalekites

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 aban-
doned 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 plun-
der 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!"

The Spoils Are Divided

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, 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 us, we will not share with them the plunder
we recovered, except for each man's wife and chil-
dren. 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 Jerahmeel-
ites 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.

[a] **30:2** LXX; Hebrew does not include *and all*.

31

Saul's Overthrow and Death

(2 Samuel 1:1–16; 1 Chronicles 10:1–6)

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 uncir-
cumcised 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.

The Philistines Possess the Towns

(1 Chronicles 10:7–10)

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.

Jabesh-gilead's Tribute to Saul

(1 Chronicles 10:11–14)

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

Second Book of Samuel

1

Saul's Death Reported to David

(1 Samuel 31:1–6; 1 Chronicles 10:1–6)

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.'"

David's Song for Saul and Jonathan

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.[a] It is written in the Book of Jashar:[b]
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, 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.[c] 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

David Anointed King of Judah

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.
6 Now may the LORD show you loving devotion[d] and faithfulness, and I will also show you the same favor because you have done this.

[a] **1:18** Or *be taught the use of the bow*; literally *be taught the bow*

[b] **1:18** Or *the Book of the Upright One*, commonly cited as *Jasher*; note that *the Song of the Bow* that follows is not found in known manuscripts attributed to Jasher.

[c] **1:21** Or *no showers falling on your terraced fields*; LXX *no fields of first-fruits*; Hebrew *no fields of offerings*

[d] **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*.

7 Now then, be strong and courageous, for though Saul
your lord is dead, the house of Judah has anointed
me as their king."

Ish-bosheth Made King of Israel

8 Meanwhile, Abner son of Ner, the commander of
Saul's army, took Saul's son Ish-bosheth,[a] moved
him to Mahanaim,
9 and made him king over Gilead, Asher, 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 He-
bron over the house of Judah was seven years and
six months.

The Battle of Gibeon

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
for 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.[b]
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, Asa-
hel?" "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.
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 pursu-
ing 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 all morning,[c] and arrived at Mahanaim.
30 When Joab returned from pursuing Abner, he gath-
ered 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

The House of David Strengthened

(1 Chronicles 3:1–9)

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,[d] 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.

Abner Joins David

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 daugh-
ter 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

[a] **2:8** *Ish-bosheth* is also called *Esh-baal*; see 1 Chronicles 8:33.

[b] **2:16** *Helkath-hazzurim* means *the Field of Swords*.

[c] **2:29** See LXX; Hebrew *marched all through Bithron*

[d] **3:3** LXX *Daluia*; some translators *Daniel*; see 1 Chronicles 3:1.

covenant with me, and surely my hand will be with you to bring all Israel over to you."
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[a] 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.

Joab Murders Abner

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.)

David Mourns for Abner

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.
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

The Murder of Ish-bosheth

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-

[a] **3:15** *Paltiel* is a variant of *Palti*; see 1 Samuel 25:44.

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."

The Execution of Rechab and Baanah

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

David Anointed King of All Israel

(1 Chronicles 11:1–3)

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.

David Conquers Jerusalem

(1 Chronicles 11:4–9)

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.[a] " 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[b] 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.

David's Family Grows

(1 Chronicles 14:1–7)

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,[c] Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,
15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,
16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

Two Victories over the Philistines

(1 Chronicles 14:8–17)

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.[d]
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.[e]
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 Gibeon[f] to Gezer.

6

David Fetches the Ark

(1 Chronicles 13:1–7)

1 David again assembled the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand in all.
2 And he and all his troops set out for Baale of Judah[g] to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called

[a] **5:8** Or *who are enemies of David*

[b] **5:9** Hebrew *the Millo*

[c] **5:14** *Shammua* is a variant of *Shimea*; see 1 Chronicles 3:5.

[d] **5:20** *Baal-perazim* means *The Lord Bursts Out*.

[e] **5:23** Or *aspen trees* or *poplar trees*; also in verse 24

[f] **5:25** LXX (see also 1 Chronicles 14:16); Hebrew *Geba*

[g] **6:2** That is, Kiriath-jearim; see 1 Chronicles 13:6.

by the Name—[a] 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 with it the ark of God.[b] And Ahio was walking in front of the ark.

Uzzah Touches the Ark

(1 Chronicles 13:8–14)

5 David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD with all kinds of wood instruments,[c] harps, stringed instruments, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.
6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon,[d] 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, [e] 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,[f] as it is called to this day.
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.

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

(1 Chronicles 15:1–28)

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.

Michal's Contempt for David

(1 Chronicles 15:29–16:3)

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,[g] 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

God's Covenant with David

(1 Chronicles 17:1–15)

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 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 leaders[h] 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.

[a] **6:2** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate do not include *the Name—*

[b] **6:4** DSS and some LXX manuscripts; MT includes *from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill.*

[c] **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.

[d] **6:6** *Nacon* is a variant of *Chidon*; see 1 Chronicles 13:9.

[e] **6:7** MT; DSS *for this*

[f] **6:8** *Perez-uzzah* means *outbreak against Uzzah.*

[g] **6:19** Or *a portion of meat*

[h] **7:7** Or *tribes*

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.[a] 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 Me,[b] and your throne will be established forever."
17 So Nathan relayed to David all the words of this entire revelation.

David's Prayer of Thanksgiving

(1 Chronicles 17:16–27)

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. Is this Your custom with man, O Lord GOD?[c]
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? You performed great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before Your people, whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt.[d]
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

David's Triumphs

(1 Chronicles 18:1–13; Psalm 60:1–12)

1 Some time later, David defeated the Philistines, subdued them, and took Metheg-ammah[e] 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.[f]
4 David captured from him a thousand chariots, seven thousand charioteers,[g] 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[h] and Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a large amount of bronze.
9 When King Toi[i] of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of Hadadezer,
10 he sent his son Joram[j] 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,

[a] **7:14** Cited in Hebrews 1:5

[b] **7:16** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX; most Hebrew manuscripts *you*

[c] **7:19** Or *And this is Your instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD.*

[d] **7:23** See LXX and 1 Chronicles 17:21; Hebrew *You performed for Yourself great and awesome wonders for Your land, before Your people, whom You have redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, from nations and their gods.*

[e] **8:1** *Metheg-ammah* means *bridle of the mother city*.

[f] **8:3** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also 1 Chronicles 18:3); Hebrew *along the River*, or an alternate reading *along the Euphrates*

[g] **8:4** LXX (see also DSS and 1 Chronicles 18:4); MT *captured from him seventeen hundred charioteers*

[h] **8:8** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *Tebah*; see 1 Chronicles 18:8.

[i] **8:9** *Toi* is a variant of *Tou*; also in verse 10; see 1 Chronicles 18:9.

[j] **8:10** *Joram* is a variant of *Hadoram*; see 1 Chronicles 18:10.

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 Edom[a] 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 Edomites[b] 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.

David's Officers

(1 Chronicles 18:14–17)

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[c] was the scribe;
18 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and Pelethites; and David's sons were priestly leaders.[d]

9

David and Mephibosheth

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[e] 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."
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 ate at David's table[f] like one of the king's own sons.
12 And Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica,[g] 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

David's Messengers Disgraced

(1 Chronicles 19:1–9)

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.

David Defeats Ammon and Aram

(1 Chronicles 19:10–19)

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.

[a] **8:12** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also verse 14 and 1 Chronicles 18:11); most Hebrew manuscripts *Aram*
[b] **8:13** A few Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also verse 14 and 1 Chronicles 18:12); most Hebrew manuscripts *Arameans*
[c] **8:17** *Seraiah* is also called *Sheva* , *Shisha* , and *Shavsha* ; see 2 Samuel 20:25 , 1 Kings 4:3, and 1 Chronicles 18:16.
[d] **8:18** Literally *priests*, or possibly *chief officials*; see LXX, Targum Yonaton, and 1 Chronicles 18:17.
[e] **9:6** *Mephibosheth* is also called *Merib-baal*; see 1 Chronicles 8:34.
[f] **9:11** LXX; Hebrew *my table*
[g] **9:12** *Mica* is a variant of *Micah*; see 1 Chronicles 8:34.

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."
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,[a] and they came to Helam with Shobach[b] 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 foot soldiers.[c] 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

David and Bathsheba

1 In the spring,[d] 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[e] 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 dwelling in tents,[f] and my master Joab and his soldiers are camped in the open field. How can I go to my house to eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As surely as you live, and as your soul lives, 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.

David Arranges Uriah's Death

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[g] ? 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

[a] **10:16** Hebrew *the River*
[b] **10:16** *Shobach* is a variant of *Shophach*; see 1 Chronicles 19:16.
[c] **10:18** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 19:18); Hebrew *horsemen*
[d] **11:1** Literally *At the turn of the year*
[e] **11:3** *Eliam* is a variant of *Ammiel*; see 1 Chronicles 3:5.
[f] **11:11** Or *staying at Sukkoth*
[g] **11:21** *Jerubbesheth* is also known as *Jerubbaal*, that is, Gideon.

attack against the city and demolish it.' Encourage him with these words."

David Marries Bathsheba

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

Nathan Rebukes David

(Psalm 51:1–19)

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[a] and was like a daughter to him.
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.'"

David's Loss and Repentance

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 shown utter contempt for the word of the LORD,[b] 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 in sackcloth[c] 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."
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."

Solomon's Birth

24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. So she gave birth to a son, and they[d] named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved the child
25 and sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah because the LORD loved him.[e]

The Capture of Rabbah

(1 Chronicles 20:1–3)

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 water supply of the city.[f]
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."

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[a] **12:3** Hebrew *in his bosom*; also in verse 8

[b] **12:14** DSS; MT *you have brought utter contempt from the enemies of the LORD*

[c] **12:16** DSS and LXX; MT does not include *in sackcloth*.

[d] **12:24** Or *she* or *he*

[e] **12:25** Literally *to name him Jedidiah because of the LORD*; *Jedidiah* means *beloved of the LORD*

[f] **12:27** Or *and have captured the city of waters*

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.[a] It weighed a talent of gold[b] 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,[c] iron picks, and axes, and he made them work at the brick kilns.[d] He did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all his troops returned to Jerusalem.

13

Amnon and Tamar

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.[e] 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."
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,[f] because this is what the king's virgin daughters wore.
19 And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore her robe. 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.[g]
22 And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad, because he hated Amnon for violating his sister Tamar.

Absalom's Revenge on Amnon

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.
27 But Absalom urged him, so the king sent Amnon and the rest of his sons.[h]
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!"

[a] **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.

[b] **12:30** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

[c] **12:31** Literally *put them under saws*

[d] **12:31** Literally *and he made them pass through the brick kilns.*

[e] **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.

[f] **13:18** Or *a robe with long sleeves*; see also Genesis 37:3.

[g] **13:21** DSS and LXX include *But he would not punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, since he was his firstborn.*

[h] **13:27** LXX and Vulgate include *And Absalom prepared a feast fit for a king.*

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."

Absalom Flees to Geshur

34 Meanwhile, Absalom had fled. When the young man standing watch looked up, he saw many people coming down the road west of him,[a] along the side of the hill. And the watchman went and reported to the king, "I see men coming from the direction of Horonaim, along the side of the hill."[b]
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[c] longed to go to Absalom,[d] for he had been consoled over Amnon's death.

14

Absalom's Return to Jerusalem

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 went 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.
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[e] 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."
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.

[a] **13:34** Or *behind him*
[b] **13:34** LXX; Hebrew does not include *And the watchman....*
[c] **13:39** MT; DSS and LXX *And the spirit of the king*
[d] **13:39** Or *ceased to go out after Absalom*
[e] **14:17** Or *Angel*; also in verse 20

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,[a] according
to the royal standard.
27 Three sons were born to Absalom, and a daughter
named Tamar, who was a beautiful woman.

Absalom Reconciled to David

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.[b]
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 sum-
moned Absalom, who came to him and bowed face-
down before him. Then the king kissed Absalom.

15

Absalom's Conspiracy

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.
7 After four[c] 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 in
Hebron.'[d] "
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 conspir-
acy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept
increasing.

David Flees Jerusalem

(Psalm 3:1–8)

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 fol-
lowed 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 the LORD show you loving
devotion and faithfulness.[e] "
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 offered

[a] **14:26** *200 shekels* is approximately 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of hair.

[b] **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."*

[c] **15:7** Syriac and some LXX manuscripts; Hebrew *forty*

[d] **15:8** Some LXX manuscripts; Hebrew does not include *in Hebron.*

[e] **15:20** LXX; Hebrew *May loving devotion and faithfulness be with you.*

sacrifices[a] until all the people had passed out of the city.
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?[b] Return to the city in peace— you with your son Ahimaaz, and Abiathar with his son Jonathan.[c]
28 See, I will wait at the fords 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.

David Weeps at the Mount of Olives

(Psalm 63:1–11)
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

David and Ziba

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!”

Shimei Curses David

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? If he curses me because the LORD told him, ‘Curse David,’ 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, [d] exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.

The Counsel of Ahithophel and Hushai

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.

[a] **15:24** Or *Abiathar went up*

[b] **15:27** Hebrew; LXX *Behold,*

[c] **15:27** Literally *your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar, your two sons with you*

[d] **16:14** Some LXX manuscripts *arrived at the Jordan*

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.

17

Hushai Counters Ahithophel's Advice

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 as a bride return-
ing to her husband. You seek the life of only one man;
[a] 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,[b] 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 Beer-
sheba— 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.

Hushai's Warning Saves David

(Psalm 55:1–23)

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?" "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,[c] the Ishmaelite[d] who had married Abigail,[e]
the daughter of Nahash[f] 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,[g]

[a] **17:3** LXX; see also DSS; MT *and bring all the people back to you. When everyone returns except the man you seek,*

[b] **17:9** Or *If he should attack your troops first*

[c] **17:25** *Ithra* is a variant of *Jether*; see 1 Kings 2:5.

[d] **17:25** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 2:17); MT and other LXX manuscripts *Israelite*

[e] **17:25** Or *Abigal*, a variant of *Abigail*

[f] **17:25** Or *of Jesse*; see DSS and 1 Chronicles 2:13–16

[g] **17:28** Most LXX manuscripts and Syriac; Hebrew includes *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

Absalom Killed

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. But you are worth
ten thousand of us.[a] 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.
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 oak,[b] 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 an oak tree!"
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[c] and a warrior's
belt!"
12 The man replied, "Even if a thousand shekels of
silver[d] 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,
'Protect the young man Absalom for my sake.[e] '
13 If I had jeopardized my own life[f] — 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 oak tree.
15 And ten young men who carried Joab's armor sur-
rounded 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.

David Mourns for Absalom

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[g] and outran the Cushite.
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 contin-
ued, "Blessed be the LORD your God! He has deliv-
ered 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."

[a] **18:3** Two Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Vulgate; most Hebrew manuscripts *care; for now there are ten thousand like us*

[b] **18:9** Or *large terebinth* or *very great tree*; similarly in verses 10 and 14

[c] **18:11** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams of silver.

[d] **18:12** *1,000 shekels* is approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver.

[e] **18:12** A few Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *Whoever you may be, protect the young man Absalom.* or *Let no one touch the young man Absalom.*

[f] **18:13** Or *If I had dealt treacherously against his life*

[g] **18:23** That is, the plain of the Jordan

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 Ab-
salom 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.”
33 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!”

19

Joab Reproves David

1 Then it was reported to Joab, “The king is weeping
and mourning over Absalom.”
2 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.”
3 So they returned to the city quietly that day, as people
steal away in humiliation after fleeing a battle.
4 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!”
5 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.
6 You love those who hate you and hate those who love
you! For you have made it clear today that the com-
manders 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!
7 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!”

David Restored as King

8 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.
9 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.
10 But Absalom, the man we anointed over us, has died
in battle. So why do you say nothing about restoring
the king?”
11 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?
12 You are my brothers, my own flesh and blood. So
why should you be the last to restore the king?’
13 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!’”
14 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.”
15 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.

Shimei Pardoned

16 Then Shimei son of Gera, a Benjamite from
Bahurim, hurried down with the men of Judah to
meet King David,
17 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
18 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
19 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.
20 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.”
21 But Abishai son of Zeruiah said, “Shouldn’t Shimei
be put to death for this, because he cursed the
LORD’s anointed?”
22 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?”
23 So the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” And
the king swore an oath to him.

Mephibosheth Excused

24 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.
25 And he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, who
asked him, “Mephibosheth, why did you not go with
me?”
26 “My lord the king,” he replied, “because I am lame, I
said, ‘I will have my donkey saddled[a] so that I may
ride on it and go with the king.’ But my servant Ziba
deceived me,
27 and he has slandered your servant to my lord the
king. Yet my lord the king is like the angel[b] of God,
so do what is good in your eyes.
28 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?”
29 The king replied, “Why say any more? I hereby de-
clare that you and Ziba are to divide the land.”

[a] **19:26** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Saddle a donkey for me*; Hebrew *I will saddle a donkey for myself*
[b] **19:27** Or *Angel*

30 And Mephibosheth said to the king, “Instead, since
my lord the king has safely come to his own house,
let Ziba take it all!”

David’s Kindness to Barzillai

31 Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from
Rogelim to cross the Jordan with the king and send
him on his way from there.
32 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.
33 The king said to Barzillai, “Cross over with me, and
I will provide for you at my side in Jerusalem.”
34 But Barzillai replied, “How many years of my life
remain, that I should go up to Jerusalem with the
king?
35 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?
36 Your servant will go with the king only a short dis-
tance past the Jordan; why should the king repay me
with such a reward?
37 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.”
38 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.”
39 So all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the
king crossed over. The king kissed Barzillai and
blessed him, and Barzillai returned home.
40 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.

Contention over the King

41 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 house-
hold across the Jordan, together with all of David’s
men?”
42 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?”
43 “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.

20

Sheba’s Rebellion

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.[a] ”
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 mili-
tary attire, with a dagger strapped to his belt. And as
he stepped forward, he slipped the dagger from its
sheath.[b]
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-
beth-maacah[c] and through the entire region of the
Berites,[d] 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! Lis-
ten! Please tell Joab to come here so that I may speak
with him.”

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[a] **20:6** Or *and snatch away our eyes* or *and do us serious harm*

[b] **20:8** Literally *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.*

[c] **20:14** Hebrew *to Abel and Beth-maacah*; see verse 15.

[d] **20:14** Hebrew; 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 inher-
itance?"
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; Bena-
iah son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and
Pelethites;
24 Adoram[a] was in charge of the forced labor; Je-
hoshaphat son of Ahilud was the recorder;
25 Sheva[b] was the scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were
priests;
26 and Ira the Jairite[c] was David's priest.

21

David Avenges the Gibeonites

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 hang them[d] before the LORD at Gibeah
of Saul, the chosen of the LORD." "I will give them to
you," said the king.
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 Merab[e] daugh-
ter of Saul had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the
Meholathite.
9 And he delivered them into the hands of the
Gibeonites, and they hanged 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 hanged.
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.

Four Battles against the Philistines

(1 Chronicles 20:4–8)

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,[f] whose
bronze spear weighed three hundred shekels[g] 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 bat-
tle with the Philistines. At that time Sibbecai the
Hushathite killed Saph,[h] a descendant of Rapha.

[a] **20:24** *Adoram* is a variant of *Adoniram* and *Hadoram*; see 1 Kings 4:6 and 2 Chronicles 10:18.

[b] **20:25** *Sheva* is also called *Seraiah*, *Shisha*, and *Shavsha*; see 2 Samuel 8:17, 1 Kings 4:3, and 1 Chronicles 18:16.

[c] **20:26** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Ithrite*; see 2 Samuel 23:38.

[d] **21:6** Or *expose them* or *execute them*; similarly in verse 9

[e] **21:8** Two Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also 1 Samuel 18:19); most Hebrew and LXX manuscripts *Michal*

[f] **21:16** Or *the giant*; also in verses 18, 20, and 22

[g] **21:16** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms.

[h] **21:18** *Saph* is a variant of *Sippai*; see 1 Chronicles 20:4.

19 Once again there was a battle with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan son of Jair[a] the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath[b] 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,
21 and when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of David's brother Shimei[c] killed him.
22 So these four descendants of Rapha in Gath fell at the hands of David and his servants.

22

David's Song of Deliverance

(Psalm 18:1–50)

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 salvation. 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[d] 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[e] on the wings of the wind.
12 He made darkness a canopy around Him, a gathering of water and thick clouds.
13 From the brightness of His presence coals of fire[f] 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, 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.[g]
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.
36 You have given me Your shield of salvation, and Your gentleness exalts me.[h]
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.

[a] **21:19** See 1 Chronicles 20:5; Hebrew *Jaare-oregim*

[b] **21:19** See 1 Chronicles 20:5; Hebrew does not include *the brother of*.

[c] **21:21** *Shimei* is a variant of *Shammah*, *Shimeah*, and *Shimea*; see 1 Samuel 16:9, 2 Samuel 13:3, and 1 Chronicles 2:13.

[d] **22:8** Most Hebrew sources; Vulgate, Syriac, and two Hebrew manuscripts (see also Psalm 18:7) *mountains*

[e] **22:11** Many Hebrew manuscripts (see also Psalm 18:10); most Hebrew manuscripts *He was seen*

[f] **22:13** Or *bolts of lightning*

[g] **22:25** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate (see also Psalm 18:24) *according to the cleanness of my hands*

[h] **22:36** Or *and Your help exalts me* or *and You stoop down to make me great*

46 Foreigners lose heart and come trembling[a] from
their strongholds.
47 The LORD lives, and blessed be my Rock! And may
God, the Rock of my salvation, 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.[b]
51 Great salvation He brings to His king. He shows
loving devotion to His anointed, to David and his
descendants forever."

23

David's Last Song

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
sweet psalmist of Israel:[c]
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 estab-
lished with me an everlasting covenant, ordered and
secured in every part. Will He not bring about my
full salvation 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."

David's Mighty Men

(1 Chronicles 11:10–47)

8 These are the names of David's mighty men: Joshеb-
basshebeth the Tahchemonite[d] was chief of the
Three.[e] He wielded his spear against[f] eight hun-
dred men, whom he killed at one time.
9 Next in command was Eleazar son of Dodo[g] the Aho-
hite. As one of the three mighty men, he went with
David to taunt the Philistines who had gathered for
battle at Pas-dammim. 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.
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 Philis-
tine 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,[h] 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?[i] 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
[j] from Kabzeel, a man of many exploits. He struck
down two champions[k] 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:[l] 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[m] the
Hushathite,

[a] **22:46** Some LXX manuscripts and Vulgate (see also Psalm 18:45); MT *and arm themselves*

[b] **22:50** Cited in Romans 15:9

[c] **23:1** Or *the hero of the songs of Israel* or *the favorite of the Strong One of Israel*

[d] **23:8** *Tahchemonite* is probably a variant of *Hachmonite*; see 1 Chronicles 11:11.

[e] **23:8** Or *chief among the captains*

[f] **23:8** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 11:11); Hebrew *He was called Adino the Eznite because of*

[g] **23:9** *Dodo* is a variant of *Dodai*; see 1 Chronicles 27:4.

[h] **23:18** Most Hebrew manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 11:20); two Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *the Thirty*

[i] **23:19** Hebrew; Syriac *the Thirty*

[j] **23:20** Or *Benaiah son of Jehoiada was the son of Ishhai*

[k] **23:20** Or *two sons of Ariel*

[l] **23:24** Literally *In the Thirty (were):*

[m] **23:27** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *Sibbecai* ; see 2 Samuel 21:18 and 1 Chronicles 11:29.

28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,
29 Heled[a] son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai[b] son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjamites,
30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai[c] from the brooks[d] of Gaash,
31 Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,
32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen,[e] Jonathan
33 son of Shammah[f] the Hararite, Ahiam son of Sharar[g] the Hararite,
34 Eliphelet son of Ahasbai the Maacathite, Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,
35 Hezro 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

David's Military Census

(Exodus 30:11–16; 1 Chronicles 21:1–6)

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,[h] "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,[i] 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,[j] 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.

Judgment for David's Sin

(1 Chronicles 21:7–13)

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.'"
13 So Gad went and said to David, "Do you choose to endure three[k] 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."

A Plague on Israel

(1 Chronicles 21:14–17)

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.[l]
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[m] the Jebusite.
17 When David saw the angel striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "Surely I, the shepherd,[n] have sinned and acted wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please, let Your hand fall upon me and my father's house."

David Builds an Altar

(1 Chronicles 21:18–30)

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

[a] **23:29** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate (see also 1 Chronicles 11:30); most MT manuscripts *Heleb*
[b] **23:29** *Ittai* is a variant of *Ithai* ; see 1 Chronicles 11:31 .
[c] **23:30** *Hiddai* is a variant of *Hurai* ; see 1 Chronicles 11:32 .
[d] **23:30** Or *from the ravines*
[e] **23:32** *Jashen* is a variant of *Hashem*; see 1 Chronicles 11:34.
[f] **23:33** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 11:34); Hebrew *Jonathan,* **33**Shammah
[g] **23:33** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *Sachar*; see 1 Chronicles 11:35.
[h] **24:2** LXX *to Joab and the army commanders with him*
[i] **24:6** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *to Gilead and to the land of the Hittites*
[j] **24:7** Or *to the south of Judah*
[k] **24:13** LXX (see also 1 Chronicles 21:12); Hebrew *seven*
[l] **24:15** Literally *and of the people from Dan to Beersheba, seventy thousand men died*
[m] **24:16** *Araunah* is a variant of *Ornan*; see 1 Chronicles 21:15 and 2 Chronicles 3:1.
[n] **24:17** DSS and LXX; MT does not include *the shepherd.*

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.[a]
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.

[a] **24:24** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver.

1 Kings

First Book of Kings

1

Abishag Cares for David

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.

Adonijah Usurps the Kingdom

5 At that time Adonijah, David's son by Haggith, began
to exalt himself, saying, "I will be king!" And he ac-
quired chariots and horsemen and fifty men to run
ahead of him.
6 (His father had never once reprimanded him by say-
ing, "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,[a] 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.

Nathan and Bathsheba before David

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 Shunam-
mite 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
you, my lord the king, do not know it.
19 And he has sacrificed an abundance of oxen, fat-
tened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the other
sons of the king, as well as Abiathar 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, 'Adoni-
jah will reign after me, and he will sit on my throne'?
25 For today he has gone down and sacrificed an abun-
dance of oxen, fattened calves, and sheep, and has
invited all the sons of the king, the commanders[b] 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 inform-
ing your servant who should sit on the throne after
my lord the king?"

David Renews His Oath to Bathsheba

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!"

Solomon Anointed King

(1 Chronicles 29:21–25)

32 Then King David said, "Call in for me Zadok the
priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Je-
hoiada." 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!'

[a] **1:9** Or *the Serpent's Stone*

[b] **1:25** Hebrew; LXX *Joab the commander*

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 taber-
nacle and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the
ram's horn, and all the people proclaimed, "Long live
King Solomon!"
40 All the people followed him, playing flutes and re-
joicing with such a great joy that the earth was split
by the sound.

Adonijah Learns of Solomon's Kingship

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 Adoni-
jah, "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 your 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[a] 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

David Instructs Solomon

(Psalm 37:1–40)

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 Law 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,[b] the two commanders of the armies
of Israel. He killed them in peacetime to avenge the
blood of war. He stained with the blood of war the
belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.[c]
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[d] 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 Ma-
hanaim, 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."

David's Reign and Death

(1 Chronicles 29:26–30)

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.

The Execution of Adonijah

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.

[a] **1:48** LXX *one of my offspring*

[b] **2:5** *Jether* is a variant of *Ithra*; also in verse 32; see 2 Samuel 17:25.

[c] **2:5** Hebrew; LXX *He stained with innocent blood the belt around my waist and the sandals on my feet.*

[d] **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*.

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 re-
quest 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.
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.

The Execution of Joab

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 de-
scendants, 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.

The Execution of Shimei

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,[a] 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,
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

Solomon’s Prayer for Wisdom

(2 Chronicles 1:1–13; Psalm 45:1–17; Psalm 72:1–20)

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.

[a] **2:39** *Maacah* is a variant of *Maoch*; see 1 Samuel 27:2.

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 thou-
sand 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 de-
votion 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 ser-
vant 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[a] 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.
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.

Solomon Judges Wisely

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

Solomon's Princes

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,[b] 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 gover-
nors; Zabud son of Nathan was a priest and adviser
to the king;
6 Ahishar was in charge of the palace; and Adoniram[c]
son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor.

Solomon's Twelve Officers

7 Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel to pro-
vide 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 coun-
try 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[d] (Taphath, a daugh-
ter 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 Jok-
meam;

[a] **3:10** Hebrew *Adonai*; also in verse 15

[b] **4:3** *Shisha* is also called *Seraiah*, *Sheva*, and *Shavsha*; see 2 Samuel 8:17, 2 Samuel 20:25, and 1 Chronicles 18:16.

[c] **4:6** *Adoniram* is a variant of *Adoram* and *Hadoram* ; see 2 Samuel 20:24 and 2 Chronicles 10:18.

[d] **4:11** Or *in all the heights of Dor*; *Naphath-dor* is a variant of *Naphoth-dor*; see Joshua 11:2.

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. There was also one governor in the
land of Judah.[a]

Solomon's Prosperity

20 The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as
the sand on the seashore, and they were eating and
drinking and rejoicing.
21 And Solomon reigned over all the kingdoms from
the Euphrates[b] 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.
22 Solomon's provisions for a single day were thirty
cors of fine flour,[c] sixty cors of meal,[d]
23 ten fat oxen, twenty range oxen, and a hundred
sheep, as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fat-
tened poultry.
24 For Solomon had dominion over everything west
of the Euphrates[e] — over all the kingdoms from
Tiphsah to Gaza — and he had peace on all sides.
25 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.
26 Solomon had 4,000[f] stalls for his chariot horses and
12,000 horses.[g]
27 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.
28 Each one also brought to the required place their
quotas of barley and straw for the chariot horses and
other horses.

Solomon's Wisdom

29 And God gave Solomon wisdom, exceedingly deep
insight, and understanding beyond measure, like
the sand on the seashore.
30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than that of all the
men of the East, greater than all the wisdom of
Egypt.
31 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.
32 Solomon composed three thousand proverbs, and
his songs numbered a thousand and five.
33 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.
34 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.

5

Preparations for the Temple

(2 Chronicles 2:1–10)

1 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.
2 And Solomon relayed this message to Hiram:
3 "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.
4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every
side, and there is no adversary or crisis.
5 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.'
6 Now therefore, order that cedars of Lebanon be cut
down for me. My servants will be with your ser-
vants, 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."

Hiram's Reply to Solomon

(2 Chronicles 2:11–18)

7 When Hiram received Solomon's message, he re-
joiced greatly and said, "Blessed be the LORD this
day! He has given David a wise son over this great
people!"
8 Then Hiram sent a reply to Solomon, saying: "I have
received your message; I will do all you desire re-
garding the cedar and cypress[h] timber.
9 My servants will haul the logs from Lebanon to the
Sea,[i] 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."
10 So Hiram provided Solomon with all the cedar and
cypress timber he wanted,
11 and year after year Solomon would provide Hiram
with 20,000 cors of wheat[j] as food for his house-
hold, as well as 20,000 baths of pure olive oil.[k]

[a] **4:19** Some LXX manuscripts; Hebrew *And he was the one governor in the land.*

[b] **4:21** Hebrew *the River*; also in verse 24

[c] **4:22** *30 cors* is approximately 187 bushels or 6,600 liters (probably about 5.5 tons or 5 metric tons of flour).

[d] **4:22** *60 cors* is approximately 375 bushels or 13,200 liters (probably about 11 tons or 10 metric tons of meal).

[e] **4:24** Or *beyond the River*

[f] **4:26** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Chronicles 9:25); Hebrew *40,000*

[g] **4:26** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers*

[h] **5:8** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; also in verse 10

[i] **5:9** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

[j] **5:11** *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).

[k] **5:11** LXX (see also 2 Chronicles 2:10); *20,000 baths* is approximately 116,000 gallons or 440,000 liters of olive oil; Hebrew *twenty cors of pure oil* or *twenty cors of pressed oil*

12 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.[a]

Solomon's Labor Force

13 Then King Solomon conscripted a labor force of 30,000 men from all Israel.
14 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.
15 Solomon had 70,000 porters and 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains,
16 not including his 3,300[b] foremen who supervised the workers.
17 And the king commanded them to quarry large, costly stones to lay the foundation of the temple with dressed stones.
18 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

Temple Construction Begins

(2 Chronicles 3:1–2)

1 In the four hundred and eightieth[c] 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,[d] 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.[e]
3 The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple was twenty cubits[f] long, extending across the width of the temple and projecting out ten cubits[g] in front of the temple.
4 He also had narrow windows framed high in the temple.

The Chambers

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,[h] the middle floor six cubits,[i] and the third floor seven cubits.[j] 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 bottom[k] floor was on the south side of the temple. A stairway led up to the middle level, and from there to the third floor.
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.

God's Promise to Solomon

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."

The Temple's Interior

(2 Chronicles 3:5–9)

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[l] boards.
16 He partitioned off the twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.[m]
17 And the main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long.[n]
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.[o]
21 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains[p] 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.

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[a] **5:12** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.

[b] **5:16** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *3,600*; see 2 Chronicles 2:18.

[c] **6:1** Hebrew; LXX *four hundred and fortieth*

[d] **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.

[e] **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).

[f] **6:3** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters; also in verses 16 and 20.

[g] **6:3** *10 cubits* is approximately 15 feet or 4.6 meters; also in verses 23–26.

[h] **6:6** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters; also in verses 10 and 24.

[i] **6:6** *6 cubits* is approximately 9 feet or 2.7 meters.

[j] **6:6** *7 cubits* is approximately 10.5 feet or 3.2 meters.

[k] **6:8** LXX and Targum; Hebrew *middle*

[l] **6:15** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; also in verse 34

[m] **6:16** Or *the Holy of Holies*

[n] **6:17** *40 cubits* is approximately 60 feet or 18.3 meters.

[o] **6:20** Or *with cedar*

[p] **6:21** Or *made gold chains to draw (the curtains)*

The Cherubim

(2 Chronicles 3:10–13)

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.

The Doors

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.

The Courtyard

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,[a] the eighth
month, the temple was finished in every detail and
according to every specification. So he built the temple in seven years.

7

Solomon's Palace Complex

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,[b] 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[c] had rectangular frames, with the
openings facing one another in three tiers.
6 Solomon made his colonnade fifty cubits long and
thirty cubits wide,[d] 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 ceiling.[e]
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[f] and some eight cubits long.[g]
11 Above these were costly stones, cut to size, and cedar
beams.
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.

The Pillars and Capitals

(2 Chronicles 3:14–17)

13 Now King Solomon sent to bring Huram[h] 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.[i]
16 He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on
top of the pillars, each capital five cubits high.[j]
17 For the capitals on top of the pillars he made a
network of lattice, with wreaths of chainwork, seven
for each capital.[k]
18 Likewise, he made the pillars with two rows of
pomegranates around each grating to cover each
capital atop the pillars.

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[a] **6:38** *Bul* was the eighth month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of October and November.

[b] **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).

[c] **7:5** Literally *doorways and doorposts*

[d] **7:6** The colonnade was approximately 75 feet long and 45 feet wide (22.9 meters long and 13.7 meters wide).

[e] **7:7** Syriac and Vulgate; Hebrew *from floor to floor*

[f] **7:10** *10 cubits* is approximately 15 feet or 4.6 meters.

[g] **7:10** *8 cubits* is approximately 12 feet or 3.7 meters.

[h] **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 5:1.

[i] **7:15** Each pillar was approximately 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference (8.2 meters high and 5.5 meters in circumference).

[j] **7:16** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.

[k] **7:17** Hebrew; LXX *one for each capital*

19 And the capitals atop the pillars in the portico were shaped like lilies, four cubits high.[a]
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,[b] and the pillar to the north he named Boaz.[c]
22 And the tops of the pillars were shaped like lilies. So the work of the pillars was completed.

The Molten Sea

(2 Chronicles 4:1–5)

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.[d]
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,[e] and its rim was fashioned like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold two thousand baths.[f]

The Ten Bronze Stands

27 In addition, he made ten movable stands of bronze, each four cubits long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high.[g]
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 supports, with wreaths at each side.
31 The opening to each stand inside the crown at the top was one cubit deep,[h] with a round opening like the design of a pedestal, a cubit and a half wide.[i] 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.[j] 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.

The Ten Bronze Basins

(2 Chronicles 4:6–8)

38 He also made ten bronze basins, each holding forty baths[k] 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.

Completion of the Bronze Works

(2 Chronicles 4:11–18)

40 Additionally, Huram made the pots,[l] 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 the articles that Huram made for King Solomon in the house of the LORD were made of burnished bronze.
46 The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Succoth and Zarethan.[m]
47 Solomon left all these articles unweighed, because there were so many. The weight of the bronze could not be determined.

Completion of the Gold Furnishings

(2 Chronicles 4:19–22)

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;

[a] **7:19** *4 cubits* is approximately 6 feet or 1.8 meters; also in verse 38.

[b] **7:21** *Jachin* probably means *He establishes*.

[c] **7:21** *Boaz* probably means *in Him is strength*.

[d] **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).

[e] **7:26** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.

[f] **7:26** *2,000 baths* is approximately 11,600 gallons or 44,000 liters; LXX does not include this sentence.

[g] **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).

[h] **7:31** *One cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters.

[i] **7:31** *A cubit and a half* is approximately 2.25 feet or 68.6 centimeters wide; similarly in verse 32.

[j] **7:35** *Half a cubit* is approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters high.

[k] **7:38** *40 baths* is approximately 232 gallons or 880 liters.

[l] **7:40** Many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also verse 45 and 2 Chronicles 4:11); many other Hebrew manuscripts *basins*

[m] **7:46** *Zarethan* is a variant of *Zeredah*; see 2 Chronicles 4:17.

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 Most Holy
Place[a]) 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

The Ark Enters the Temple

(2 Chronicles 5:1–14)

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,[b] the
month of Ethanim.[c]
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 Most Holy Place,[d] 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;[e] 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,[f] 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
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.

Solomon Blesses the LORD

(2 Chronicles 6:1–11)

12 Then Solomon declared: “The LORD[g] 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.”

Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication

(2 Chronicles 6:12–42)

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 heav-
ens, 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

[a] **7:50** Or *the Holy of Holies*

[b] **8:2** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); similarly in verse 65; see Leviticus 23:33–36.

[c] **8:2** *Ethanim* was the seventh month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of September and October.

[d] **8:6** Or *the Holy of Holies*

[e] **8:8** Literally *not from outside*

[f] **8:9** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

[g] **8:12** Some LXX manuscripts *The Lord has set the sun in the heavens, but*

shall be there,' so that You may hear the prayer that Your servant prays toward this place.
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 Your people Israel make— 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."

Solomon's Benediction

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."

Sacrifices of Dedication

(2 Chronicles 7:4–10)

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.
66 On the fifteenth day[a] 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

The LORD's Response to Solomon

(2 Chronicles 7:11–22)

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 tem-
ple, 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 upright-
ness, 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 fol-
lowing 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 when this temple has become a heap of rubble,
[b] 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.'"

Solomon's Additional Achievements

(2 Chronicles 8:1–18)

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[c] 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,[d] as they are called to this day.
14 And Hiram had sent the king 120 talents of gold.[e]
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,[f] and the wall
of Jerusalem, as well as Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer.
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 Tamar[g] in the Wilderness of Judah,[h]
19 as well as all the store cities that Solomon had for
his chariots and horses[i] — 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 de-
struction[j] — 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 ser-
vants, 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

[a] **8:66** Hebrew *On the eighth day*, probably referring to the day following the seven-day feast; see 2 Chronicles 7:9–10.

[b] **9:8** Some LXX manuscripts, Syriac, and Arabic; Hebrew *And though this temple is now exalted*; see also 2 Chronicles 7:21.

[c] **9:11** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

[d] **9:13** *Cabul* sounds like the Hebrew for *good-for-nothing*.

[e] **9:14** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold.

[f] **9:15** Hebrew *the Millo*; also in verse 24

[g] **9:18** Alternate MT reading; the other alternate reads *Tadmor*

[h] **9:18** Hebrew *in the wilderness in the land*

[i] **9:19** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers*

[j] **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.

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[a] in Edom, on the shore of the Red Sea.[b]
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[c] — and delivered it to Solomon.

10

The Queen of Sheba

(2 Chronicles 9:1–12)

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.
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![d] 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,[e] 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[f] 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.

Solomon's Wealth and Splendor

(2 Chronicles 1:14–17; 2 Chronicles 9:13–28)

14 The weight of gold that came to Solomon each year was 666 talents,[g]
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[h] went into each shield.
17 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold[i] 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[j] at sea with Hiram's fleet, and once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.[k]
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.
25 Year after year, each visitor would bring his tribute: articles of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.
26 Solomon accumulated[l] 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses,[m] 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.[n]

[a] **9:26** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6.

[b] **9:26** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[c] **9:28** *420 talents* is approximately 15.8 tons or 14.4 metric tons of gold.

[d] **10:8** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *your wives*

[e] **10:10** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold.

[f] **10:11** *Almug* is probably a variant of *algum*; also in verse 12; see 2 Chronicles 2:8.

[g] **10:14** *666 talents* is approximately 25.1 tons or 22.8 metric tons of gold.

[h] **10:16** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold.

[i] **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.

[j] **10:22** Or *a fleet of trading ships*; twice in this verse

[k] **10:22** Or *baboons*

[l] **10:26** Literally *Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had*

[m] **10:26** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers*

[n] **10:27** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue;[a] the royal merchants purchased them from Kue.
29 A chariot could be imported from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver,[b] and a horse for a hundred and fifty.[c] Likewise, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Aram.

11

Solomon's Foreign Wives

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[d] 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.

God's Anger against Solomon

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."

Hadad's Return

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."

Rezon's Hostility

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.

Jeroboam's Rebellion

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[e] 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.

[a] **10:28** Probably an area in Cilicia, a province in the southeast of Asia Minor
[b] **10:29** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of silver.
[c] **10:29** *150 shekels* is approximately 3.8 pounds or 1.7 kilograms of silver.
[d] **11:5** *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; also in verse 33; see verse 7 and Leviticus 18:21.
[e] **11:27** Hebrew *the Millo*

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.
33 For they have[a] 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.

The Death of Solomon

(2 Chronicles 9:29–31)

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

Rebellion against Rehoboam

(2 Chronicles 10:1–15)

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[b] 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.”
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.

The Kingdom Divided

(2 Chronicles 10:16–19)

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,[c] 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.

[a] **11:33** Hebrew; LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *he has*; twice in this verse

[b] **12:2** Or *he remained*

[c] **12:18** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Adoniram*; see 1 Kings 4:6 and 1 Kings 5:14.

Shemaiah's Prophecy

(2 Chronicles 11:1–4)

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 mo-
bilized 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.'" So
they listened to the word of the LORD and turned
back according to the word of the LORD.

Jeroboam's Idolatry

25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of
Ephraim and lived there. And from there he went
out and built Penuel.[a]
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,[b] "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 as
far as Dan to worship before one of the calves.[c]
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,[d] 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

Jeroboam's Hand Withers

(2 Kings 23:4–20; 2 Chronicles 34:3–7)

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.'"[e]
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, "Inter-
cede 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.
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.

The Old Prophet and the Man of God

11 Now a certain old prophet was living in Bethel, and
his sons[f] 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 showed him[g] 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 an oak tree[h] and asked, "Are you the man of
God who came from Judah?" "I am," he replied.

[a] **12:25** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; see Genesis 32:30.

[b] **12:28** Hebrew *to them*

[c] **12:30** Likely reading of the original Hebrew text; MT *the people walked to the one as far as Dan*; LXX *the people went to the one at Bethel and to the other as far as Dan*

[d] **12:32** This feast was exactly one month after the annual Feast of Tabernacles in Judah; see Leviticus 23:34.

[e] **13:2** See 2 Kings 23:16.

[f] **13:11** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *son*

[g] **13:12** LXX; Hebrew *had seen*

[h] **13:14** Or *a terebinth* or *a great tree*

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.
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. There-
fore 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

Ahijah’s Prophecy against Jeroboam

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 peo-
ple 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.
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,[a] 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,[b] 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

[a] **14:10** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall*

[b] **14:13** Literally *who will come to the grave*

that He gave their fathers, and He will scatter them beyond the Euphrates,[a] 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.

Nadab Succeeds Jeroboam

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.

Rehoboam Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 12:13–14)

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.
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.

Shishak Raids Jerusalem

(2 Chronicles 12:1–12)

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[b] reigned in his place.

15

Abijam Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 13:1–3)

1 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijam[c] became king of Judah,
2 and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was Maacah daughter of Abishalom.[d]
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 [e] and Jeroboam all the days of Abijam's life.[f]
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.

Asa Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 14:1–15; 2 Chronicles 15:8–19)

9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam's reign over Israel, Asa became king of Judah,
10 and he reigned in Jerusalem forty-one years. His grandmother's[g] 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.

[a] **14:15** Hebrew *the River*

[b] **14:31** *Abijam* is a variant of *Abijah*; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *Abijah*; see 2 Chronicles 12:16.

[c] **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.

[d] **15:2** *Abishalom* is a variant of *Absalom*; also in verse 10; see 2 Chronicles 11:20.

[e] **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.

[f] **15:6** Literally *of his life*

[g] **15:10** Or *The queen mother's*; Hebrew *His mother's*; see verses 2 and 13.

War between Asa and Baasha

(2 Chronicles 16:1–6)

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 re-
mained 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[a] 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 Chin-
nereth.
21 When Baasha learned of this, he stopped fortifying
Ramah and withdrew to Tirzah.
22 Then King Asa summoned all the men of Judah,
[b] 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.

Jehoshaphat Succeeds Asa

(2 Chronicles 17:1–19)

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 Chron-
icles 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.

Nadab Reigns in Israel

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.
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.

Baasha Reigns in Israel

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

Jehu's Prophecy against Baasha

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.

Elah Reigns in Israel

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

[a] **15:19** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse.

[b] **15:22** Or *Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah*

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?

Zimri Reigns in 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?

Omri Reigns in 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[a] 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.

Ahab Reigns in Israel, Marries Jezebel

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.
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.[b]

17

The Ravens Feed Elijah

1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was among the settlers of Gilead,[c] 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.[d]
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.

The Widow of Zarephath

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."
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.'"

[a] **16:24** *2 talents* is approximately 151 pounds or 68.4 kilograms of silver.

[b] **16:34** See Joshua 6:26.

[c] **17:1** Or *who was from Tishbe in Gilead*

[d] **17:3** Or *the Cherith Ravine, near the Jordan*; also in verse 5

15 So she went and did according to the word of Elijah,
and there was food every day for Elijah and the
woman 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.

Elijah Raises the Widow's Son

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

Elijah's Message to Ahab

1 After a long time, in the third year of the drought,
[a] 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.
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."

Elijah on Mount Carmel

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 remain-
ing 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 an-
swered, "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, pre-
pared 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,

[a] **18:1** Literally *And the days were many, and in the third year,*

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.[a]
33 Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull, placed it on the wood,
34 and said, "Fill four waterpots and pour the water on the offering and on the wood."[b] "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.

Elijah's Prayer

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.

The LORD Sends Rain

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[c] and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

19

Elijah Flees from Jezebel

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 And Elijah was afraid and 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."
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,[d] the mountain of God.

The LORD Speaks to Elijah at Horeb

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."[e]
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

[a] **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).
[b] **18:34** Some texts continue verse 33 to this point.
[c] **18:46** Hebrew *he girded up his loins*
[d] **19:8** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai
[e] **19:10** Cited in Romans 11:3; here and in verse 14

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[a] 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[b] and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

The Call of Elisha

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.

20

Ben-hadad Attacks Samaria

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 saying, “This is what Ben-hadad says:[c] ‘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 their tents,[d] and he said to his servants, “Take your positions.” So they stationed themselves against the city.

Ahab Defeats Ben-hadad

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 their tents 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.”
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 in the spring[e] 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

[a] **19:16** Or *grandson*; see 2 Kings 9:14.

[b] **19:18** Cited in Romans 11:4

[c] **20:3** Some texts break verse 2 and begin verse 3 at this point.

[d] **20:12** Or *in Succoth*; also in verse 16

[e] **20:22** Literally *at the turn of the year*; similarly in verse 26

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.

Another War with Ben-hadad

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.

Ahab Spares Ben-hadad

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.
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[a] I release you," Ahab replied. So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.

A Prophet Reproves Ahab

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.[b] '
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,[c] 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

Naboth's Vineyard

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!'"
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."

[a] **20:34** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse.

[b] **20:39** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of silver.

[c] **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.

Jezebel's Plot

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.

Elijah Denounces Ahab and Jezebel

17 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tish-
bite, 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!'[a] "
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 This is what the LORD says:[b] '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 by the wall of Jezreel.'[c]
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."

Ahab's Repentance

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 on sackcloth, and fasted. He lay down in sack-
cloth and walked around meekly.
28 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tish-
bite, 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

Ahab and the False Prophets

(2 Chronicles 18:1–11)

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 him-
self iron horns and declared, "This is what the LORD
says: 'With these you shall gore the Arameans until
they are finished off.'"
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."

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[a] **21:19** See 1 Kings 22:38

[b] **21:21** See LXX; the source of the quotation is clarified in verses 17 and 23; Hebrew *Behold*.

[c] **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.'*

Micaiah Prophesies against Ahab

(2 Chronicles 18:12–27)

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 words 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.’[a] ‘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!”

Ahab’s Defeat and Death

(2 Chronicles 18:28–34)

29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.
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[b] 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,[c] and the dogs licked up Ahab’s blood, according to the word that the LORD had spoken.[d]
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.

Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 20:31–34)

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. The high places, however, were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.
44 Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.
45 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?
46 He banished from the land the male shrine prostitutes who remained from the days of his father Asa.
47 And there was no king in Edom; a deputy served as king.

[a] **22:21** Some texts break verse 21 and begin verse 22 at this point.

[b] **22:34** Literally *Turn your hand*

[c] **22:38** Or *the pool of Samaria, where they cleaned the weapons*

[d] **22:38** See 1 Kings 21:19.

48 Jehoshaphat built ships of Tarshish[a] to go to Ophir
for gold, but they never set sail, because they were
wrecked at Ezion-geber.
49 At that time Ahaziah son of Ahab said to Je-
hoshaphat, “Let my servants sail with your ser-
vants,” but Jehoshaphat refused.
50 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.

Ahaziah Reigns in Israel

(2 Kings 1:1–16)

51 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.
52 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.
53 Ahaziah served and worshiped Baal, provoking the
LORD, the God of Israel, to anger, just as his father
had done.

[a] **22:48** Or *a fleet of trading ships*

2 Kings

Second Book of Kings

1

Elijah Denounces Ahaziah

(1 Kings 22:51–53)

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,[a] ” 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.”
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.”

Jehoram Succeeds Ahaziah

17 So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. And since he had no son, Jehoram[b] 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

Elijah Taken Up to Heaven

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 ap-

[a] **1:8** Or *He had a garment of hair*

[b] **1:17** *Jehoram* is a variant spelling of *Joram*.

peared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up into heaven in a whirlwind.
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.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

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?”

Elisha Heals the Waters of Jericho

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.[a] ’”
22 And the waters there have been healthy to this day, according to the word spoken by Elisha.

Elisha Mocked

23 From there, Elisha went up to Bethel, and as he was walking up the road, a group of boys[b] 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 boys.
25 And Elisha went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

3

Moab’s Rebellion

1 In the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat’s reign over Judah, Jehoram[c] 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.
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,[d] 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.[e] ”
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 harpist.[f] ” And while the harpist 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.’

[a] **2:21** Or *barrenness*

[b] **2:23** Or *some small youths* or *some insignificant young men*; similarly in verse 24

[c] **3:1** *Jehoram* is a variant spelling of *Joram*; also in verse 6.

[d] **3:4** Or *sheepherder*

[e] **3:11** Or *He was Elijah’s personal assistant*

[f] **3:15** Or *a musician*; twice in this verse

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 sacri-
fice, 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.
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,[a] so
they withdrew and returned to their own land.

4

The Widow’s Oil

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 chil-
dren 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.”

The Shunammite Woman

(Matthew 10:40–42)

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 Shunam-
mite 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.
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.

Elisha Raises the Shunammite’s Son

(Acts 20:7–12)

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,

[a] **3:27** Or *And Israel’s fury was great*

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,[a] 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.
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.

Elisha Purifies the Poisonous Stew

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.

Feeding a Hundred Men

(Matthew 15:29–39; Mark 8:1–10)

42 Now a man from Baal-shalishah came to the man of God with a sack of twenty loaves of barley bread from the first ripe grain. “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

Naaman Cured of Leprosy

(Luke 17:11–19)

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.[b]
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,[c] six thousand shekels of gold,[d] 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.”
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 Abanah 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

[a] **4:29** Literally *Gird up your loins*

[b] **5:1** A *leper*, or one with *leprosy*, was one afflicted with a skin disease; here and throughout this chapter; see Leviticus 13.

[c] **5:5** *10 talents* is approximately 754 pounds or 342 kilograms of silver.

[d] **5:5** *6,000 shekels* is approximately 150.8 pounds or 68.4 kilograms of gold.

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.

Gehazi's Greed and Leprosy

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[a] and two sets of clothing.'"
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

The Axe Head Floats

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.

Elisha Captures the Blinded Arameans

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[b] 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.
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.

[a] **5:22** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of silver.

[b] **6:10** Literally *Not once and not twice*

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 El-
isha, “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.

The Siege and Famine of Samaria

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,[a] and a quarter cab of dove’s
dung[b] sold for five shekels of silver.[c]
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 se-
verely, 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 my head? Look, when the mes-
senger 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 mes-
senger came down to him. And the king said, “This
calamity is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the
LORD any longer?”

7

Elisha’s Prophecy of Plenty

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[d] will sell
for a shekel,[e] and two seahs of barley[f] will sell for
a shekel.’”
2 But the officer on whose arm the king leaned an-
swered 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.”

The Arameans Flee

3 Now there were four men with leprosy[g] at the en-
trance 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 Egyp-
tians 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, car-
ried 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 re-
ported 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 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.”

[a] **6:25** *80 shekels* is approximately 2 pounds or 907.2 grams of silver.

[b] **6:25** Or *a quarter cab of seed pods*; that is, approximately 0.28 dry quarts or 0.31 liters

[c] **6:25** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams of silver.

[d] **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.

[e] **7:1** *A shekel* is approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams, probably of silver; here and in verses 16 and 18.

[f] **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.

[g] **7:3** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; here and in verse 8; see Leviticus 13.

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.

Elisha's Prophecy Fulfilled

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

The Shunammite's Land Restored

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 ser-
vant 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, "Re-
store all that was hers, along with all the proceeds of
the field from the day that she left the country until
now."

Hazael Murders Ben-hadad

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[a] 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 an-
swered, "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.

Jehoram Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 21:1–7)

16 In the fifth year of the reign of Joram son of Ahab
over Israel, Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat succeeded
his father as 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 David and his descendants
forever.

Edom and Libnah Rebel

(2 Chronicles 21:8–11)

20 In the days of Jehoram,[b] Edom rebelled against the
hand of Judah and appointed their own king.
21 So Jehoram[c] crossed over to Zair with all his char-
iots. 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.

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[a] **8:10** Or *"Go and say, 'You will surely not recover.' And the LORD*

[b] **8:20** Literally *In his days*

[c] **8:21** Hebrew *Joram*, a variant of *Jehoram* (the son of Jehoshaphat), as in verse 16; also in verses 23 and 24

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.

Ahaziah Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 22:1–7)

25 In the twelfth year of the reign of Joram son of Ahab
over Israel, Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of
Judah.
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[a] 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

Jehu Anointed King of Israel

1 Now Elisha the prophet summoned one of the sons
of the prophets and said to him, "Tuck your cloak
under your belt,[b] 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 sit-
ting 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,[c] both slave and free, in
Israel.
9 I will make the house of Ahab like the houses of Jer-
oboam 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 an-
swered, "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!"

Jehu Kills Joram and Ahaziah

(2 Chronicles 22:8–9)

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[d] 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[e] — 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.

[a] **8:29** *Ramah* is a variant of *Ramoth*; see verse 28.

[b] **9:1** Literally *Gird up your loins*

[c] **9:8** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall*

[d] **9:15** Or *Jehoram*, a variant of *Joram*; also in verses 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24

[e] **9:20** Or *grandson of Nimshi*; see verse 14.

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[a] and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?”
23 Joram turned around[b] 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. And Jehu pursued him, shouting, “Shoot him too!” So they shot Ahaziah in his chariot on the Ascent of Gur,[c] 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.)

Jezebel’s Violent Death

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?”[d]
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.’[e] ”

10

Ahab’s Seventy Sons Killed

1 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria to the officials of Jezreel,[f] to the elders, and to the guardians of the sons[g] 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.
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. 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,”

[a] **9:22** Hebrew *adultery* or *prostitution*, here a metaphor for idolatry

[b] **9:23** Literally *turned his hands*

[c] **9:27** See Syriac, Vulgate, and LXX; Hebrew *“Shoot him, too, in his chariot!” (They did this) on the Ascent of Gur,*

[d] **9:31** Or *“Is there peace for Zimri, the murderer of his master?”* See 1 Kings 16:10.

[e] **9:37** See verse 10 and 1 Kings 21:23.

[f] **10:1** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate *officials of the city*

[g] **10:1** Hebrew does not include *of the sons*.

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 he had him ride[a] 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.

Jehu Kills the Priests of Baal

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.
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[b] 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 pillar of the temple of Baal and burned it.
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.

Jehu Repeats Jeroboam’s Sins

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.

Jehoahaz Succeeds Jehu in Israel

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

Athaliah and Joash

(2 Chronicles 22:10–12)

1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs.
2 But Jehosheba[c] daughter of King Joram,[d] 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.

Joash Anointed King of Judah

(2 Chronicles 23:1–11)

4 Then in the seventh year, Jehoiada sent for the commanders of hundreds, the Carites,[e] 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.

[a] **10:16** LXX, Syriac, and Targum Yonaton; Hebrew *they had him ride*

[b] **10:24** LXX *he went in* ; see also verse 25.

[c] **11:2** *Jehosheba* is a variant of *Jehoshabeath*; see 2 Chronicles 22:11.

[d] **11:2** *Joram* is a variant spelling of *Jehoram*.

[e] **11:4** Or *the mercenaries* or *the executioners*; also in verse 19

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!"

The Death of Athaliah

(2 Chronicles 23:12–15)

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,[a] 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.

Jehoiada Restores the Worship of the LORD

(2 Chronicles 23:16–21)

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,
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.
21 Joash[b] was seven years old when he became king.

12

Joash Repairs the Temple

(2 Chronicles 24:1–14)

1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash[c] 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 he was instructed by Jehoiada the priest.
3 Nevertheless, the high places were not removed; the people continued sacrificing and burning incense there.
4 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.
5 Let every priest receive it from his constituency, and let it be used to repair any damage found in the temple."
6 By the twenty-third year of the reign of Joash, however, the priests had not yet repaired the damage to the temple.
7 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."
8 So the priests agreed that they would not receive money from the people and that they would not repair the temple themselves.
9 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.
10 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.
11 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,
12 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.
13 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.
14 Instead, it was paid to those doing the work, and with it they repaired the house of the LORD.
15 No accounting was required from the men who received the money to pay the workmen, because they acted with integrity.
16 The money from the guilt offerings and sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests.

[a] **11:15** Or *out from the precincts*

[b] **11:21** Hebrew *Jehoash* , a variant of *Joash* (son of Ahaziah) as in verse 2

[c] **12:1** Hebrew *Jehoash*, a variant of *Joash*(son of Ahaziah); also in verses 2, 4, 6, 7, and 18; see 2 Kings 11:2.

The Death of Joash

(2 Chronicles 24:23–27)

17 At that time Hazael king of Aram marched up and
fought against Gath and captured it. Then he decided
to attack Jerusalem.
18 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.
19 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?
20 And the servants of Joash rose up and formed a
conspiracy and killed him at Beth-millo, on the road
down to Silla.
21 His servants Jozabad[a] son of Shimeath and Jehoz-
abad son of Shomer[b] 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

Jehoahaz Reigns in Israel

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 they continued to walk in them.[c] 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[d] reigned in his
place.

Jehoash Reigns in Israel

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 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.

Elisha's Final Prophecy

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.[e]
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 through-
out 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

[a] **12:21** Hebrew; LXX and Syriac *Jozacar*

[b] **12:21** *Shomer* is a variant of *Shimrith*; see 2 Chronicles 24:26.

[c] **13:6** LXX, Syriac, Targum Yonaton, and Vulgate; Hebrew *he continued to walk in them*

[d] **13:9** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*; also in verses 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 25

[e] **13:20** Literally *into the land at the coming in of the year*

Ben-hadad three times, and so recovered the cities of Israel.

14

Amaziah Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 25:1–4)

1 In the second year of the reign of Jehoash[a] son of Jehoahaz over Israel, Amaziah son of Joash 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 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 Law 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."[b]
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.

Jehoash Defeats Amaziah

(2 Chronicles 25:17–24)

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.[c]
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.

Jeroboam II Succeeds Jehoash in Israel

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.

The Death of Amaziah

(2 Chronicles 25:25–28)

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.
20 They carried him back on horses and buried him in Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of David.

Azariah Succeeds Amaziah in Judah

(2 Chronicles 26:1–2)

21 Then all the people of Judah took Azariah,[d] who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.
22 Azariah was the one who rebuilt Elath[e] and restored it to Judah after King Amaziah rested with his fathers.

Jeroboam II Reigns in Israel

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,[f] 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, both slave and free, was very bitter. There was 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?

[a] **14:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*; also in verses 13, 23, and 27
[b] **14:6** Deuteronomy 24:16
[c] **14:13** *400 cubits* is approximately 600 feet or 182.9 meters.
[d] **14:21** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; see 2 Chronicles 26:1.
[e] **14:22** *Elath* is a variant of *Eloth*; see 1 Kings 9:26.
[f] **14:25** That is, the Dead Sea

29 And Jeroboam rested with his fathers,[a] the kings of Israel. And his son Zechariah reigned in his place.

15

Azariah Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 26:3–23)

1 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam's reign over Israel, Azariah[b] 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[c] 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[d] in the City of David. And his son Jotham reigned in his place.

Zechariah Reigns in Israel

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,[e] 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."

Shallum Reigns in Israel

13 In the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah's[f] 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.

Menahem Reigns in Israel

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[g] king of Assyria invaded the land, and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver[h] 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[i] 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.

Pekahiah Reigns in Israel

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.

Pekah Reigns in Israel

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

[a] **14:29** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts include *and he was buried in Samaria with*
[b] **15:1** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; also in verses 6, 7, 8, 17, 23, and 27; see 2 Chronicles 26:1.
[c] **15:5** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.
[d] **15:7** Literally *with his fathers*; see 2 Chronicles 26:23.
[e] **15:10** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *in Ibleam*
[f] **15:13** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; also in verses 32 and 34; see verse 1.
[g] **15:19** *Pul* is another name for *Tiglath-pileser* ; see verse 29.
[h] **15:19** *1,000 talents* is approximately 37.7 tons or 34.2 metric tons of silver.
[i] **15:20** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver.

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.

Jotham Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 27:1–9)

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[a] 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

Ahaz Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 28:1–4)

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,[b] 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[c] for Aram,[d] drove out the men of Judah, and sent the Edomites into Elath, where they live to this day.
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.

The Idolatry of Ahaz

(2 Chronicles 28:16–27)

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[e] 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

Hoshea the Last King of Israel

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.

[a] **15:33** *Jerusha* is a variant of *Jerushah*; see 2 Chronicles 27:1.

[b] **16:3** Literally *made his son pass through the fire*

[c] **16:6** *Elath* is a variant of *Eloth*; see 1 Kings 9:26.

[d] **16:6** Or *Syria*

[e] **16:18** Or *the base of his throne*; see also LXX.

4 But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea had conspired to send envoys to King So[a] 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.

Israel Carried Captive to Assyria

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."[b]
13 Yet through all His prophets and seers, the LORD warned Israel and Judah, saying, "Turn from your wicked ways and keep My commandments and statutes, according to the entire Law 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[c] 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.
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.

Samaria Resettled

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

[a] **17:4** *So* is likely an abbreviation for *Osorkon*.

[b] **17:12** Exodus 20:4–6; Deuteronomy 5:8–10

[c] **17:17** Literally *made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire*

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

Hezekiah Destroys Idolatry in Judah

(2 Chronicles 29:1–2)

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,[a] 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[b] 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.

Sennacherib Invades Judah

(2 Chronicles 32:1–8; Psalm 46:1–11)

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[c] and thirty talents of gold.[d]
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.

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

(2 Chronicles 32:9–19; Isaiah 36:1–22)

17 Nevertheless, the king of Assyria sent the Tartan,[e] the Rabsaris,[f] and the Rabshakeh,[g] along with a great army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah 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?

[a] **18:2** *Abi* is a variant of *Abijah*; see 2 Chronicles 29:1.

[b] **18:4** *Nehushtan* sounds like the Hebrew for *bronze* and also for *snake*.

[c] **18:14** *300 talents* is approximately 11.3 tons or 10.3 metric tons of silver.

[d] **18:14** *30 talents* is approximately 1.13 tons or 1.03 metric tons of gold.

[e] **18:17** Hebrew *Tartan* is the title of a field marshal, general, or commander in the Assyrian military.

[f] **18:17** Hebrew *Rabsaris* is the title of the chief eunuch in the Assyrian military.

[g] **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.

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 Hebrew[a] 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
Hebrew: "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 my 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[b] 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?
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 an-
swer 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

Isaiah's Message of Deliverance

(Isaiah 37:1–7)

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 sack-
cloth, 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.'"

Sennacherib's Blasphemous Letter

(Isaiah 37:8–13)

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:[c] "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.[d] 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?'"

Hezekiah's Prayer

(Isaiah 37:14–20)

14 So Hezekiah received the letter from the messen-
gers, 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: "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 Sen-
nacherib 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."

[a] **18:26** Or *in the dialect of Judah*; also in verse 28

[b] **18:31** Or *Make a blessing with me*

[c] **19:9** That is, the upper Nile region

[d] **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.

Sennacherib's Fall Prophesied

(Isaiah 37:21–35)

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.[a] 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, 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[b] 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.'"

Jerusalem Delivered from the Assyrians

(2 Chronicles 32:20–23; Isaiah 37:36–38)

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[c] put him to the sword and escaped to the land of Ararat. And his son Esar-haddon reigned in his place.

20

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

(2 Chronicles 32:24–31; Isaiah 38:1–8)

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,[d] 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.

Hezekiah Shows His Treasures

(Isaiah 39:1–8)

12 At that time Merodach-baladan[e] 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

[a] **19:23** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

[b] **19:31** LXX, many Hebrew manuscripts, and an alternate MT reading; the other alternate reads *The zeal of the LORD*.

[c] **19:37** LXX and an alternate MT reading (see also Isaiah 37:38); MT lacks *his sons*.

[d] **20:4** LXX and an alternate MT reading; the other alternate reads *the middle of the city*

[e] **20:12** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also Isaiah 39:1); MT *Berodach-baladan*

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.”
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?”

Manasseh Succeeds Hezekiah

20 As for the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, along with all his might and how he constructed the pool and the tunnel[a] 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

Manasseh Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 33:1–9)

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,[b] 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 Law 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.

Manasseh’s Idolatries Rebuked

(2 Chronicles 33:10–20)

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.’”
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.

Amon Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 33:21–25)

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.

[a] **20:20** Or *watercourse* or *conduit*

[b] **21:6** Literally *made his son pass through the fire*

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

Josiah Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 34:1–2)

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.

Funding the Temple Repairs

(2 Chronicles 34:8–13)

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."

Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law

(2 Chronicles 34:14–21)

8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law 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."
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 Law, he tore his clothes
12 and commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor[a] son of Micaiah,[b] 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."

Huldah's Prophecy

(2 Chronicles 34:22–28)

14 So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went and spoke to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah,[c] the son of Harhas,[d] the keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District.[e]
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

Josiah Renews the Covenant

(2 Chronicles 34:29–33)

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.

Josiah Destroys Idolatry

(1 Kings 13:1–10; 2 Chronicles 34:3–7)

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 the articles

[a] **22:12** *Achbor* is another name for *Abdon*; see 2 Chronicles 34:20.

[b] **22:12** *Micaiah* is a variant of *Micah*; see 2 Chronicles 34:20.

[c] **22:14** *Tikvah* is a variant of *Tokhath*; see 2 Chronicles 34:22.

[d] **22:14** *Harhas* is a variant of *Hasrah*; see 2 Chronicles 34:22.

[e] **22:14** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh*

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[a] so that no one could sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire[b] 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[c] 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 pulverized them there[d] 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[e] 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[f] 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.[g]
17 Then the king asked, "What is this monument I see?" 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.

Josiah Restores the Passover

(2 Chronicles 35:1–19)

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 Law 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.'"

The Death of Josiah

(2 Chronicles 35:20–24)

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

[a] **23:10** Or *the Valley of the Son of Hinnom*

[b] **23:10** Literally *could pass his son or daughter through the fire*

[c] **23:11** Hebrew *parbarim*

[d] **23:12** Or *quickly removed them from there*

[e] **23:13** *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7.

[f] **23:15** Hebrew; LXX *broke into pieces*

[g] **23:16** See 1 Kings 13:2; Hebrew; LXX includes *when Jeroboam stood by the altar at the feast. And he turned and lifted his eyes to the tomb of the man of God.*

Jehoahaz son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in place of his father.

Jehoahaz Succeeds Josiah

(2 Chronicles 36:1–4)

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[a] and a talent of gold.[b]
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.

Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 36:5–8)

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

Babylon Controls Jehoiakim

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,[c] 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?

Jehoiachin Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 36:9–10)

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.

The Captivity of Jerusalem

(Lamentations 1:1–22)

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.
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.

Zedekiah Reigns in Judah

(2 Chronicles 36:11–14; Jeremiah 52:1–3)

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

Nebuchadnezzar Besieges Jerusalem

(2 Chronicles 36:15–21; Jeremiah 39:1–10)

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

[a] **23:33** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver.
[b] **23:33** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.
[c] **24:2** Or *Babylonian*

[a] **25:1** Literally *He encamped outside it and they built*

army. They encamped outside the city and built[a] 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 fourth month,[b] 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[c] 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. They headed toward the Arabah,[d]
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.

The Temple Destroyed

(Jeremiah 52:12–23)

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.
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.[e] The bronze capital atop one pillar was three cubits high,[f] with a network of bronze pomegranates all around. The second pillar, with its network, was similar.

Captives Carried to Babylon

(Jeremiah 52:24–30)

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 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.

Gedaliah Governs in Judah

(Jeremiah 40:1–16)

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[g] 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."

The Murder of Gedaliah

(Jeremiah 41:1–10)

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.

Jehoiachin Released from Prison

(Jeremiah 52:31–34)

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[h] 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.
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.

[b] **25:3** Probable reading (see Jeremiah 52:6); MT does not include *fourth*.
[c] **25:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 5, 6, 10, 13, 24, 25, and 26
[d] **25:4** Or *the Jordan Valley*
[e] **25:17** *18 cubits* is approximately 27 feet or 8.2 meters.
[f] **25:17** *3 cubits* is approximately 4.5 feet or 1.4 meters.
[g] **25:23** *Jaazaniah* is a variant of *Jezaniah*; see Jeremiah 40:8.
[h] **25:27** Literally *lifted up the head of*

1 Chronicles

First Book of Chronicles

1

From Adam to Abraham

(Genesis 5:1–32; Genesis 10:1–32; Genesis 11:10–26)

1 Adam, Seth, Enosh,
2 Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared,
3 Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah.
4 The sons of Noah:[a] Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
5 The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.
6 The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath,[b] 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,[c] Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.
10 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who began to be a mighty one[d] 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.[e]
13 And Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn,[f] and of the Hittites,[g]
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, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. [The sons of Aram:][h] Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.[i]
18 Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah was the father of Eber.
19 Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg,[j] 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 Obal,[k] Abimael, Sheba,
23 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.
24 So from Shem came Arphaxad, Shelah,[l]
25 Eber, Peleg, Reu,
26 Serug, Nahor, Terah,
27 and Abram (that is, Abraham).

The Descendants of Abraham

(Genesis 25:12–18)

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.

The Descendants of Esau

(Genesis 36:1–19)

35 The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.
36 The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zepho,[m] Gatam, and Kenaz; and by Timna, Amalek.
37 The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

The Descendants of Seir

(Genesis 36:20–30)

38 The sons of Seir: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.
39 The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam.[n] Timna was Lotan's sister.
40 The sons of Shobal: Alvan,[o] Manahath, Ebal, Shepho,[p] and Onam. The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah.
41 The son[q] of Anah: Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Hemdan,[r] Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.
42 The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.[s] The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

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[a] **1:4** LXX; Hebrew does not include *The sons of Noah:*; see Genesis 5:32.

[b] **1:6** Many Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate (see also LXX and Genesis 10:3); most Hebrew manuscripts *Diphath*

[c] **1:9** *Sabta* is a variant of *Sabtah*; see Genesis 10:7.

[d] **1:10** Or *who established himself as a mighty warrior*

[e] **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.

[f] **1:13** Or *of the Sidonians, the foremost*

[g] **1:13** Hebrew *and of Heth*

[h] **1:17** One Hebrew manuscript and some LXX manuscripts (see also Genesis 10:23); most Hebrew manuscripts do not include *The sons of Aram.*

[i] **1:17** *Meshech* is a variant of *Mash*; see Genesis 10:23.

[j] **1:19** *Peleg* means *division.*

[k] **1:22** LXX and Syriac (see also Genesis 10:28); Hebrew *Ebal*

[l] **1:24** Literally *Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah;* some LXX manuscripts *Shem, Arphaxad, Cainan, Shelah*; see also Genesis 10:24 LXX and Luke 3:35–36.

[m] **1:36** Many Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also Genesis 36:11); most Hebrew manuscripts *Zephi*

[n] **1:39** *Homam* is a variant of *Hemam*; see Genesis 36:22.

[o] **1:40** LXX (see also Genesis 36:23); Hebrew *Alian*

[p] **1:40** LXX (see also Genesis 36:23); Hebrew *Shephi*

[q] **1:41** Hebrew *sons*

[r] **1:41** LXX (see also Genesis 36:26); Hebrew *Hamran*

[s] **1:42** LXX (see also Genesis 36:27); Hebrew *Jaakan*

[a] **1:43** Or *before an Israelite king ruled over them*

The Kings of Edom

(Genesis 36:31–43)

43 These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom
before any king reigned over the Israelites:[a] Bela
son of Beor. His city was named Dinhabah.
44 When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah
reigned in his place.
45 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the
Temanites reigned in his place.
46 When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who de-
feated 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[b] 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 Pau,[c] 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

The Sons of Israel

(Genesis 35:21–26; Genesis 38:1–30)

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,[d] Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and
Dara[e] — five in all.
7 The son[f] of Carmi: Achar,[g] who brought trouble
upon Israel by violating the ban on devoted things.
8 The son of Ethan: Azariah.
9 The sons who were born to Hezron: Jerahmeel, Ram,
and Caleb.[h]
10 Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Ammi-
nadab was the father of Nahshon, a leader of the
descendants of Judah.
11 Nahshon was the father of Salmon,[i] and Salmon
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[j] 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 Asa-
hel.
17 Abigail was the mother of Amasa, whose father was
Jether[k] 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,[l] 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,[m] 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 Abi-
jah bore[n] to him Ashhur the father[o] 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.
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[p] 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 servant named Jarha.

[b] **1:48** Hebrew *the River*

[c] **1:50** Many MT manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also Genesis 36:39); most MT manuscripts *Pai*

[d] **2:6** *Zimri* is a variant of *Zabdi*; see Joshua 7:1.

[e] **2:6** Most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also 1 Kings 4:31) *Darda*

[f] **2:7** Hebrew *sons*

[g] **2:7** *Achar* means *troubler*; also called *Achan* in Joshua 7 and Joshua 22.

[h] **2:9** Hebrew *Chelubai*, a variant of *Caleb*; see verse 18.

[i] **2:11** LXX (see also Ruth 4:20–21); Hebrew *Salma*; twice in this verse

[j] **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.

[k] **2:17** *Jether* is a variant of *Ithra*; see 2 Samuel 17:25.

[l] **2:19** *Ephrath* is a variant of *Ephrathah*; see verse 50.

[m] **2:23** Or *the villages of Jair*

[n] **2:24** Or *After Hezron died, Caleb had relations with Ephrathah, the wife of Hezron his father, and she bore*; see also LXX.

[o] **2:24** Or *the founder*; also in verses 42, 45, 49, and possibly elsewhere

[p] **2:31** Hebrew *sons* ; three times in this verse

35 Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage to his servant 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[a] his firstborn, who was the father of Ziph, and Mareshah his second son, who was 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.
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 sons[b] of Hur the firstborn of Ephrathah:[c] 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[d] who lived at Jabez— the Tirathites, Shimeathites, and Sucathites. These are the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.[e]

3

The Descendants of David

(2 Samuel 3:1–5)

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: Shimea,[f] Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. These four were born to him by Bathsheba[g] daughter of Ammiel.[h]
6 David's other sons were Ibhar,[i] Elishua,[j] 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.

The Descendants of Solomon

10 Solomon's son was Rehoboam: Abijah was his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,
11 Joram[k] his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,
12 Amaziah his son, Azariah[l] 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[m] the fourth.
16 The successors of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah[n] his son, and Zedekiah.

The Royal Line After the Exile

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: Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani— seven in all.

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[a] **2:42** Hebrew; LXX *Mareshah*

[b] **2:50** LXX and Vulgate; Hebrew *son*

[c] **2:50** *Ephrathah* is a variant of *Ephrath*; see verse 19.

[d] **2:55** Or *of the Sopherites*

[e] **2:55** Or *the father of Beth-rekab* or *the founder of the house of Rechab*

[f] **3:5** *Shimea* is a variant of *Shammua*; see 2 Samuel 5:14 and 1 Chronicles 14:4.

[g] **3:5** One Hebrew manuscript and Vulgate (see also LXX and 2 Samuel 11:3); most Hebrew manuscripts *Bath-shua*

[h] **3:5** *Ammiel* is a variant of *Eliam*; see 2 Samuel 11:3.

[i] **3:6** Hebrew does not include *David's other sons were*.

[j] **3:6** Two Hebrew manuscripts (see also 2 Samuel 5:15 and 1 Chronicles 14:5); most Hebrew manuscripts *Elishama*

[k] **3:11** *Joram* is a variant spelling of *Jehoram*.

[l] **3:12** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; see 2 Chronicles 26:1.

[m] **3:15** *Shallum* is another name for *Jehoahaz*.

[n] **3:16** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin* ; also in verse 17; see 2 Kings 24:6 .

4

The Descendants of Judah

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 the sons[a] of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash. And their sister was named Hazzelelponi.
4 Penuel was the father[b] 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,[c] Ethnan,
8 and Koz, who was the father of Anub and Zobebah and of the clans of Aharhel son of Harum.

The Prayer of Jabez

9 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez,[d] 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.

More Descendants of Judah

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 and Meonothai.[e]
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.[f]
15 The sons of Caleb son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah, and Naam. The son[g] of Elah: Kenaz.
16 The sons of Jehallelel: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.
17 The sons of Ezrah: Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon. And Mered's wife Bithiah gave birth[h] to Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.
18 These were the children of Pharaoh's daughter Bithiah.[i] Mered also took a Judean[j] 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.[k]
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.

The Descendants of Simeon

24 The descendants of Simeon: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah,[l] and Shaul.
25 The sons of Shaul: Shallum, Mibsam, and Mishma.
26 The sons of Mishma: Hammuel, Zaccur, and Shimei.
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—
33 and all their surrounding villages as far as Baal. [m] 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

[a] **4:3** LXX (see also Vulgate); Hebrew *These were of the father*

[b] **4:4** Or *the founder*; also in verses 5, 12, 14, 17, 18, and possibly elsewhere

[c] **4:7** Alternate MT reading; the other alternate (see also Vulgate) reads *Izhar*.

[d] **4:9** *Jabez* sounds like the Hebrew for *pain* or *distress*.

[e] **4:13** Vulgate and some LXX; Hebrew does not include *and Meonothai*.

[f] **4:14** Literally *Ge-harashim, for they were craftsmen*. The Hebrew *Ge-harashim* means *valley of craftsmen*.

[g] **4:15** Hebrew *sons*

[h] **4:17** Literally *she gave birth*

[i] **4:18** This statement is at the end of verse 18 in the Hebrew.

[j] **4:18** Or *Judahite*

[k] **4:19** Or *were the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite*

[l] **4:24** *Zerah* is a variant of *Zohar*; see Genesis 46:10 and Exodus 6:15.

[m] **4:33** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts (see also Joshua 19:8) *Baalath*

there, devoting them to destruction[a] 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

The Descendants of Reuben

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[b] 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.
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.

The Descendants of Gad

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.

The Half-Tribe of Manasseh

23 Now the people of the half-tribe of Manasseh were numerous. They settled in the land from Bashan to Baal-hermon (that is, Senir, also known as Mount Hermon).[c]
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.
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.

6

The Descendants of Levi

1 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
2 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.
3 The children of Amram: Aaron, Moses, and Miriam. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
4 Eleazar was the father of Phinehas, Phinehas was the father of Abishua,
5 Abishua was the father of Bukki, Bukki was the father of Uzzi,
6 Uzzi was the father of Zerahiah, Zerahiah was the father of Meraioth,
7 Meraioth was the father of Amariah, Amariah was the father of Ahitub,
8 Ahitub was the father of Zadok, Zadok was the father of Ahimaaz,
9 Ahimaaz was the father of Azariah, Azariah was the father of Johanan,
10 Johanan was the father of Azariah, who served as priest in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem,
11 Azariah was the father of Amariah, Amariah was the father of Ahitub,
12 Ahitub was the father of Zadok, Zadok was the father of Shallum,

[a] **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.
[b] **5:6** Hebrew *Tilgath-pilneser*, a variant spelling of *Tiglath-pileser*; also in verse 26
[c] **5:23** Literally *from Bashan to Baal-hermon and Senir and Mount Hermon.*

13 Shallum was the father of Hilkiah, Hilkiah was the
father of Azariah,
14 Azariah was the father of Seraiah, and Seraiah was
the father of Jehozadak.[a]
15 Jehozadak went into captivity when the LORD sent
Judah and Jerusalem into exile by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.
16 The sons of Levi: Gershom,[b] Kohath, and Merari.
17 These are the names of the sons of Gershom: Libni
and Shimei.
18 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and
Uzziel.
19 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the
clans of the Levites listed according to their fathers:
20 Of Gershom: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah
his son,
21 Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, and
Jeatherai his son.
22 The descendants of Kohath: Amminadab his son,
Korah his son, Assir his son,
23 Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph[c] his son, Assir his son,
24 Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uzziah his son, and
Shaul his son.
25 The descendants of Elkanah: Amasai, Ahimoth,
26 Elkanah his son,[d] Zophai his son, Nahath his son,
27 Eliab[e] his son, Jeroham his son, and Elkanah his
son.[f]
28 The sons of Samuel: Joel his firstborn and Abijah his
second son.[g]
29 The descendants of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son,
Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,
30 Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, and Asaiah his son.

The Temple Musicians

31 These are the men David put in charge of the music
in the house of the LORD after the ark rested there.
32 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.
33 These are the men who served, together with their
sons. From the Kohathites: Heman the singer, the son
of Joel, the son of Samuel,
34 the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of
Eliel,[h] the son of Toah,
35 the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of
Mahath, the son of Amasai,
36 the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of
Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,
37 the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,
38 the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi,
the son of Israel.
39 Heman's kinsman was Asaph, who served at his
right hand: Asaph the son of Berechiah, the son of
Shimea,
40 the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah,[i] the son of
Malchijah,
41 the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,
42 the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of
Shimei,
43 the son of Jahath, the son of Gershom, the son of
Levi.
44 On the left were their kinsmen, the sons of Merari:
Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of
Malluch,
45 the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son
of Hilkiah,
46 the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shemer,
47 the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari,
the son of Levi.

The Descendants of Aaron

48 Their fellow Levites were assigned to every kind of
service of the tabernacle, the house of God.
49 But Aaron and his sons did all the work of the Most
Holy Place.[j] 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.
50 These were the descendants of Aaron: Eleazar his
son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,
51 Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,
52 Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,
53 Zadok his son, and Ahimaaz his son.

Territories for the Levites

(Numbers 35:1–8; Joshua 21:1–45)

54 Now these were the territories assigned to the descendants of Aaron from the Kohathite clan for their
settlements, because the first lot fell to them:
55 They were given Hebron in the land of Judah and its
surrounding pasturelands.
56 But the fields and villages around the city were
given to Caleb son of Jephunneh.
57 So the descendants of Aaron were given Hebron (a
city of refuge), Libnah,[k] Jattir, Eshtemoa,
58 Hilen,[l] Debir,
59 Ashan,[m] Juttah,[n] and Beth-shemesh, together with
their pasturelands.
60 And from the tribe of Benjamin they were given

[a] **6:14** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; also in verse 15; see Ezra 3:2.

[b] **6:16** *Gershom* is a variant of *Gershon*; similarly in verses 17, 20, 43, 62, and 71; see verse 1.

[c] **6:23** *Ebiasaph* is a variant of *Abiasaph*; also in verse 37; see Exodus 6:24.

[d] **6:26** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *Elkanah. The sons of Elkanah:*

[e] **6:27** *Eliab* is also called *Eliel*; see verse 34. Both of these are other names for Elihu*; see* 1 Samuel 1:1.

[f] **6:27** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts include *and Samuel his son*; see verses 33–34 and 1 Samuel 1:19–20.

[g] **6:28** See Syriac and some LXX manuscripts (also verse 33 and 1 Samuel 8:2); Hebrew *The sons of Samuel: the firstborn Vashni, then Abiah.*

[h] **6:34** *Eliel* is also called *Eliab*; see verse 27. Both of these are other names for Elihu*; see* 1 Samuel 1:1.

[i] **6:40** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, one LXX manuscript, and Syriac *Maaseiah*

[j] **6:49** Or *the Holy of Holies*

[k] **6:57** As in the parallel text at Joshua 21:13; Hebrew *were given the cities of refuge: Hebron, Libnah*

[l] **6:58** Some Hebrew manuscripts; MT *Hilez*; parallel text at Joshua 21:15 *Holon*

[m] **6:59** *Ashan* is a variant of *Ain*; see Joshua 21:16.

[n] **6:59** Syriac and the parallel text at Joshua 21:16; MT does not include *Juttah,*

Gibeon,[a] Geba, Alemeth, and Anathoth, together with their pasturelands. So they had thirteen cities in all among their families.
61 To the rest of the Kohathites, ten cities were allotted from the half-tribe of Manasseh.
62 The Gershomites[b] , according to their clans, were allotted thirteen cities from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh in Bashan.
63 The Merarites, according to their clans, were allotted twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.
64 So the Israelites gave to the Levites these cities and their pasturelands.
65 They assigned by lot the cities named above from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.
66 And some of the clans of the Kohathites were given cities from the tribe of Ephraim for their territory:
67 They were given Shechem (a city of refuge)[c] with its pasturelands in the hill country of Ephraim, and Gezer,
68 Jokmeam, Beth-horon,
69 Aijalon, and Gath-rimmon, together with their pasturelands.
70 And from the half-tribe of Manasseh the rest of the clans of the Kohathites were given Aner and Bileam, together with their pasturelands.
71 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.
72 From the tribe of Issachar they were given Kedesh, Daberath,
73 Ramoth, and Anem, together with their pasturelands.
74 From the tribe of Asher they were given Mashal, Abdon,
75 Hukok, and Rehob, together with their pasturelands.
76 And from the tribe of Naphtali they were given Kedesh in Galilee, Hammon, and Kiriathaim, together with their pasturelands.
77 The Merarites (the rest of the Levites) received the following: From the tribe of Zebulun they were given Rimmono and Tabor,[d] together with their pasturelands.
78 From the tribe of Reuben east of the Jordan opposite Jericho they were given Bezer in the wilderness, Jahzah,[e]
79 Kedemoth, and Mephaath, together with their pasturelands.
80 And from the tribe of Gad they were given Ramoth in Gilead, Mahanaim,
81 Heshbon, and Jazer, together with their pasturelands.

7

The Descendants of Issachar

1 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah,[f] 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[g] of Uzzi: 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.

The Descendants of Benjamin

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.

The Descendants of Naphtali

13 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel,[h] Guni, Jezer, and Shallum[i] — the descendants of Bilhah.

The Descendants of Manasseh

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. These were the sons of Gilead son of Machir, the son of Manasseh.
18 His sister Hammolecheth gave birth to Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

[a] **6:60** LXX, Syriac, and parallel text at Joshua 21:17; MT does not include *Gibeon,*

[b] **6:62** *Gershomites* is a variant of *Gershonites* ; also in verse 71; see 1 Chronicles 23:7 .

[c] **6:67** As in the parallel text at Joshua 21:21; Hebrew *They were given the cities of refuge: Shechem*

[d] **6:77** LXX *(they were given) Jokneam, Kartah, Rimmono, and Tabor*; see Joshua 21:34.

[e] **6:78** *Jahzah* is a variant of *Jahaz*; see Numbers 21:23.

[f] **7:1** *Puah* is a variant of *Puvah*; see Genesis 46:13 and Numbers 26:23.

[g] **7:3** Hebrew *sons* ; also in verses 10 and 17

[h] **7:13** *Jahziel* is a variant of *Jahzeel*; see Genesis 46:24.

[i] **7:13** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew and LXX manuscripts *Shillem*; see Genesis 46:24 and Numbers 26:49.

19 And these were the sons of Shemida: Ahian,
Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

The Descendants of Ephraim

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,[a]
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 his son,
[b] Telah his son, Tahan his son,
26 Ladan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,
27 Nun[c] 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[d] and its villages.
29 And along the borders of Manasseh were Beth-
shean,[e] Taanach, Megiddo, and Dor, together with
their villages. The descendants of Joseph son of
Israel lived in these towns.

The Descendants of Asher

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,[f] Hubbah, and
Aram.
35 The sons of his brother Helem:[g] Zophah, Imna,
Shelesh, and Amal.
36 The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri,
Imrah,
37 Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran,[h] 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

Genealogy from Benjamin to Saul

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,[i]
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.[j]
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.
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 Jero-
ham.
28 All these were heads of families, the chiefs according
to their genealogies, and they lived in Jerusalem.
29 Jeiel the father of Gibeon lived[k] in Gibeon. His
wife's name was Maacah,
30 and Abdon was his firstborn son, then Zur, Kish,
Baal,[l] Nadab,
31 Gedor, Ahio, Zecher,[m]
32 and Mikloth, who was the father of Shimeah.[n] They
too lived alongside their relatives in Jerusalem.

The Family of Saul

33 Ner was the father of Kish, Kish was the father
of Saul, and Saul was the father of Jonathan,

[a] **7:23** *Beriah* sounds like the Hebrew for *tragedy* or *disaster*.

[b] **7:25** Some LXX manuscripts; Hebrew does not include *his son*.

[c] **7:27** Or *Non*

[d] **7:28** *Ayyah* is another name for *Gaza*; see also LXX.

[e] **7:29** *Beth-shean* is a variant of *Beth-shan*; see 1 Samuel 31:10 and 2 Samuel 21:12.

[f] **7:34** Or *The sons of his brother Shemer: Rohgah*; note that *Shemer* is a variant of *Shomer*; see verse 32.

[g] **7:35** *Helem* is possibly another name for *Hotham*; see verse 32.

[h] **7:37** *Ithran* is possibly a variant of *Jether*; see verse 38.

[i] **8:3** Possibly *Gera the father of Ehud*; see verse 7.

[j] **8:7** Or *and Gera, that is Heglam, who was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.*

[k] **8:29** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Chronicles 9:35); Hebrew *The father of Gibeon lived*

[l] **8:30** Some LXX manuscripts include *Ner*; see 1 Chronicles 9:36.

[m] **8:31** *Zecher* is likely a variant of *Zechariah*; see 1 Chronicles 9:37.

[n] **8:32** *Shimeah* is a variant of *Shimeam*; see 1 Chronicles 9:38.

Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-baal.[a]
34 The son of Jonathan: Merib-baal,[b] and Merib-baal was the father of Micah.[c]
35 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea,[d] and Ahaz.
36 Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah, Jehoaddah[e] was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri, and Zimri was the father of Moza.
37 Moza was the father of Binea. Raphah[f] 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.
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

The People of Jerusalem

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.[g]
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,[h] 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. 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,[i] 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.

[a] **8:33** *Esh-baal* is also called *Ish-bosheth*; see 2 Samuel 2:8.
[b] **8:34** *Merib-baal* is also called *Mephibosheth*; see 2 Samuel 4:4.
[c] **8:34** *Micah* is a variant of *Mica*; see 2 Samuel 9:12.
[d] **8:35** *Tarea* is a variant of *Tahrea*; see 1 Chronicles 9:41.
[e] **8:36** *Jehoaddah* is a variant of *Jarah* or *Jadah*; see 1 Chronicles 9:42.
[f] **8:37** *Raphah* is a variant of *Rephaiah*; see 1 Chronicles 9:43.
[g] **9:2** Hebrew *Nethinim*
[h] **9:12** *Meshillemith* is a variant of *Meshillemoth*; see Nehemiah 11:13.
[i] **9:19** *Ebiasaph* is a variant of *Abiasaph*; see Exodus 6:24.

The Descendants of Saul

35 Jeiel the father[a] 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.[b] 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.
40 The son of Jonathan: Merib-baal, who was the father of Micah.
41 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz.[c]
42 Ahaz was the father of Jarah; Jarah[d] was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri was the father of Moza.
43 Moza was the father of Binea. Rephaiah[e] 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

Saul's Overthrow and Death

(1 Samuel 31:1–6; 2 Samuel 1:1–16)

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.

The Philistines Possess the Towns

(1 Samuel 31:7–10)

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 in the temple of their idols and among their people.
10 They put his armor in the temple of their gods and hung his head in the temple of Dagon.

Jabesh-gilead's Tribute to Saul

(1 Samuel 31:11–13)

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[f] 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.

11

David Anointed King of All Israel

(2 Samuel 5:1–5)

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,[g] 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.

David Conquers Jerusalem

(2 Samuel 5:6–11)

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[h] 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.

[a] **9:35** Or *the founder*

[b] **9:38** *Shimeam* is a variant of *Shimeah*; see 1 Chronicles 8:32.

[c] **9:41** Vulgate and Syriac (see also LXX and 1 Chronicles 8:35); Hebrew *Pithon, Melech, and Tahrea*; note that *Tahrea* is a variant of *Tarea*.

[d] **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.

[e] **9:43** *Rephaiah* is a variant of *Raphah*; see 1 Chronicles 8:37.

[f] **10:12** Or *terebinth* or *great tree*

[g] **11:2** Or *For some time*

[h] **11:8** Hebrew *the Millo*

David's Mighty Men

(2 Samuel 23:8–39)

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;[a] he wielded his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed at one time.
12 Next in command was Eleazar son of Dodo[b] 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[c] 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,
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,[d] 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 a man of valor from Kabzeel, a man of many exploits. He struck down two champions of Moab,[e] 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.[f] 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,[g] 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[h] son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjamites, Benaiah the Pirathonite,
32 Hurai[i] from the brooks[j] of Gaash, Abiel[k] the Arbathite,
33 Azmaveth the Baharumite,[l] Eliahba the Shaalbonite,
34 the sons of Hashem[m] the Gizonite, Jonathan son of Shagee the Hararite,
35 Ahiam son of Sachar[n] the Hararite, Eliphal son of Ur,
36 Hepher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,
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

The Mighty Men Join David at Ziklag

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;

[a] **11:11** Or *of the Thirty*; some LXX manuscripts *of the Three*; see 2 Samuel 23:8.
[b] **11:12** *Dodo* is a variant of *Dodai*; see 1 Chronicles 27:4.
[c] **11:14** Literally *But they stationed themselves*
[d] **11:20** Hebrew; Syriac *the Thirty*; also in verse 21
[e] **11:22** Or *two sons of Ariel of Moab*
[f] **11:23** *5 cubits* is approximately 7 feet 6 inches or 229 centimeters tall.
[g] **11:27** *Shammoth the Harorite* is a variant of *Shammah the Harodite*; see 2 Samuel 23:25.
[h] **11:31** *Ithai* is a variant of *Ittai* ; see 2 Samuel 23:29 .
[i] **11:32** *Hurai* is a variant of *Hiddai* ; see 2 Samuel 23:30 .
[j] **11:32** Or *from the ravines*
[k] **11:32** *Abiel* is a variant of *Abi-albon* ; see 2 Samuel 23:31 .
[l] **11:33** *Baharumite* is a variant of *Barhumite*; see 2 Samuel 23:31.
[m] **11:34** *Hashem* is a variant of *Jashen*; see LXX and 2 Samuel 23:32.
[n] **11:35** *Sachar* is a variant of *Sharar*; see 2 Samuel 23:33.

4 Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the Thirty and a leader over the Thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite;
5 Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite;
6 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, who were Korahites;
7 and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham from Gedor.
8 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:
9 Ezer the chief, Obadiah the second in command, Eliab the third,
10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,
11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,
12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,
13 Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbanai the eleventh.
14 These Gadites were army commanders, the least of whom was a match for a hundred, and the greatest for a thousand.
15 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.
16 Other Benjamites and some men from Judah also came to David in his stronghold.
17 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."
18 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.
19 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.")
20 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.
21 They helped David against the raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor and commanders in the army.
22 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.

David's Army Grows at Hebron

23 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:
24 From Judah: 6,800 armed troops bearing shields and spears.
25 From Simeon: 7,100 mighty men of valor, ready for battle.
26 From Levi: 4,600,
27 including Jehoiada, leader of the house of Aaron, with 3,700 men,
28 and Zadok, a mighty young man of valor, with 22 commanders from his own family.
29 From Benjamin, the kinsmen of Saul: 3,000, most of whom had remained loyal to the house of Saul up to that time.
30 From Ephraim: 20,800 mighty men of valor, famous among their own clans.
31 From the half-tribe of Manasseh:[a] 18,000 designated by name to come and make David king.
32 From Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do: 200 chiefs with all their kinsmen at their command.
33 From Zebulun: 50,000 fit for service, trained for battle with all kinds of weapons of war, who with one purpose were devoted to David.[b]
34 From Naphtali: 1,000 commanders, accompanied by 37,000 men with shield and spear.
35 From Dan: 28,600 prepared for battle.
36 From Asher: 40,000 fit for service, prepared for battle.
37 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.
38 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.
39 They spent three days there eating and drinking with David, for their relatives had provided for them.
40 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

David Fetches the Ark

(2 Samuel 6:1–4)

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 Him[c] in the days of Saul."
4 And because this proposal seemed right to all the people, the whole assembly agreed to it.

[a] **12:31** That is, the half-tribe of Manasseh west of the Jordan
[b] **12:33** LXX; Hebrew does not include *to David.*
[c] **13:3** Or *of it*
[a] **13:5** Hebrew *from the Shihor*

5 So David assembled all Israel, from the River Shihor [a] 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.[b]
7 So they carried the ark of God from the house of Abinadab on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding the cart.

Uzzah Touches the Ark

(2 Samuel 6:5–11)

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,[c] 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,[d] 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.

14

David's Family Grows

(2 Samuel 5:12–16)

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,[e] Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,
5 Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,
6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,
7 Elishama, Beeliada,[f] and Eliphelet.

Two Victories over the Philistines

(2 Samuel 5:17–25)

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.[g]
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.[h]
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

Preparing to Move the Ark

(2 Samuel 6:12–15)

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;
7 from the Gershomites,[i] 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;

[b] **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*
[c] **13:9** *Chidon* is a variant of *Nacon*; see 2 Samuel 6:6.
[d] **13:11** *Perez-uzzah* means *outbreak against Uzzah*.
[e] **14:4** *Shammua* is a variant of *Shimea*; see 1 Chronicles 3:5.
[f] **14:7** *Beeliada* is a variant of *Eliada*; see 2 Samuel 5:16.
[g] **14:11** *Baal-perazim* means *The Lord Bursts Out*.
[h] **14:14** Or *aspen trees* or *poplar trees*; also in verse 15
[i] **15:7** *Gershomites* is a variant of *Gershonites*; see 1 Chronicles 23:7.

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 Levit-
ical 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."

The Priests and Levites Carry the Ark

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 broth-
ers the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah;
18 and with them their brothers next in rank:
Zechariah,[a] Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni,
Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu,
Mikneiah, and the gatekeepers Obed-edom and Jeiel.
[b]
19 The musicians Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to
sound the bronze cymbals.
20 Zechariah, Aziel,[c] Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab,
Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play the harps ac-
cording to Alamoth.[d]
21 And Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom,
Jeiel, and Azaziah were to lead the music with lyres
according to Sheminith.[e]
22 Chenaniah the head Levite was the director of the
music because he was highly skilled.
23 Berechiah and Elkanah were to be guardians[f] of
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 guardians of the ark.

Moving the Ark to Jerusalem

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 car-
rying 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.
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 mu-
sic of harps and lyres.

Michal's Contempt for David

(2 Samuel 6:16)

29 As the ark of the covenant of the LORD was enter-
ing 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

A Tent for the Ark

(2 Samuel 6:17–19)

1 So they brought the ark of God and placed it inside
the tent that David had pitched for it. And they pre-
sented burnt offerings and peace offerings before
God.
2 When David had finished sacrificing the burnt offer-
ings 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,[g] and a raisin cake.
4 David appointed some of the Levites to minister be-
fore 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, Bena-
iah, 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 trum-
pets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God.

David's Psalm of Thanksgiving

(Psalm 105:1–15)

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 won-
ders.
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.

[a] **15:18** Several Hebrew manuscripts and most LXX manuscripts (see also verse 20 and 1 Chronicles 16:5); most Hebrew manuscripts *Zechariah son of* or *Zechariah, Ben,*

[b] **15:18** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah* or *Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Ozias*

[c] **15:20** *Aziel* is a variant of *Jaaziel*; see verse 18.

[d] **15:20** *Alamoth*is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalm 46:1.

[e] **15:21** *Sheminith*is probably a musical term; here and in Psalm 6:1 and Psalm 12:1.

[f] **15:23** Literally *gatekeepers*; also in verse 24

[g] **16:3** Or *a portion of meat*

15 Remember[a] 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.'
19 When they 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!'

Sing to the LORD, All the Earth

(Psalm 96:1–13)

23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Proclaim His salvation 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[b] endures forever.
35 Then cry out: 'Save us, O God of our salvation; 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." Then all the people said, "Amen!" and "Praise the LORD!"

Worship before the Ark

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 Law 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.[c] 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

God's Covenant with David

(2 Samuel 7:1–17)

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 out of Egypt[d] 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 leaders[e] 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

[a] **16:15** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *He remembers* ; see Psalm 105:8 .

[b] **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* .

[c] **16:42** Or *instruments for the sacred music*

[d] **17:5** *Out of Egypt*is implied, but not included in the Hebrew; see 2 Samuel 7:6.

[e] **17:6** Or *judges*; see verse 10.

after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.
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.

David's Prayer of Thanksgiving

(2 Samuel 7:18–29)

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,[a] O LORD God.
18 What more can David say to You for honoring Your servant? For You know Your servant,
19 O LORD.[b] 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."

[a] **17:17** Or *and have shown me future generations*

[b] **17:19** See 2 Samuel 7:20; many translators **18**...For You know Your servant. **19**O LORD,

18

David's Triumphs

(2 Samuel 8:1–14; Psalm 60:1–12)

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[c] 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.
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[d] in Aram of Damascus, and the Arameans became subject to David and brought him tribute. So the LORD made David victorious[e] 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[f] 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[g] of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of Hadadezer king of Zobah,
10 he sent his son Hadoram[h] 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.

David's Officers

(2 Samuel 8:15–18)

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;

[c] **18:3** Hebrew *his hand*

[d] **18:6** LXX and Vulgate (see also 2 Samuel 8:6 and Syriac); Hebrew does not include *garrisons*.

[e] **18:6** Or *the LORD saved David*; also in verse 13

[f] **18:8** *Tibhath* is a variant of *Tebah*; see 2 Samuel 8:8 LXX.

[g] **18:9** *Tou* is a variant of *Toi*; also in verse 10; see 2 Samuel 8:9.

[h] **18:10** *Hadoram* is a variant of *Joram*; see 2 Samuel 8:10.

[a] **18:16** Some Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also 2 Samuel 8:17); most Hebrew manuscripts *Abimelech*

16 Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech[a] son of Abiathar were priests; Shavsha[b] 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

David's Messengers Disgraced

(2 Samuel 10:1–8)

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.
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[c] to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Aram-naharaim,[d] 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.

David Defeats Ammon and Aram

(2 Samuel 10:9–19)

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,[e] with Shophach[f] 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

The Capture of Rabbah

(2 Samuel 12:26–31)

1 In the spring,[g] at the time when kings march out to war, Joab led out the army and ravaged the land of the Ammonites. He came to 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.[h] It was found to weigh a talent of gold[i] 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 put them to work[j] with saws, iron picks, and axes. And he did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all his troops returned to Jerusalem.

Battles against the Philistines

(2 Samuel 21:15–22)

4 Some time later, war broke out with the Philistines at Gezer. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed

[b] **18:16** *Shavsha* is also called *Seraiah* , *Sheva* , and *Shisha* ; see 2 Samuel 8:17 , 2 Samuel 20:25, and 1 Kings 4:3.
[c] **19:6** *1,000 talents* is approximately 37.7 tons or 34.2 metric tons of silver.
[d] **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.
[e] **19:16** Hebrew *the River*
[f] **19:16** *Shophach* is a variant of *Shobach*; also in verse 18; see 2 Samuel 10:16.
[g] **20:1** Literally *At the turn of the year*
[h] **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.
[i] **20:2** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.
[j] **20:3** Or *cut them*

Sippai,[a] a descendant of the Rephaim,[b] and the Philistines were subdued.
5 Once again there was a battle with the Philistines, and Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother[c] 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 Shimei killed him.
8 So these descendants of Rapha in Gath fell at the hands of David and his servants.

21

David's Military Census

(Exodus 30:11–16; 2 Samuel 24:1–9)

1 Then Satan[d] 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.

Judgment for David's Sin

(2 Samuel 24:10–14)

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.'"
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[e] 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."

A Plague on Israel

(2 Samuel 24:15–17)

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 angel who was destroying the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand now!" At that time the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan[f] 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[g] 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."

David Builds an Altar

(2 Samuel 24:18–25)

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[h] for the site.

[a] **20:4** *Sippai* is a variant of *Saph*; see 2 Samuel 21:18.

[b] **20:4** Or *the giants*; see also *descendants of Rapha* in verses 6 and 8.

[c] **20:5** Or *Elhanan son of Jair the Bethlehemite killed the brother*; see 2 Samuel 21:19.

[d] **21:1** That is, *the Accuser* or *the Adversary*

[e] **21:12** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate *of fleeing*; see 2 Samuel 24:13.

[f] **21:15** *Ornan* is a variant of *Araunah*; also in verses 18–28; see 2 Samuel 24:16.

[g] **21:17** Or *I, the shepherd,*see 2 Samuel 24:17 DSS and LXX.

[h] **21:25** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold.

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.
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

Preparations for the Temple

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 inex-
perienced, and the house to be built for the LORD
must be exceedingly magnificent — famous and glo-
rious throughout all lands. Therefore I must make
preparations for it." So David made lavish prepara-
tions before his death.

Solomon Anointed to Build the Temple

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,[a] 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 under-
standing when He puts you in command over Israel,
so that you may keep the Law 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,[b]
1,000,000 talents of silver,[c] and bronze and iron too
great to be weighed. I have also provided timber and
stone, and you may add to them.
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

The Divisions of the Levites

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," said David,[d] "24,000 are to oversee the
work of the house of the LORD, 6,000 are to be offi-
cers 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 accord-
ing to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

The Gershonites

(Numbers 3:21–26; Numbers 4:21–28)

7 The Gershonites: Ladan[e] and Shimei.
8 The sons of Ladan: Jehiel[f] 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.

[a] **22:9** *Solomon* sounds like and is probably derived from the Hebrew word for *peace.*

[b] **22:14** *100,000 talents* is approximately 3,770 tons or 3,420 metric tons of gold.

[c] **22:14** *1,000,000 talents* is approximately 37,700 tons or 34,200 metric tons of silver.

[d] **23:4** Hebrew does not include *said David,*

[e] **23:7** *Ladan* is a variant of *Libni*; also in verses 8 and 9; see 1 Chronicles 6:17.

[f] **23:8** *Jehiel* is a variant of *Jehieli*; see 1 Chronicles 26:21.

[a] **23:10** *Shimei* was possibly a son or grandson of the *Shimei* listed in verse 9.

10 And the sons of Shimei:[a] Jahath, Zina,[b] 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.

The Kohathites

(Numbers 3:27–32; Numbers 4:1–20)

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.
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.

The Merarites

(Numbers 3:33–37; Numbers 4:29–33)

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[c] — three in all.

Levite Duties Revised

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

Twenty-Four Divisions of Priests

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.
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.

The Rest of the Levites

20 Now these were the rest of the descendants of Levi:

[b] **23:10** Most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript, LXX, and Vulgate (see also verse 11) *Zizah*

[c] **23:23** *Jeremoth* is a variant of *Jerimoth*; see 1 Chronicles 24:30.

From the sons of Amram: Shubael;[a] from the sons of Shubael: Jehdeiah.
21 As for Rehabiah, from his sons: The first was Isshiah.[b]
22 From the Izharites: Shelomoth;[c] from the sons of Shelomoth: Jahath.
23 From the sons of Hebron: Jeriah was the first, [d] 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.[e] 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

Twenty-Four Divisions of Musicians

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 , Shimei,[f] 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,[g] Jerimoth,[h] 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, his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;[i] 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,[j] 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,[k] 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,[l] 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;
22 the fifteenth to Jeremoth,[m] 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;

[a] **24:20** *Shubael* (twice in this verse) is a variant of *Shebuel*; see 1 Chronicles 23:16 and 1 Chronicles 26:24.

[b] **24:21** *Isshiah* is a variant of *Jeshaiah*; see 1 Chronicles 26:25.

[c] **24:22** *Shelomoth* (twice in this verse) is a variant of *Shelomith*; see 1 Chronicles 23:18.

[d] **24:23** Hebrew *From the sons: Jeriah*; see 1 Chronicles 23:19.

[e] **24:30** *Jerimoth* is a variant of *Jeremoth*; see 1 Chronicles 23:23.

[f] **25:3** One Hebrew manuscript and some LXX manuscripts (see also verse 17); most Hebrew manuscripts do not include *Shimei*.

[g] **25:4** *Shebuel* is a variant of *Shubael*; see verse 20.

[h] **25:4** *Jerimoth* is a variant of *Jeremoth*; see verse 22.

[i] **25:9** See LXX and the total in verse 7; Hebrew does not include *his sons, and his brothers—12 in all;*

[j] **25:11** *Izri* is a variant of *Zeri*; see verse 3.

[k] **25:14** *Jesarelah* is a variant of *Asarelah*; see verse 2.

[l] **25:18** *Azarel* is a variant of *Uzziel*; see verse 4.

[m] **25:22** *Jeremoth* is a variant of *Jerimoth*; see verse 4.

31 and the twenty-fourth to Romamti-ezer, his sons,
and his brothers— 12 in all.

26

The Divisions of the Gatekeepers

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, Je-
diael 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 first-
born, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sachar
the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,
5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, and Peul-
lethai 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, capa-
ble men.
7 Shemaiah's sons were Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elz-
abad; 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 fami-
lies, young and old alike.
14 The lot for the East Gate fell to Shelemiah.[a] Then
lots were cast for his son Zechariah, a wise coun-
selor, 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[b] 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.
18 As for the court[c] 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.

The Treasurers, Officers, and Judges

20 Now their fellow Levites were[d] 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 Gershon-
ites through Ladan[e] and heads of the families of
Ladan the Gershonite, were Jehieli,[f]
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[g] 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 com-
manders 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[h] 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[i] 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 ap-
pointed them over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and
the half-tribe of Manasseh for every matter pertain-
ing to God and for the affairs of the king.

27

Twelve Captains for Twelve Months

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:

[a] **26:14** *Shelemiah* is a variant of *Meshelemiah*; see verse 2.

[b] **26:16** Or *on the upper road*

[c] **26:18** Hebrew *parbar*; twice in this verse

[d] **26:20** LXX; Hebrew *As for the Levites, Ahijah was*

[e] **26:21** *Ladan* is a variant of *Libni*; see 1 Chronicles 6:17.

[f] **26:21** *Jehieli* is a variant of *Jehiel*; also in verse 22; see 1 Chronicles 23:8.

[g] **26:25** *Jeshaiah* is a variant of *Isshiah*; see 1 Chronicles 24:21.

[h] **26:29** Or *the duties outside (the temple)* or *the duties outside (Jerusalem)*

[i] **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[a] 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[b] 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[c]
the Netophathite, from the family of Othniel. There
were 24,000 men in his division.

The Leaders of the Twelve Tribes

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.

David's Various Overseers

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 vine-
yards. 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.[d] Joash was in
charge of the stores of olive oil.
29 Shitrai 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 don-
keys.
31 Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the flocks. All
these officials were in charge of King David's prop-
erty.

The Counselors

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 Ar-
chite was the king's friend.
34 Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada son of Bena-
iah, then by Abiathar. Joab was the commander of
the king's army.

28

David Commissions Solomon

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

[a] **27:4** *Dodai* is a variant of *Dodo* ; see 2 Samuel 23:9 .

[b] **27:8** *Shamhuth* is a variant of *Shammoth* or *Shammah*; see 1 Chronicles 11:27 and 2 Samuel 23:25.

[c] **27:15** *Heldai* is a variant of *Heled*; see 1 Chronicles 11:30 and 2 Samuel 23:29.

[d] **27:28** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

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.'
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."

The Plans for the Temple

11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple,[a] its buildings, storehouses, upper rooms, inner rooms, and the room for the mercy seat.[b]
12 The plans contained everything David had in mind [c] 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

Offerings for the Temple

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.
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[d] (the gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver,[e] 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[f] and 10,000 darics of gold,[g] 10,000 talents of silver,[h] 18,000 talents of bronze,[i] and 100,000 talents of iron.[j]
8 Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, under the care of Jehiel[k] 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.

David's Prayer of Blessing

10 Then David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly and said: "May You be blessed, O LORD,

[a] **28:11** LXX; Hebrew does not include *of the temple*.
[b] **28:11** Or *atonement cover*
[c] **28:12** Or *had with him by the Spirit*
[d] **29:4** *3,000 talents* is approximately 113 tons or 103 metric tons of gold.
[e] **29:4** *7,000 talents* is approximately 264 tons or 239.5 metric tons of silver.
[f] **29:7** *5,000 talents* is approximately 188.5 tons or 171 metric tons of gold.
[g] **29:7** Or *10,000 gold drachmas*; that is, approximately 185.2 pounds or 84 kilograms of gold coins
[h] **29:7** *10,000 talents* is approximately 377 tons or 342 metric tons of silver.
[i] **29:7** *18,000 talents* is approximately 678.6 tons or 615.6 metric tons of bronze.
[j] **29:7** *100,000 talents* is approximately 3,770 tons or 3,420 metric tons of iron.
[k] **29:8** *Jehiel* is a variant of *Jehieli*; see 1 Chronicles 26:21.

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.
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.

Solomon Anointed King

(1 Kings 1:32–40)

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.

David's Reign and Death

(1 Kings 2:10–12)

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

Second Book of Chronicles

1

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

(1 Kings 3:1–15; Psalm 45:1–17; Psalm 72:1–20)

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, was in Gibeon before[a] 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[b] 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.[c] 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 went to Jerusalem from the high place in Gibeon, from before the Tent of Meeting, and he reigned over Israel.

Solomon's Riches

(1 Kings 10:26–29)

14 Solomon accumulated[d] 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses,[e] 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.[f]
16 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue;[g] the royal merchants purchased them from Kue.
17 A chariot could be imported from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver,[h] and a horse for a hundred and fifty.[i] Likewise, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Aram.

2

Preparations for the Temple

(1 Kings 5:1–6)

1 Now Solomon purposed to build a house for the Name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself.
2 So he conscripted 70,000 porters, 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600 supervisors.
3 Then Solomon sent word to Hiram[j] 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.
4 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.
5 The house that I am building will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.
6 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?
7 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.
8 Send me also cedar, cypress,[k] and algum[l] logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants have skill to

[a] **1:5** LXX, Vulgate, and some Hebrew manuscripts *was there before*; MT *he placed before*

[b] **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*.

[c] **1:10** Literally *so that I may go out before this people and come in*

[d] **1:14** Literally *Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had*

[e] **1:14** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers*

[f] **1:15** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[g] **1:16** Probably an area in Cilicia, a province in the southeast of Asia Minor

[h] **1:17** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of silver.

[i] **1:17** *150 shekels* is approximately 3.8 pounds or 1.7 kilograms of silver.

[j] **2:3** Hebrew *Huram*, a variant of *Hiram*; also in verses 11 and 12

[k] **2:8** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

[l] **2:8** *Algum* is probably a variant of *almug*; see 1 Kings 10:11.

cut timber there. And indeed, my servants will work with yours
9 to prepare for me timber in abundance, because the temple I am building will be great and wonderful.
10 I will pay your servants, the woodcutters, 20,000 cors of ground wheat,[a] 20,000 cors of barley,[b] 20,000 baths of wine,[c] and 20,000 baths of olive oil.[d] ”

Hiram’s Reply to Solomon

(1 Kings 5:7–12)

11 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.”
12 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.
13 So now I am sending you Huram-abi, a skillful man endowed with creativity.[e]
14 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.
15 Now let my lord send to his servants the wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine he promised.
16 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.”
17 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.
18 Solomon made 70,000 of them porters, 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600 supervisors.

3

Temple Construction Begins

(1 Kings 6:1–4)

1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared[f] to his father David. This was the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan[g] 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,[h] according to the old standard.[i]
4 The portico at the front, extending across the width of the temple, was twenty cubits long[j] and twenty cubits high.[k] He overlaid the inside with pure gold.

The Temple’s Interior

(1 Kings 6:14–22)

5 He paneled the main room with cypress,[l] 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 Most Holy Place;[m] 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.[n]
9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold.[o] He also overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

The Cherubim

(1 Kings 6:23–30)

10 In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim of sculptured work, and he overlaid them with gold.
11 The total wingspan of the cherubim was twenty cubits. One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long[p] 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.

The Veil and Pillars

(1 Kings 7:13–22)

14 He made the veil of blue, purple, and crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim woven into it.

[a] **2:10** *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).
[b] **2:10** *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).
[c] **2:10** *20,000 baths* is approximately 116,000 gallons or 440,000 liters of wine.
[d] **2:10** Or *20,000 baths of oil*; that is, approximately 116,000 gallons or 440,000 liters
[e] **2:13** Or *understanding*
[f] **3:1** See LXX; Hebrew *where He had appeared*
[g] **3:1** *Ornan* is a variant of *Araunah*; see 2 Samuel 24:16.
[h] **3:3** The foundation was approximately 90 feet long and 30 feet wide (27.4 meters long and 9.1 meters wide).
[i] **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.
[j] **3:4** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters; also in verses 8, 11, and 13.
[k] **3:4** Some LXX and Syriac manuscripts; Hebrew *120 cubits high* (approximately 180 feet or 54.9 meters)
[l] **3:5** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*
[m] **3:8** Or *the Holy of Holies*; also in verse 10
[n] **3:8** *600 talents* is approximately 22.6 tons or 20.5 metric tons of gold.
[o] **3:9** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of gold.
[p] **3:11** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters; also in verse 15.
[a] **3:15** *35 cubits* is approximately 52.5 feet or 16 meters.

15 In front of the temple he made two pillars, which together were thirty-five cubits high,[a] each with a capital on top measuring five cubits.
16 He made interwoven chains[b] 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,[c] and the pillar on the north he named Boaz.[d]

4

The Bronze Altar and Molten Sea

(1 Kings 7:23–26)

1 He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and ten cubits high.[e]
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.[f]
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,[g] and its rim was fashioned like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold three thousand baths.[h]

The Ten Basins, Lampstands, and Tables

(1 Kings 7:38–39)

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.

The Courts

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.

Completion of the Bronze Works

(1 Kings 7:40–47)

11 Additionally, Huram made the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls. 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.[i]
18 Solomon made all these articles in such great abundance that the weight of the bronze could not be determined.

Completion of the Gold Furnishings

(1 Kings 7:48–51)

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 Most Holy Place[j] as well as the doors of the main hall.

5

The Ark Enters the Temple

(1 Kings 8:1–11)

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.[k]
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.

[b] **3:16** Or *He made chains in the inner sanctuary*

[c] **3:17** *Jachin* probably means *He establishes*.

[d] **3:17** *Boaz* probably means *in Him is strength*.

[e] **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).

[f] **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).

[g] **4:5** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.

[h] **4:5** *3,000 baths* is approximately 17,400 gallons or 66,000 liters.

[i] **4:17** *Zeredah* is a variant of *Zarethan*; see 1 Kings 7:46.

[j] **4:22** Or *the Holy of Holies*

[k] **5:3** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); see Leviticus 23:33–36.

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.
7 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of
the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the
temple, the Most Holy Place,[a] 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 sanctu-
ary,[b] but not from outside the Holy Place;[c] 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,[d] 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 conse-
crated 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 cym-
bals, 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

Solomon Blesses the LORD

(1 Kings 8:12–21)

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.
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."

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

(1 Kings 8:22–53)

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[e]
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 con-
tain 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.

[a] **5:7** Or *the Holy of Holies*

[b] **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.

[c] **5:9** Literally *not from outside*

[d] **5:10** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

[e] **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).

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,
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 Your people Israel make— 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 salvation, 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

Fire from Heaven

(Psalm 136:1–26)

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."

Sacrifices of Dedication

(1 Kings 8:62–66)

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, 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 all these offerings.
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[a] 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.

[a] **7:8** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); see Leviticus 23:33–36.

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.

The LORD's Response to Solomon

(1 Kings 9:1–9)

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.
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 when this temple has become a heap of rubble, [a] 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

Solomon's Additional Achievements

(1 Kings 9:10–28)

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[b] 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 horses[c] — 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.
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,[d] the Feast of Weeks,[e] and the Feast of Tabernacles.[f]
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[g] on

[a] **7:21** Some LXX manuscripts, Syriac, and Arabic; Hebrew *And though this temple is now exalted*; see also 1 Kings 9:8.

[b] **8:2** Hebrew *Huram*, a variant of *Hiram*; also in verse 18

[c] **8:6** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers*

[d] **8:13** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[e] **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*(see Acts 2:1).

[f] **8:13** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering*(see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

[g] **8:17** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6.

the coast of Edom.[a]

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,[b] which they delivered to King Solomon.

9

The Queen of Sheba

(1 Kings 10:1–13)

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 the burnt offerings he presented[c] at 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[d] 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!
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,[e] 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[f] wood and precious stones.
11 The king made the algum wood into steps[g] 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.

Solomon's Wealth and Splendor

(1 Kings 10:14–29)

13 The weight of gold that came to Solomon each year was 666 talents,[h]
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[i] went into each shield.
16 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; three hundred shekels of gold[j] 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[k] that went with Hiram's[l] servants, and once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.[m]
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.
25 Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000 horses,[n] which he stationed in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.
26 He reigned over all the kings from the Euphrates[o] 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.[p]
28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from all the lands.

[a] **8:17** That is, along the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom

[b] **8:18** *450 talents* is approximately 17 tons or 15.4 metric tons of gold.

[c] **9:4** LXX and Syriac (see also 1 Kings 10:5); Hebrew *and his stairway by which he went up*

[d] **9:5** Or *your achievements*

[e] **9:9** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold.

[f] **9:10** *Algum* is probably a variant of *almug*; also in verse 11; see 1 Kings 10:11.

[g] **9:11** Or *gateways*

[h] **9:13** *666 talents* is approximately 25.1 tons or 22.8 metric tons of gold.

[i] **9:15** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold.

[j] **9:16** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms of gold.

[k] **9:21** Or *a fleet of trading ships*; twice in this verse

[l] **9:21** Hebrew *Huram's*, a variant of *Hiram's*

[m] **9:21** Or *baboons*

[n] **9:25** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers*

[o] **9:26** Hebrew *the River*

[p] **9:27** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

The Death of Solomon

(1 Kings 11:41–43)

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 Iddo 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

Rebellion against Rehoboam

(1 Kings 12:1–15)

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
14 and spoke to them as the young men had advised, saying, "Whereas my father made your yoke heavy, [a] 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 God, in order that the LORD might fulfill the word that He had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

The Kingdom Divided

(1 Kings 12:16–19)

16 When all Israel saw that the king had refused to listen to them, they answered[b] 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,[c] 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

Shemaiah's Prophecy

(1 Kings 12:20–24)

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.

Rehoboam Fortifies Judah

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.

Jeroboam Forsakes the Priests and Levites

13 Moreover, the priests and Levites from all their districts throughout Israel stood with Rehoboam.

[a] **10:14** LXX and many Hebrew manuscripts (see also 1 Kings 12:14); MT *Whereas I made your yoke heavy*

[b] **10:16** Syriac, Vulgate, and many Hebrew manuscripts; MT *And all Israel, since the king had refused to listen to them, answered.*

[c] **10:18** *Hadoram* is a variant of *Adoram* and *Adoniram*; see 2 Samuel 20:24 and 1 Kings 4:6.

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.
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 their God 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.

Rehoboam's Family

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

Shishak Raids Jerusalem

(1 Kings 14:25–28)

1 After Rehoboam had established his sovereignty and royal power, he and all Israel[a] with him forsook the Law 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,[b] and countless troops who came with him out of Egypt— Libyans, Sukkites, and Cushites.[c]
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.
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.

Rehoboam's Reign and Death

(1 Kings 14:21–24)

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[d] reigned in his place.

13

Abijah Reigns in Judah

(1 Kings 15:1–8)

1 In the eighteenth year of Jeroboam's reign, Abijah[e] became king of Judah,
2 and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was Micaiah[f] daughter[g] of Uriel; she was from Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

[a] **12:1** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel.
[b] **12:3** Or *charioteers*
[c] **12:3** That is, people from the upper Nile region
[d] **12:16** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abijam*; see 1 Kings 14:31.
[e] **13:1** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abijam*; see 1 Kings 14:31.
[f] **13:2** Hebrew; most LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Maacah*; see 2 Chronicles 11:20 and 1 Kings 15:2.
[g] **13:2** Or *granddaughter*

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.

Civil War against Jeroboam

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[a] ?
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 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 Ephron, 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[b] of the Prophet Iddo.

14

Asa Reigns in Judah

(1 Kings 15:9–15)

1 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.
2 And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.
3 He removed the foreign altars and high places, shattered the sacred pillars, and chopped down the Asherah poles.
4 He commanded the people of Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandments.
5 He also removed the high places and incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and under him the kingdom was at peace.
6 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.
7 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.
8 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.
9 Then Zerah the Cushite came against them with an army of 1,000,000 men[c] and 300 chariots, and they advanced as far as Mareshah.
10 So Asa marched out against him and lined up in battle formation in the Valley of Zephathah near Mareshah.[d]
11 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."
12 So the LORD struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah, and the Cushites fled.

[a] **13:5** That is, a perpetual covenant

[b] **13:22** Or *Exposition* or *Study*

[c] **14:9** Or *an army of thousands and thousands*; Hebrew *an army of a thousand thousands*

[d] **14:10** Or *the valley north of Mareshah*

13 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
14 and attacked all the cities around Gerar, because the
terror of the LORD had fallen upon them. They plun-
dered all the cities, since there was much plunder
there.
15 They also attacked the tents of the herdsmen and
carried off many sheep and camels. Then they re-
turned to Jerusalem.

15

The Prophecy of Azariah

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, be-
cause 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."

Asa's Reforms

(1 Kings 15:9–15)

8 When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of
Azariah son of Oded[a] 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.
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 hun-
dred 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[b] 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

War between Asa and Baasha

(1 Kings 15:16–22)

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 terri-
tory of Asa king of Judah.
2 So Asa withdrew the silver and gold from the trea-
suries 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[c] 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,[d] 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 mate-
rials he built up Geba and Mizpah.

Hanani's Message to Asa

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.
8 Were not the Cushites[e] 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

[a] **15:8** Vulgate and Syriac (see also verse 1 and LXX); Hebrew does not include *Azariah son of*.

[b] **15:16** Hebrew *his mother*

[c] **16:3** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse.

[d] **16:4** *Abel-maim* was also known as *Abel-beth-maacah*; see 1 Kings 15:20.

[e] **16:8** That is, people from the upper Nile region

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.

The Death and Burial of Asa

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

Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah

(1 Kings 15:23–24)

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[a] 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 took delight[b] 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 Law 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
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

Jehoshaphat Allies with Ahab

(1 Kings 22:1–12)

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."

[a] **17:3** Or *in his early years he walked in the ways*

[b] **17:6** Or *was exalted* or *was courageous*

Micaiah Prophesies against Ahab

(1 Kings 22:13–28)

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 He 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!”

Ahab’s Defeat and Death

(1 Kings 22:29–40)

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[a] 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

Jehoshaphat Reproved by Jehu

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.”

Jehoshaphat’s Reforms

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 lived in 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

[a] **18:33** Literally *Turn your hand*

officers before you. Act resolutely; may the LORD be with the upright!"

20

War against Jehoshaphat

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, together with some of the Meunites,[a] came to make war against Jehoshaphat.
2 Then some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom,[b] from beyond the Sea;[c] 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.

Jehoshaphat's Prayer

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— whether sword or judgment,[d] 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.

The Prophecy of Jahaziel

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 salvation 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.

The Enemies Destroy Themselves

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.[e] 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[f] — more than they could carry away. They were gathering the plunder for three days because there was so much.

The Joyful Return

26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah,[g] 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

[a] **20:1** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Chronicles 26:7); Hebrew *together with some other Ammonites* or *together with some besides the Ammonites*
[b] **20:2** One Hebrew manuscript; most Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate *Aram*
[c] **20:2** That is, the Dead Sea
[d] **20:9** Or *the sword of judgment*
[e] **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.
[f] **20:25** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate *they found among them an abundance of goods and clothing and valuables*
[g] **20:26** *Beracah* means *blessing*.

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.

Summary of Jehoshaphat's Reign

(1 Kings 22:41–50)

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.

Jehoshaphat's Fleet Is Wrecked

35 Later, Jehoshaphat king of Judah made an alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted wickedly.[a]
36 They agreed to make ships to go to Tarshish,[b] 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.[c]

21

Jehoram Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 8:16–19)

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.[d]
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.

Edom and Libnah Rebel

(2 Kings 8:20–24)

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[e] 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.

Elijah's Letter to Jehoram

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.
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.'"

Jehoram's Disease and Death

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,[f] 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.

[a] **20:35** Or *who made him act wickedly* or *by which he acted wickedly*

[b] **20:36** Or *a fleet of trading ships*

[c] **20:37** Or *set sail to trade*

[d] **21:2** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel.

[e] **21:9** Or *he went out and escaped*

[f] **21:17** *Jehoahaz* is a variant of *Ahaziah*; see 2 Chronicles 22:1.

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

Ahaziah Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 8:25–29)

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 [a] had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah.
2 Ahaziah was twenty-two[b] 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[c] wounded Joram.[d]
6 So he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramah[e] when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah[f] 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[g] of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab.

Jehu Kills the Princes of Judah

(2 Kings 9:14–29)

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." So no one was left from the house of Ahaziah with the strength to rule the kingdom.

Athaliah and Joash

(2 Kings 11:1–3)

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[h] 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

Joash Anointed King of Judah

(2 Kings 11:4–12)

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

[a] **22:1** Or *since the marauding bands of Arabs*

[b] **22:2** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:26); Hebrew *forty-two*

[c] **22:5** Some LXX manuscripts *the archers*

[d] **22:5** Hebrew *Jehoram*, a variant of *Joram*; also in verses 6 and 7

[e] **22:6** *Ramah* is a variant of *Ramoth*; see verse 5.

[f] **22:6** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:29); most Hebrew manuscripts *Azariah*

[g] **22:7** Or *grandson*; see 2 Kings 9:14.

[h] **22:11** *Jehoshabeath* is a variant of *Jehosheba*; twice in this verse; see 2 Kings 11:2.

Testimony, and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and shouted, “Long live the king!”

The Death of Athaliah

(2 Kings 11:13–16)

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.
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,[a] 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.

Jehoiada Restores the Worship of the LORD

(2 Kings 11:17–21)

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 Law 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

Joash Repairs the Temple

(2 Kings 12:1–16)

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.
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.

Jehoiada’s Death and Burial

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.

The Wickedness of Joash

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.

[a] **23:14** Or *out from the precincts*

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."

The Death of Joash

(2 Kings 12:17–21)

23 In the spring,[a] 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.
25 And when the Arameans had withdrawn, they left Joash severely wounded. His own servants conspired against him for shedding the blood of the son[b] 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[c] son of Shimeath the Ammonitess and Jehozabad son of Shimrith[d] the Moabitess.
27 The accounts of the sons of Joash and the many pronouncements about him, and of the restoration[e] of the house of God, are indeed written in the Treatise[f] of the Book of the Kings. And his son Amaziah reigned in his place.

25

Amaziah Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 14:1–7)

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 Law, 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."[g]

Amaziah's Victories

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.[h]
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.
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.

Amaziah Rebuked for Idolatry

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."

[a] **24:23** Literally *At the turn of the year*
[b] **24:25** LXX and Vulgate; Hebrew *of the sons*
[c] **24:26** *Zabad* is a variant of *Jozabad*; see 2 Kings 12:21.
[d] **24:26** *Shimrith* is a variant of *Shomer*; see 2 Kings 12:21.
[e] **24:27** Or *founding*
[f] **24:27** Or *Exposition* or *Study*
[g] **25:4** Deuteronomy 24:16
[h] **25:6** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver; also in verse 9.

Jehoash Defeats Amaziah

(2 Kings 14:8–14)

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent
word to the king of Israel Jehoash[a] 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 cap-
tured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the
son of Jehoahaz.[b] Then Jehoash brought him to
Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem
from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate — a sec-
tion of four hundred cubits.[c]
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.

The Death of Amaziah

(2 Kings 14:17–20)

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 begin-
ning 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.[d]

26

Uzziah Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 14:21–22; 2 Kings 15:1–7)

1 All the people of Judah took Uzziah,[e] who was six-
teen years old, and made him king in place of his
father Amaziah.
2 Uzziah was the one who rebuilt Eloth[f] and restored
it to Judah after King Amaziah[g] 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 fear[h] 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[i] 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 de-
vices to shoot[j] 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

[a] **25:17** *Jehoash* is a variant of *Joash*; also in verses 18, 21, 23, and 25.

[b] **25:23** *Jehoahaz* is a variant of *Ahaziah*.

[c] **25:23** *400 cubits* is approximately 600 feet or 182.9 meters.

[d] **25:28** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *City of David*; see 2 Kings 14:20.

[e] **26:1** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; throughout this chapter; see 2 Kings 14:21.

[f] **26:2** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6.

[g] **26:2** Literally *after the king*

[h] **26:5** Many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac; other Hebrew manuscripts *through the vision*

[i] **26:10** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[j] **26:15** Or *to protect those who shoot*

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."
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[a] 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[b] 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

Jotham Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 15:32–38)

1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerushah[c] daughter of Zadok.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah[d] 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,[e] ten thousand cors of wheat,[f] and ten thousand cors of barley.[g] 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

Ahaz Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 16:1–9)

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.
3 Moreover, Ahaz burned incense in the Valley of Ben-hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire,[h] 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.

Aram Defeats Judah

(Isaiah 1:1–9)

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[i] — Azariah son of Jehohanan, Berechiah son of

[a] **26:19** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.
[b] **26:23** Literally *with his fathers*
[c] **27:1** *Jerushah* is a variant of *Jerusha*; see 2 Kings 15:33.
[d] **27:2** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; see 2 Kings 14:21.
[e] **27:5** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver.
[f] **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).
[g] **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).
[h] **28:3** Literally *passed his sons through the fire*
[i] **28:12** That is, the leaders of the northern kingdom of Israel

Meshillemoth,[a] 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.

The Idolatry of Ahaz

(2 Kings 16:10–20)

16 At that time King Ahaz sent for help from the king[b] 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[c] and the Negev of Judah, capturing and occupying Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, and Gederoth, as well as Soco, Timnah, and Gimzo with their villages.
19 For the LORD humbled Judah because Ahaz king of Israel[d] had thrown off restraint in Judah and had been most unfaithful to the LORD.
20 Then Tiglath-pileser[e] 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

Hezekiah Cleanses the Temple

(2 Kings 18:1–12)

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,[f] 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.
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.

[a] **28:12** *Meshillemoth* is a variant of *Meshillemith*; see 1 Chronicles 9:12.

[b] **28:16** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also 2 Kings 16:7); Hebrew *kings*

[c] **28:18** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[d] **28:19** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel.

[e] **28:20** Hebrew *Tilgath-pilneser* , a variant spelling of *Tiglath-pileser*

[f] **29:1** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abi*; see 2 Kings 18:2.

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."

Hezekiah Restores Temple Worship

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 sin offering for the king-
dom, 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 slaugh-
tered 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 sin offering be-
fore 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 sin offering, to make atone-
ment for all Israel, because the king had ordered the
burnt offering and the sin 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 be-
gan, 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 com-
pleted.
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 conse-
crated yourselves to the LORD,[a] 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 every-
thing had been accomplished so quickly.

30

Hezekiah Proclaims a Passover

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,[b]
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 proclama-
tion 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: "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."

[a] **29:31** Or *filled your hand for the LORD*

[b] **30:2** See Numbers 9:9–12.

10 And the couriers traveled from city to city through
the land of Ephraim and Manasseh as far as Zebu-
lun, but the people scorned and mocked them.
11 Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh, and Ze-
bulun 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.

Hezekiah Celebrates the Passover

13 In the second month, a very great assembly gath-
ered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleav-
ened Bread.[a]
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 them-
selves and brought burnt offerings to the house of
the LORD.
16 They stood at their prescribed posts, according to
the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests splat-
tered 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 puri-
fied 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 peo-
ple.
21 The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem cele-
brated 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 instru-
ments of praise to the LORD.[b]
22 And Hezekiah encouraged all the Levites who per-
formed 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 noth-
ing like this had happened there since the days of
Solomon son of David king of Israel.
27 Then the priests and the Levites stood to bless the
people, and God heard their voice, and their prayer
came into His holy dwelling place in heaven.

31

The Destruction of Idols

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 du-
ties 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.

Contributions for Worship

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 Law
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
Law of the LORD.
5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites gener-
ously 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.”

[a] **30:13** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[b] **30:21** Or *day after day, with all their strength to the LORD.* Literally *day after day, with loud instruments to the LORD.*

Hezekiah Organizes the Priests

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.[a]
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

Sennacherib Invades Judah

(2 Kings 18:13–16; Psalm 46:1–11)

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[b] 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[c] of the City of David, and he produced an abundance of weapons and shields.
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,[d] 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.

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

(2 Kings 18:17–37; Isaiah 36:1–22)

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[e] 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

[a] **31:15** Or *whether large or small*

[b] **32:4** Hebrew; LXX and Syriac *king*

[c] **32:5** Hebrew *the Millo*

[d] **32:8** Or *He has only the strength of his own flesh*

[e] **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.

hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand."
18 Then the Assyrians called out loudly in Hebrew[a] 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.

Jerusalem Delivered from the Assyrians

(2 Kings 19:35–37; Isaiah 37:36–38)
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.
22 So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hands of King Sennacherib of Assyria and all others, and He gave them rest 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.

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

(2 Kings 20:1–11; Isaiah 38:1–8)
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.

Hezekiah's Death

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

Manasseh Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 21:1–9)
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[b] 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.
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.

Manasseh's Repentance and Restoration

(2 Kings 21:10–18)
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

[a] **32:18** Or *in the dialect of Judah*

[b] **33:6** Literally *made his sons pass through the fire*

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 temple mount[a] and in Jerusalem, and he dumped them outside the city.
16 Then he restored 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.[b]
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 the Seers.[c]
20 And Manasseh rested with his fathers and was buried at his palace. And his son Amon reigned in his place.

Amon Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 21:19–26)
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,
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

Josiah Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 22:1–2)
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.

Josiah Destroys Idolatry

(1 Kings 13:1–10; 2 Kings 23:4–20)
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[d] 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.

Josiah Repairs the Temple

(2 Kings 22:3–7)
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.

Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law

(2 Kings 22:8–13)
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 Law of the LORD given by[e] Moses.
15 And Hilkiah said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the Law 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.

[a] **33:15** Literally *the mountain of the house of the LORD*

[b] **33:18** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel.

[c] **33:19** Or *the Records of the Hozai* or *the Annals of the Prophets*

[d] **34:6** Or *in the regions*

[e] **34:14** Hebrew *the Law of the LORD by the hand of*

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 Law, he tore
his clothes
20 and commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan,
Abdon[a] son of Micah,[b] 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."

Huldah's Prophecy

(2 Kings 22:14–20)

22 So Hilkiah and those the king had designated went
and spoke to Huldah[c] the prophetess, the wife of
Shallum son of Tokhath,[d] the son of Hasrah,[e] the
keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in
the Second District.[f]
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.

Josiah Renews the Covenant

(2 Kings 23:1–3)

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 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

Josiah Restores the Passover

(2 Kings 23:21–27)

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 encour-
aged 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, ac-
cording 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[g] 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 pre-
sent.
8 His officials also contributed willingly to the people
and priests and Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Je-
hiel, 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 accord-
ing 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.

[a] **34:20** *Abdon* is a variant of *Achbor*; see 2 Kings 22:12.

[b] **34:20** *Micah* is a variant of *Micaiah*; see 2 Kings 22:12.

[c] **34:22** One Hebrew manuscript, Vulgate, and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *and those the king had told went to Huldah*

[d] **34:22** *Tokhath* is a variant of *Tikvah*; see 2 Kings 22:14.

[e] **34:22** *Hasrah* is a variant of *Harhas*; see 2 Kings 22:14.

[f] **34:22** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh*

[g] **35:6** Hebrew *the word of the LORD by the hand of*

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 ac-
cording to the regulation, and they boiled the other
holy offerings in pots, kettles, and bowls and quickly
brought them to all the people.
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 gate-
keepers 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 Unleav-
ened Bread[a] 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 Ju-
dah, the Israelites who were present, and the people
of Jerusalem.
19 In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, this Passover
was observed.

The Death of Josiah

(2 Kings 23:28–30)

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; in-
stead, 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.

Laments over Josiah

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
Law 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

Jehoahaz Succeeds Josiah

(2 Kings 23:31–35)

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[b] was twenty-three years old when he be-
came king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three
months.
3 And the king of Egypt dethroned him in Jerusalem
and imposed on Judah a levy of a hundred talents of
silver[c] and a talent of gold.[d]
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.

Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 23:36–37)

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 temple[e] in Babylon.
8 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abomina-
tions 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.

Jehoiachin Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 24:6–9)

9 Jehoiachin was eighteen[f] 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 In the spring,[g] King Nebuchadnezzar summoned
Jehoiachin and brought him to Babylon, along with
the articles of value from the house of the LORD. And

[a] **35:17** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[b] **36:2** Hebrew *Joahaz* , a variant of *Jehoahaz* ; also in verse 4

[c] **36:3** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver.

[d] **36:3** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

[e] **36:7** Or *palace*

[f] **36:9** One Hebrew manuscript, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 24:8); most Hebrew manuscripts *eight*

[g] **36:10** Literally *At the turn of the year*

he made Jehoiachin's relative[a] Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

Zedekiah Reigns in Judah

(2 Kings 24:18–20; Jeremiah 52:1–3)

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[b] 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.

The Fall of Jerusalem

(2 Kings 25:1–7)

15 Again and again[c] 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,[d] 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,
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.[e]

The Proclamation of Cyrus

(Ezra 1:1–4; Isaiah 45:1–25)

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.'"

[a] **36:10** Or *brother* or *uncle*
[b] **36:13** Or *made strong* or *made courageous*
[c] **36:15** Literally *Rising up early and sending (it),*
[d] **36:17** That is, the Babylonians; also clarified in verse 19
[e] **36:21** See Jeremiah 25:12 and Jeremiah 29:10.

Ezra

Book of Ezra

1

The Proclamation of Cyrus

(2 Chronicles 36:22–23; Isaiah 45:1–25)

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.

Cyrus Restores the Holy Vessels

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.[a]
9 This was the inventory: 30 gold dishes,[b] 1,000 silver dishes, 29 silver 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

The List of Returning Exiles

(Nehemiah 7:4–69)

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.[c] This is the count of the men of Israel:
3 the descendants of Parosh, 2,172;
4 the descendants of Shephatiah, 372;
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,[d] 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,[e] 112;
19 the descendants of Hashum, 223;
20 the descendants of Gibbar,[f] 95;
21 the men[g] of Bethlehem, 123;
22 the men of Netophah, 56;
23 the men of Anathoth, 128;
24 the descendants of Azmaveth,[h] 42;
25 the men of Kiriath-jearim,[i] 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,[j] 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[k]), 74.
41 The singers: the descendants of Asaph, 128.
42 The gatekeepers: the descendants of Shallum, the descendants of Ater, the descendants of Talmon, the

[a] **1:8** That is, the leader of the exiles returning to Judah

[b] **1:9** Or *basins*; twice in this verse

[c] **2:2** Parallel text at Nehemiah 7:7 *accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah*

[d] **2:10** *Bani* is a variant of *Binnui*; see Nehemiah 7:15.

[e] **2:18** *Jorah* is a variant of *Hariph*; see Nehemiah 7:24.

[f] **2:20** *Gibbar* is a variant of *Gibeon*; see Nehemiah 7:25.

[g] **2:21** Literally *the sons* ; here and in verses 25, 26, 33, and 34

[h] **2:24** *Azmaveth* is a variant of *Beth-azmaveth*; see Nehemiah 7:28.

[i] **2:25** LXX (see also Nehemiah 7:29); Hebrew *Kiriath-arim*

[j] **2:31** Or *of West Elam*

[k] **2:40** *Hodaviah* is a variant of *Hodevah*; see Nehemiah 7:43.

descendants of Akkub, the descendants of Hatita, and the descendants of Shobai, 139 in all.
43 The temple servants:[a] the descendants of Ziha, the descendants of Hasupha, the descendants of Tabbaoth,
44 the descendants of Keros, the descendants of Siaha,[b] 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,[c] 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,[d]
51 the descendants of Bakbuk, the descendants of Hakupha, the descendants of Harhur,
52 the descendants of Bazluth,[e] 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,[f]
56 the descendants of Jaala, 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.[g]
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,[h] 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.[i]
64 The whole assembly numbered 42,360,
65 in addition to their 7,337 menservants and maidservants, as well as their 200 male and female singers.
66 They had 736 horses, 245 mules,
67 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

Offerings by the Exiles

(Exodus 38:21–31; Nehemiah 7:70–73)

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 darics of gold,[j] 5,000 minas of silver,[k] 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 the rest of the Israelites[l] settled in their towns.

3

Sacrifices Restored

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[m] 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 Law of Moses the man of God.
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 Tabernacles[n] 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

[a] **2:43** Hebrew *The Nethinim*; also in verses 58 and 70

[b] **2:44** *Siaha* is a variant of *Sia*; see Nehemiah 7:47.

[c] **2:46** Alternate MT reading (see also Nehemiah 7:48); the other alternate reads *Shamlai*

[d] **2:50** *Nephusim* is a variant of *Nephushesim*; see Nehemiah 7:52.

[e] **2:52** *Bazluth* is a variant of *Bazlith*; see Nehemiah 7:54.

[f] **2:55** *Peruda* is a variant of *Perida*; see Nehemiah 7:57.

[g] **2:57** *Ami* is a variant of *Amon*; see Nehemiah 7:59.

[h] **2:59** *Addan* is a variant of *Addon*; see Nehemiah 7:61.

[i] **2:63** Literally *Lights and Perfections*

[j] **2:69** Or *61,000 gold drachmas*; that is, approximately 1,129.7 pounds or 512.4 kilograms of gold coins

[k] **2:69** *5,000 minas* is approximately 3.14 tons or 2.85 metric tons of silver.

[l] **2:70** Or *all Israel*

[m] **3:2** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; also in verse 8; see 1 Chronicles 6:14.

[n] **3:4** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering*(see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

Tyre to bring cedar logs from Lebanon to Joppa by sea, as authorized by Cyrus king of Persia.

Temple Restoration Begins

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),[a] 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[b] 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

Adversaries Hinder the Work

1 When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel,
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.

Opposition under Xerxes and Artaxerxes

6 At the beginning of the reign of Xerxes,[c] 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.[d]
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[e] deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and elsewhere west of the Euphrates.[f]
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 we are in the service of the palace[g] 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.

The Decree of Artaxerxes

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: 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.

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[a] **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.

[b] **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*.

[c] **4:6** Hebrew *Ahasuerus*

[d] **4:7** The original text of Ezra 4:8 through Ezra 6:18 is in Aramaic.

[e] **4:10** Aramaic *Osnappar*, another name for *Ashurbanipal*

[f] **4:10** Aramaic *beyond the River*; also in verses 11, 16, 17, and 20

[g] **4:14** Literally *because the salt of the palace is our salt*

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

Temple Rebuilding Resumes

(Haggai 1:1–11)

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[a] 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,[b] Shethar-bozenai, and their
associates went to the Jews and asked, "Who autho-
rized you to rebuild this temple and restore this
structure?"
4 They also asked,[c] "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.

Tattenai's Letter to Darius

6 This is the text of the letter that Tattenai the gover-
nor 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 plac-
ing 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 autho-
rized 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[d] for your
information.
11 And this is the answer they returned: "We are ser-
vants 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[e] 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

The Decree of Darius

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,[f]
4 with three layers of cut stones and one of timbers. 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 Therefore Darius decreed: To Tattenai governor of
the region west of the Euphrates,[g] 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: 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.

[a] **5:2** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; see 1 Chronicles 6:14.

[b] **5:3** Aramaic *the governor beyond the River*; also in verse 6

[c] **5:4** LXX and Syriac; Aramaic *Then we told them,*

[d] **5:10** Aramaic *the names of the men at their heads*

[e] **5:14** Or *palace*

[f] **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.*

[g] **6:6** Aramaic *governor beyond the River*; similarly in verses 8 and 13

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.
[a]
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.

The Temple Completed

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,[b] in the sixth year of the reign of
King Darius.

Dedication of the Temple

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 sin 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.

The Returned Exiles Keep the Passover

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, to-
gether with all who had separated themselves from
the uncleanness of the peoples[c] of the land to seek
the LORD, the God of Israel.
22 For seven days they kept the Feast of Unleavened
Bread[d] 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.

7

Ezra Arrives in Jerusalem

1 Many years later,[e] 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 Law 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, includ-
ing priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and temple
servants.[f]
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 Law of the
LORD, to practice it, and to teach its statutes and
ordinances in Israel.

Artaxerxes' Letter for Ezra

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:[g]
12 Artaxerxes, king of kings. To Ezra the priest, the
scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Greetings.[h]
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.

[a] **6:11** Literally *shall be made a dunghill because of this*

[b] **6:15** *Adar* is the twelfth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of February and March.

[c] **6:21** Or *nations*

[d] **6:22** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[e] **7:1** Literally *After these things*

[f] **7:7** Hebrew *Nethinim*; also in verse 24

[g] **7:11** The original text of Ezra 7:12–26 is in Aramaic.

[h] **7:12** Aramaic *Perfect now* (probably a greeting)

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.
21 I, King Artaxerxes, decree to all the treasurers west
of the Euphrates:[a] 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,[b] a hundred cors of
wheat,[c] a hundred baths of wine,[d] a hundred baths
of olive oil,[e] 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 ser-
vants 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, confisca-
tion of property, or imprisonment.

Ezra Blesses God

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

The Exiles Who Returned with Ezra

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 descen-
dants of David, Hattush
3 of the descendants of Shecaniah; from the descen-
dants 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 Zattu, Shecaniah son of Ja-
haziel,[f] 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;
10 from the descendants of Bani, Shelomith son of
Josiphiah,[g] 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[h] 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,[i] and with them 70 men.

Ezra Sends for the Levites

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, Shema-
iah, Elnathan,[j] Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah,
and Meshullam, as well as the teachers Joiarib and
Elnathan.
17 And I sent them to Iddo, the leader at Casiphia,
with a message for him and his kinsmen, the temple
servants[k] 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 ap-
pointed them to assist the Levites.

Fasting for Protection

21 And there by the Ahava Canal I proclaimed a fast, so
that we might humble ourselves before our God and

[a] **7:21** Aramaic *beyond the River*; also in verse 25

[b] **7:22** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver.

[c] **7:22** *100 cors* is approximately 624 bushels or 22,000 liters (probably about 19.2 tons or 17.4 metric tons of wheat).

[d] **7:22** *100 baths* is approximately 580 gallons or 2,200 liters of wine.

[e] **7:22** Or *100 baths of oil*; that is, approximately 580 gallons or 2,200 liters

[f] **8:5** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Esdras 8:32); Hebrew *from the descendants of Shecaniah, the son of Jahaziel*

[g] **8:10** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 1 Esdras 8:36); Hebrew *from the descendants of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah*

[h] **8:13** Or *the last*

[i] **8:14** LXX, Syriac, and an alternate MT reading; the other alternate reads *Zabbud*.

[j] **8:16** *Elnathan* appears three times in verse, either as a repetition for emphasis or as a record of multiple men with this name.

[k] **8:17** Hebrew *the Nethinim*; also in verse 20

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.

Priests to Guard the Offerings

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,[a] articles of silver weighing 100 talents,[b] 100 talents of gold,[c]
27 20 gold bowls valued at 1,000 darics,[d] and two articles of fine polished bronze, as precious as 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.

Arrival in Jerusalem

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 sin 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[e] and governors of the region west of the Euphrates,[f] who proceeded to assist the people and the house of God.

9

Intermarriage with Neighboring Peoples

(Nehemiah 13:23–31)

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.

Ezra’s Prayer of Confession

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 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[g] 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.

[a] **8:26** *650 talents* is approximately 24.5 tons or 22.2 metric tons of silver.
[b] **8:26** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver articles.
[c] **8:26** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of gold.
[d] **8:27** Or *worth 1,000 drachmas*; that is, approximately 18.5 pounds or 8.4 kilograms of gold
[e] **8:36** A *satrap* was a Persian official.
[f] **8:36** Hebrew *governors beyond the River*
[g] **9:8** Or *nail* or *foothold*

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

Shecaniah's Encouragement

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 Law.
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.

The People's Confession of Sin

6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and walked to the chamber of Jehohanan son of Eliashib. And while he stayed[a] there, he ate no food and drank no water, because he was mourning over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.
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 selected men who were family heads, 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.

Those Guilty of Intermarriage

18 Among the descendants of the priests who had married foreign women were found these descendants of Jeshua son of Jozadak[b] 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.
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,[c] 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 Jeremoth.
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.

[a] **10:6** Or *went*

[b] **10:18** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; see 1 Chronicles 6:14.

[c] **10:25** Hebrew; LXX *Hashabiah*

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, Cheluhi,
36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,
37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasu.
38 From the descendants of Binnui: Shimei,[a]
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.[b]

[a] **10:38** See LXX; Hebrew *And Bani, and Binnui, (and) Shimei,*

[b] **10:44** Or *and they sent them away with their children*

Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

1

Nehemiah's Prayer

(Deuteronomy 30:1–10)

1 These are the words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Chislev,[a] 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[b] 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,[c] I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for My Name.'[d]
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 my prayer and to the prayers of Your servants[e] 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.)

[a] **1:1** *Chislev* is the ninth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of November and December.

[b] **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*.

[c] **1:9** Or *to the extremity of the heavens*

[d] **1:9** Deuteronomy 30:1–4

[e] **1:11** Literally *to the prayer of Your servant and to the prayer of Your servants*

2

Nehemiah Sent to Jerusalem

1 Now in the month of Nisan,[f] 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,
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,[g] 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.

Nehemiah Inspects the Walls

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 Serpent[h] 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.

[f] **2:1** *Nisan* is the first month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April.

[g] **2:7** Hebrew *beyond the River*; also in verse 9

[h] **2:13** Or *Dragon* or *Jackal*

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.
19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Am-
monite 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

The Builders of the Walls

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.[a]
6 The Jeshanah Gate[b] 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.[c]
8 Next to them, Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the gold-
smiths, 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 res-
idents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it, installed its doors,
bolts, and bars, and repaired a thousand cubits[d] 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[e] 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[f] near
the king's garden, as far as the stairs that descend
from the City of David.
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
Binnui[g] 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 Zabbai diligently re-
paired another section, from the angle to the door-
way 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

[a] **3:5** Or *their Lord* or *the governor*

[b] **3:6** Or *The Old City Gate*

[c] **3:7** Hebrew *the governor beyond the River*

[d] **3:13** *1,000 cubits* is approximately 1,500 feet or 457.2 meters.

[e] **3:15** Hebrew; Syriac *Shallum*

[f] **3:15** *Pool of Shelah* is another name for the Pool of Siloam.

[g] **3:18** Two Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac (see also LXX and Nehemiah 3:24); most Hebrew manuscripts *Bavvai*

26 and the temple servants[a] 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.

4

The Work Ridiculed

1 Now when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding
the wall, he was furious and filled with indignation.
He ridiculed the Jews
2 before his associates and the army of Samaria, saying,
"What are these feeble Jews doing? Can they restore
the wall by themselves?[b] 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 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!"
4 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.
5 Do not cover up their iniquity or let their sin be
blotted out from Your sight, for they have provoked
the builders.[c]
6 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.
7 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,
8 and all of them conspired to come and fight against
Jerusalem and create a hindrance.

Discouragement Overcome

9 So we prayed to our God and posted a guard against
them day and night.
10 Meanwhile, the people of Judah said:[d] "The
strength of the laborer fails, and there is so much
rubble that we will never be able to rebuild the
wall."
11 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."
12 At that time the Jews who lived nearby came and
told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will
attack us."
13 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.
14 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."
15 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.
16 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
17 who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who
carried materials worked with one hand and held a
weapon with the other.
18 And each of the builders worked with his sword
strapped at his side. But the trumpeter stayed beside
me.
19 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.
20 Wherever you hear the sound of the horn, rally to
us there. Our God will fight for us!"
21 So we continued the work, while half of the men
held spears from the break of dawn until the stars
came out.
22 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."
23 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.[e]

5

Nehemiah Defends the Oppressed

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

[a] **3:26** Hebrew *the Nethinim*; also in verse 31

[b] **4:2** Or *Will they commit themselves to God?*

[c] **4:5** Or *have provoked You to anger before the builders*

[d] **4:10** Or *Meanwhile, Judah said*

[e] **4:23** Or *each carried his weapon in his right hand*

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.

Nehemiah's Generosity

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.
15 The governors before me had heavily burdened the people, taking from them bread and wine plus forty shekels of silver.[a] 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.

[a] **5:15** *40 shekels* is approximately 1 pound or 453.6 grams of silver.

6

Sanballat's Conspiracy

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 one of the villages[b] on the plain[c] 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[d] 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, my God,[e] 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!"
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.

Completion of the Wall

15 So the wall was completed in fifty-two days, on the twenty-fifth of Elul.[f]

[b] **6:2** Or *in Kephirim*

[c] **6:2** Or *in the valley*

[d] **6:6** Hebrew *Gashmu*, a variant of *Geshem*; see verse 1.

[e] **6:9** Hebrew *But now*; for clarity, *my God* has been included.

[f] **6:15** *Elul* is the sixth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of August and September.

16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and 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

Securing the City

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."

The List of Returning Exiles

(Ezra 2:1–67)

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.[a] 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;
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,[b] 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,[c] 112;
25 the descendants of Gibeon,[d] 95;
26 the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188;
27 the men of Anathoth, 128;
28 the men of Beth-azmaveth,[e] 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,[f] 52;
34 the descendants of the other Elam,[g] 1,254;
35 the descendants of Harim, 320;
36 the men[h] 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[i]), 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:[j] the descendants of Ziha, the descendants of Hasupha, the descendants of Tabbaoth,
47 the descendants of Keros, the descendants of Sia,[k] 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,[l]
53 the descendants of Bakbuk, the descendants of Hakupha, the descendants of Harhur,

[a] **7:7** Parallel text at Ezra 2:2 *accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah*

[b] **7:15** *Binnui* is a variant of *Bani*; see Ezra 2:10.

[c] **7:24** *Hariph* is a variant of *Jorah*; see Ezra 2:18.

[d] **7:25** *Gibeon* is a variant of *Gibbar*; see Ezra 2:20.

[e] **7:28** *Beth-azmaveth* is a variant of *Azmaveth*; see Ezra 2:24.

[f] **7:33** Or *of West Nebo*

[g] **7:34** Or *of West Elam*

[h] **7:36** Literally *the sons* ; here and in verse 37

[i] **7:43** *Hodevah* is a variant of *Hodaviah*; see Ezra 2:40.

[j] **7:46** Hebrew *The Nethinim*; also in verses 60 and 73

[k] **7:47** *Sia* is a variant of *Siaha*; see Ezra 2:44.

[l] **7:52** *Nephushesim* is a variant of *Nephusim*; see Ezra 2:50.

54 the descendants of Bazlith,[a] 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,[b]
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.[c]
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,[d] and Immer, but they could not prove that their families were descended from Israel:
62 the descendants of Delaiah, 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.[e]
66 The whole assembly numbered 42,360,
67 in addition to their 7,337 menservants and maidservants, as well as their 245 male and female singers.
68 They had 736 horses, 245 mules,[f]
69 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

Offerings by the Exiles

(Exodus 38:21–31; Ezra 2:68–70)

70 Some of the heads of the families contributed to the project. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold,[g] 50 bowls, and 530 priestly garments.
71 And some of the heads of the families gave to the treasury for the project 20,000 darics of gold[h] and 2,200 minas of silver.[i]
72 The rest of the people gave a total of 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver,[j] and 67 priestly garments.
73 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

Ezra Reads the Law

(Deuteronomy 31:9–13)

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 Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.
2 On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Law 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 Law.
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.
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 Law as they stood in their places.
8 So they read from the Book of the Law of God, explaining it[k] 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 Law.
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.

[a] **7:54** *Bazlith* is a variant of *Bazluth*; see Ezra 2:52.

[b] **7:57** *Perida* is a variant of *Peruda*; see Ezra 2:55.

[c] **7:59** *Amon* is a variant of *Ami*; see Ezra 2:57.

[d] **7:61** *Addon* is a variant of *Addan*; see Ezra 2:59.

[e] **7:65** Literally *Lights and Perfections*

[f] **7:68** Some Hebrew manuscripts (see also Ezra 2:66); most Hebrew manuscripts do not include this verse.

[g] **7:70** Or *1,000 gold drachmas*; that is, approximately 18.5 pounds or 8.4 kilograms of gold coins

[h] **7:71** Or *20,000 gold drachmas*; that is, approximately 370.4 pounds or 168 kilograms of gold coins; also in verse 72

[i] **7:71** Or *2,200 silver minas*; that is, approximately 1.38 tons or 1.25 metric tons of silver

[j] **7:72** Or *2,000 silver minas*; that is, approximately 1.26 tons or 1.14 metric tons of silver

[k] **8:8** Or *translating it* or *paragraph by paragraph*

The Feast of Tabernacles

(Leviticus 23:33–44; Zechariah 14:16–21)

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 Law.
14 And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to dwell in booths[a] 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, wild olive,[b] myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written."[c]
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[d] son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated like this. And there was great rejoicing.
18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. The Israelites kept the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day they held an assembly, according to the ordinance.

9

The People Confess Their Sins

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.
3 While they stood in their places, they read from the Book of the Law 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 Red Sea.[e]
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.
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 Egypt.[f] 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

[a] **8:14** Or *tabernacles* or *shelters*; also in verses 15, 16, and 17

[b] **8:15** Or *pine*; literally *oil tree*

[c] **8:15** See Leviticus 23:37–40.

[d] **8:17** Hebrew *Jeshua*, a variant of *Joshua*

[e] **9:9** Or *the Sea of Reeds*

[f] **9:17** LXX and a few Hebrew manuscripts; MT *to return them to their bondage in their rebellion*

of Sihon[a] 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; 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 neighboring peoples.[b]
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, 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.
38 In view of all this, we make a binding agreement, putting it in writing and sealing it with the names of [c] our leaders, Levites, and priests.”

10

Signers of the Covenant

1 Now these were the ones who sealed the document: Nehemiah the governor, son of Hacaliah, and also Zedekiah,
2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,
4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
8 Maaziah, Bilgai,[d] and Shemaiah. These were the priests.
9 The Levites: Jeshua son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel,
10 and their associates: Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,
12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
13 Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu.
14 And the leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,
19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
26 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
27 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

The Vows of the Covenant

28 “The rest of the people— the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, temple servants,[e] and all who had separated themselves from the people of the land to obey the Law of God— along with their wives and all their sons and daughters who are able to understand,
29 hereby join with their noble brothers and commit themselves with a sworn oath to follow the Law of God given through His servant Moses and to obey carefully all the commandments, ordinances, and statutes of the LORD our Lord.

[a] **9:22** One Hebrew manuscript and LXX; most Hebrew manuscripts *Sihon, the country of the*

[b] **9:30** Literally *into the hands of the peoples of the lands*

[c] **9:38** Hebrew does not include *the names of.*

[d] **10:8** *Bilgai* is a variant of *Bilgah*; see Nehemiah 12:5.

[e] **10:28** Hebrew *Nethinim*

30 We will not give our daughters in marriage to the
people of the land, and we will not take their daugh-
ters for our sons.
31 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.
32 We also place ourselves under the obligation to con-
tribute a third of a shekel[a] yearly for the service of
the house of our God:
33 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 sin offerings to make atonement
for Israel, and for all the duties of the house of our
God.
34 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 Law.
35 We will also bring the firstfruits of our land and of
every fruit tree to the house of the LORD year by
year.
36 And we will bring the firstborn of our sons and our
livestock, as it is written in the Law, 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.
37 Moreover, we will bring to the priests at the store-
rooms 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.
38 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.
39 For the Israelites and the Levites are to bring the
contributions of grain, new wine, and oil to the store-
rooms 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

Jerusalem's New Settlers

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[b] 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,[c] and
descendants of Solomon's servants—
4 while some of the descendants of Judah and Ben-
jamin 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 Shelah.[d]
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 over the Second District of the
city.[e]
10 From the priests: Jedaiah son of Joiarib;[f] 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 his associates[g] — 128 mighty men of valor.
Zabdiel son of Haggedolim was their overseer.
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; Bak-
bukiah, 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 as-
sociates, who kept watch at the gates — 172 men.

Residents Outside Jerusalem

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.[h] He was one of Asaph's

[a] **10:32** *A third of a shekel* is approximately 0.13 ounces or 3.8 grams, probably of silver.

[b] **11:1** Hebrew *nine hands*

[c] **11:3** Hebrew *Nethinim*; also in verse 21

[d] **11:5** Or *of the Shilonite*

[e] **11:9** Or *was over the Second Quarter of the city*, a newer section of Jerusalem; or *was second in command of the city*

[f] **11:10** Or *Jedaiah; the son of Joiarib;*

[g] **11:14** Most LXX manuscripts; Hebrew *their associates*

[h] **11:22** *Mica* is a variant of *Micaiah*; see Nehemiah 12:35.

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[a] 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.[b]
36 And some divisions of the Levites of Judah settled in Benjamin.

12

The Priests and Levites Who Returned

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,[c] Hattush,
3 Shecaniah, Rehum,[d] Meremoth,
4 Iddo, Ginnethon,[e] Abijah,
5 Mijamin,[f] Maadiah,[g] Bilgah,[h]
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,[i] 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 Malluchi,[j] Jonathan; of Shebaniah,[k] Joseph;
15 of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth,[l] Helkai;
16 of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
17 of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin and of Moadiah,[m] Piltai;
18 of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jonathan;
19 of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
20 of Sallai,[n] Kallai; of Amok, Eber;
21 of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; and of Jedaiah, Nethanel.
22 In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan,[o] and Jaddua, during the reign of Darius the Persian, the heads of the families of the Levites and priests were recorded.
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.[p]
24 The leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua son of Kadmiel,[q] 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,[r] and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe.

The Dedication of the Wall

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

[a] **11:24** Hebrew *hand*

[b] **11:35** Hebrew *in Ge-harashim*

[c] **12:2** *Malluch* is a variant of *Malluchi*; see verse 14.

[d] **12:3** *Rehum* is a variant of *Harim*; see verse 15, Nehemiah 7:42, and Ezra 2:39.

[e] **12:4** Many Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate (see also verse 16); most MT manuscripts *Ginnethoi*

[f] **12:5** *Mijamin* is a variant of *Miniamin*; see verse 17.

[g] **12:5** *Maadiah* is a variant of *Moadiah*; see verse 17.

[h] **12:5** *Bilgah* is a variant of *Bilgai*; also in verse 18; see Nehemiah 10:8.

[i] **12:11** *Jonathan* is a variant of *Johanan*; see verse 22.

[j] **12:14** *Malluchi* is a variant of *Malluch*; see verse 2.

[k] **12:14** *Shebaniah* is a variant of *Shecaniah*; see verse 3; see also Syriac and some Hebrew and LXX manuscripts.

[l] **12:15** *Meraioth* is a variant of *Meremoth*; see verse 3 and also some LXX manuscripts.

[m] **12:17** *Moadiah* is a variant of *Maadiah*; see verse 5.

[n] **12:20** *Sallai* is a variant of *Sallu*; see verse 7.

[o] **12:22** *Johanan* is a variant of *Jonathan*; see verse 11.

[p] **12:23** Or *the Book of the Annals* or *the Book of the Historical Events*

[q] **12:24** Or *Sherebiah, Jeshua, Binnui, and Kadmiel*

[r] **12:26** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; see 1 Chronicles 6:14.

was to proceed along the top of the wall[a] 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,[b] 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 to the left, 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,[c] 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 —
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.

Provisions for Temple Worship

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 Law 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

Foreigners Excluded

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,[d]
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.

The Temple Cleansed

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[e] 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.

Tithes Restored

(Leviticus 27:30–34; Deuteronomy 14:22–29; Deuteronomy 26:1–15)

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.
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.

[a] **12:31** Or *alongside the wall*; also in verse 38

[b] **12:35** *Micaiah* is a variant of *Mica*; see Nehemiah 11:22.

[c] **12:39** Or *the Old City Gate*

[d] **13:1** See Deuteronomy 23:3–6.

[e] **13:6** Artaxerxes king of Persia is identified here as the king of Babylon because Persia had conquered the Babylonian Empire.

The Sabbath Restored

(Jeremiah 17:19–27)

15 In those days I saw people in Judah treading wine-
presses 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
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.

Intermarriage Forbidden

(Ezra 9:1–4)

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 lan-
guage 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 Jehoiada 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 de-
filed the priesthood and the covenant of the priest-
hood and of the Levites.
30 Thus I purified the priests and Levites from every-
thing 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.

Esther

Book of Esther

1

Xerxes' Royal Feast

1 This is what happened in the days of Xerxes,[a] who reigned over 127 provinces from India to Cush.[b]
2 In those days King Xerxes sat on his royal throne in the citadel of Susa.
3 In the third year of his reign, Xerxes 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.

Queen Vashti's Refusal

9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.
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.

Queen Vashti Deposed

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 Xerxes 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 Xerxes.
17 For the conduct of the queen will become known to all women, causing them to despise their husbands[c] and say, 'King Xerxes ordered Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she did not come.'
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 Xerxes, 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, proclaiming[d] that every man should be master of his own household.

2

Seeking Vashti's Successor

1 Some time later, when the anger of King Xerxes 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.

Esther Finds Favor

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[e] 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

[a] **1:1** Hebrew *Ahasuerus*; here and throughout Esther

[b] **1:1** That is, the upper Nile region

[c] **1:17** Or *to disdain their husbands in their eyes*

[d] **1:22** Literally *proclaiming in the language of his own people*

[e] **2:6** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

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.
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 Xerxes, 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[a] 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 Xerxes in the royal palace in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth,[b] in the seventh year of his reign.

Esther Becomes Queen

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.[c]
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.

Mordecai Uncovers a Conspiracy

21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan[d] and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the entrance, grew angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.
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 hanged on the gallows. And all this was recorded in the Book of the Chronicles[e] in the presence of the king.

3

Haman's Plot against the Jews

1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him to a position above all the princes who were with him.
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[f] laying hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he sought to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the kingdom of Xerxes.
7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan,[g] 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.[h]
8 Then Haman informed King Xerxes, "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[i] into the royal treasury to pay those who carry it out."

[a] **2:14** Or *to another part of the harem*

[b] **2:16** *Tebeth* is the tenth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of December and January.

[c] **2:19** Or *Mordecai had become a palace official*

[d] **2:21** *Bigthan* is a variant of *Bigthana*; see Esther 6:2.

[e] **2:23** Or *the Book of the Annals* or *the Book of the Historical Events*

[f] **3:6** Hebrew *he disdained in his eyes*

[g] **3:7** *Nisan* is the first month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April.

[h] **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.

[i] **3:9** *10,000 talents* is approximately 377 tons or 342 metric tons of silver.

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 Xerxes 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.

4

Mordecai Appeals to Esther

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 in-
stead 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 de-
cree 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 re-
sponse 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![a] "
17 So Mordecai went and did all that Esther had in-
structed him.

5

Esther Approaches the King

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.
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 pre-
pared 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."

Haman's Plot against Mordecai

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.

[a] **4:16** Or *if I am destroyed, then I will be destroyed!*

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 ser-
vants.
12 "What is more," Haman added, "Queen Esther in-
vited 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 gallows fifty cubits high,[a] and ask the
king in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on
it. Then go to the banquet with the king and enjoy
yourself." The advice pleased Haman, and he had
the gallows constructed.

6

Mordecai Is Honored

1 That night sleep escaped the king; so he ordered the
Book of Records, the Chronicles,[b] to be brought in
and read to him.
2 And there it was found recorded that Mordecai had
exposed Bigthana[c] and Teresh, two of the eunuchs
who guarded the king's entrance, when they had
conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.
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 hang Mordecai on the gallows he had
prepared for him.
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 de-
lighted 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 every-
thing 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 ban-
quet that Esther had prepared.

7

Esther Pleads for Her People

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 menservants and maidservants, I would have
remained silent, because no such distress would
justify burdening the king."
5 Then King Xerxes spoke up and asked Queen Esther,
"Who is this, and where is the one who would devise
[d] 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.

The Hanging of Haman

7 In his fury, the king arose from drinking his wine and
went to the palace garden, while Haman stayed be-
hind to beg Queen Esther for his life, for he realized
that the king was planning a terrible fate for him.
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 gallows fifty cubits high[e] at
Haman's house. He had it built for Mordecai, who
gave the report that saved the king." "Hang him on
it!" declared the king.

[a] **5:14** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters high.

[b] **6:1** Or *the Book of Memorials, the Annals* or *the Book of Records of Historical Events*

[c] **6:2** *Bigthana* is a variant of *Bigthan*; see Esther 2:21.

[d] **7:5** Hebrew *whose heart has filled him to do*

[e] **7:9** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters high.

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the fury of the king subsided.

8

Esther Appeals for the Jews

1 That same day King Xerxes 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?"

The Decree of Xerxes

7 So King Xerxes said to Esther the Queen and Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Haman's estate to Esther, and he was hanged on the gallows 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[a]), 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[b] — 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 Xerxes 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 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 Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar.[c]
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

The Jews Destroy Their Enemies

1 On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar,[d] 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 Xerxes, 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.

Haman's Sons Hanged

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,

[a] **8:9** *Sivan* is the third month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of May and June.
[b] **8:9** That is, to the upper Nile region
[c] **8:12** *Adar* is the twelfth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of February and March.
[d] **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.

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."
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 hanged on the gallows."
14 So the king commanded that this be done. An edict was issued in Susa, and they hanged 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.

The Feast of Purim Instituted

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 Xerxes, 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 hanged on the gallows.
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 Xerxes,
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

Tribute to Xerxes and Mordecai

1 Now King Xerxes 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 Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews and highly favored by his many kinsmen, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

Job

Book of Job

1

Job's Character and Wealth

(James 5:7–12)

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 reg-
ular practice.

Satan's First Attack

6 One day the sons of God came to present themselves
before the LORD, and Satan[a] also came with them.
7 "Where have you come from?" said the LORD to Sa-
tan. "From roaming through the earth," he replied,
"and walking back and forth in it."
8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "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 Satan 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 posses-
sions 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 Satan. "Everything he
has is in your hands, but you must not lay a hand
on the man himself." Then Satan went out from the
presence of the LORD.

Job Loses His Children and Possessions

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,
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 wrong-
doing.

2

Job Loses His Health

1 On another day the sons of God came to present
themselves before the LORD, and Satan[b] also came
with them to present himself before Him.
2 "Where have you come from?" said the LORD to Sa-
tan. "From roaming through the earth," he replied,
"and walking back and forth in it."
3 Then the LORD said to Satan, "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!" Satan 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 Satan. "He is in your
hands, but you must spare his life."
7 So Satan 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[c] God and die!"
10 "You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her.
"Should we accept from God only good and not ad-
versity?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Job's Three Friends

11 Now when Job's three friends— Eliphaz the Teman-
ite, 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

[a] **1:6** That is, *the Accuser* or *the Adversary*; here and throughout Job 1

[b] **2:1** That is, *the Accuser* or *the Adversary*; here and throughout Job 2

[c] **2:9** Or *Bless*

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

Job Laments His Birth

1 After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.
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[a] — 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?
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

Eliphaz: The Innocent Prosper

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 spirit[b] 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,
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

Eliphaz Continues: God Blesses those Who Seek Him

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.

[a] **3:8** Or *curse the sea*

[b] **4:15** Or *a wind*

5 The hungry consume his harvest, taking it even from
the thorns, and the thirsty pant after his wealth.[a]
6 For distress does not spring from the dust, and trou-
ble 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,[b] 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.[c]
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.
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

Job Replies: My Complaint Is Just

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 white of an egg[d] ?
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 unrelent-
ing 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?
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 sea-
sonal streams that overflow,
16 darkened because of the ice and the inflow of melt-
ing 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

Job Continues: Life Seems Futile

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.

[a] **5:5** Or *and a snare snatches his wealth*

[b] **5:13** Cited in 1 Corinthians 3:19

[c] **5:17** Hebrew *Shaddai*; here and throughout Job

[d] **6:6** Or *in the sap of the mallow plant*

5 My flesh is clothed with worms and encrusted with dirt; 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 You[a] ?
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

Bildad: Job Should Repent

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.
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

Job: How Can I Contend with God?

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,[b] 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 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;[c] 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,[d] 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.

[a] **7:20** LXX; Hebrew *to myself*

[b] **9:3** Or *If God wished to contend with someone*

[c] **9:7** Or *rise*

[d] **9:12** Or *snatches someone in death*

19 If it is a matter of strength, He is indeed mighty! If it is a matter of justice, who can summon Him[a] ?
20 Even if I were righteous, my mouth would condemn me; if I were blameless, it would declare me guilty.[b]
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,'
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 snow[c] 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

Job's Plea to God

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,[d] and Your care has preserved my spirit.
13 Yet You concealed these things in Your heart, 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

Zophar Rebukes Job

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, 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![e]
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.

[a] **9:19** See LXX; Hebrew *me*

[b] **9:20** Or *He would declare me guilty*

[c] **9:30** Or *soap*

[d] **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*.

[e] **11:12** Or *can be born tame*

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

Job Presents His Case

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.[a]
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 Does not the ear test words as the tongue tastes its
food?
12 Wisdom is found with the elderly, and understand-
ing 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 de-
ceived 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 en-
larges 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."

[a] **12:6** Or *though God keeps them in His power*

13

Job Prepares His Case

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 de-
fense?
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 put myself at risk[b] and take my life in my
own hands?
15 Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.[c] I will still
defend my ways to His face.
16 Moreover, this will be my salvation, 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."

[b] **13:14** Literally *Why do I take my flesh in my teeth*

[c] **13:15** Or *I have no other hope*

14

Job Laments the Finality of Death

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? Will You bring
him 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 be-
comes 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[a]
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."

15

Eliphaz: Job Does Not Fear God

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,[b]
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 con-
cealed from their fathers,
19 to whom alone the land was given when no for-
eigner 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 as food for vultures; he knows the
day of darkness is at hand.
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."

[a] **14:14** Or *my change* or *my relief*

[b] **15:12** Or *blink*

16

Job Decries His Comforters

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

Job Prepares for Death

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

Bildad: God Punishes the Wicked

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 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

Job: My Redeemer Lives

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 shame-
lessly 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 acquain-
tances 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 loath-
some 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 for-
ever.
25 But I know that my Redeemer[a] lives, and in the end
He will stand upon the earth.[b]
26 Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my
flesh[c] 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[d] within
me!
28 If you say, 'Let us persecute him, since the root of the
matter lies with him,[e] '
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

Zophar: Destruction Awaits the Wicked

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:
2 "So my anxious thoughts compel me to answer, be-
cause of the turmoil within me.
3 I have heard a rebuke that insults me, and my under-
standing 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.
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 con-
suming 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 prosper-
ity 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 liver.[f] 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.

[a] **19:25** Or *Vindicator*

[b] **19:25** Or *on my grave*

[c] **19:26** Or *without my flesh*

[d] **19:27** Hebrew *my kidneys yearn*

[e] **19:28** Many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate; most Hebrew manuscripts *with me*

[f] **20:25** Literally *from his gall*

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

Job: God Will Punish the Wicked

1 Then Job answered:
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 peace.[a]
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 body is well nourished,[b] 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

Eliphaz: Can a Man Be of Use to God?

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.[c] '
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.'

[a] **21:13** Or *in an instant*

[b] **21:24** Literally *His pails are full of milk*

[c] **22:14** Or *heaven's horizon* or *the circle of the sky*

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, rescu-
ing him through the cleanness of your hands."

23

Job Longs for God

1 Then Job answered:
2 "Even today my complaint is bitter. His 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? 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 ter-
rified me.
17 Yet I am not silenced by the darkness, by the thick
darkness that covers my face."

24

Job: Judgment for the Wicked

1 "Why does the Almighty not reserve times for judg-
ment? 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 vine-
yards 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.
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 When daylight is gone, 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. Think-
ing, '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 bro-
ken 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

Bildad: Man Cannot Be Righteous

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? 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

Job: Who Can Understand God's Majesty?

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[a] 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 the full moon,[b] 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 stirred[c] the sea; by His understanding He shattered Rahab.
13 By His breath the skies were cleared; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.[d]
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 power?"

27

Job Affirms His Integrity

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; 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.

The Wicked Man's Portion

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 their 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 do so no more; 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

Where Can Wisdom Be Found?

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. 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[e] 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.

[a] **26:6** *Abaddon* means *Destruction* .

[b] **26:9** Or *of His throne*

[c] **26:12** Or *stilled*

[d] **26:13** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

[e] **28:11** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate *He searches*

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 jew-
els 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[a] 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[b] 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 every-
thing under the heavens.
25 When God fixed the weight of the wind and mea-
sured 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 es-
tablished it and searched it out.
28 And He said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord,
that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is under-
standing.'"

29

Job's Former Blessings

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,[c] 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 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

Job's Honor Turned to Contempt

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.[d]
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 be-
neath 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[e] 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 destruc-
tion, with no one to restrain them.[f]
14 They advance as through a wide breach; through the
ruins they keep rolling in.

Job's Prosperity Becomes Calamity

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.

[a] **28:19** That is, the upper Nile region

[b] **28:22** *Abaddon* means *Destruction* .

[c] **29:4** Hebrew *in the time of my harvest*

[d] **30:4** Or *their fuel*

[e] **30:11** Hebrew *the bridle*

[f] **30:13** Or *with no one to assist them*

18 With great force He grasps my garment;[a] 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 toss me about[b] in the storm.
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 afflic-
tion 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,[c] a companion
of ostriches.[d]
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

Job’s Final Appeal

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,
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;[e] it
would root out my entire harvest.
13 If I have rejected the cause of my manservant or
maidservant 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[f] 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 splen-
dor 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[g] 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 —
31 if the men of my house have not said, ‘Who is there
who has not had his fill?’—
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[h] by
hiding my guilt in my heart,
34 because I greatly feared the crowds and the con-
tempt 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 signa-
ture. 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.

[a] **30:18** LXX; Hebrew *He becomes like a garment to me* or *my garment is disfigured*

[b] **30:22** Or *You dissolve me*

[c] **30:29** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[d] **30:29** Literally *of daughters of an ostrich* or *of daughters of an owl*

[e] **31:12** *Abaddon* means *Destruction*.

[f] **31:20** Hebrew *if his loins have not blessed me*

[g] **31:26** Hebrew *the light*

[h] **31:33** Or *like men*

32

Elihu Rebukes Job's Friends

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[a] in a man, the breath of the
Almighty, that gives him understanding.
9 It is not only the old[b] 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

Elihu Rebukes Job

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:
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 noth-
ing a man asks?[c]
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 warn-
ings
17 to turn a man from wrongdoing and keep him from
pride,
18 to preserve his soul 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 messen-
gers 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 righteous-
ness to that man.
27 Then he sings before[d] men with these words: 'I have
sinned and perverted what was right; yet I did not
get what I deserved.
28 He redeemed my soul from going down to the Pit,
and I will live to see the light.'
29 Behold, all these things God does to a man, two or
even three times,
30 to bring back his soul 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."

[a] **32:8** Or *the Spirit*; similarly in verse 18

[b] **32:9** Or *many* or *great*

[c] **33:13** Or *that He answers for none of His actions*

[d] **33:27** Or *Then he looks upon*

34

Elihu Confirms God's Justice

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; ac-
cording 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 ap-
pointed 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? Will you con-
demn 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 over-
throws 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 in-
sight.'
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

Elihu Recalls God's Justice

1 And Elihu went on to say:
2 "Do you think this is just? You say, 'I am more right-
eous than God.'[a]
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

Elihu Describes God's Power

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 jus-
tice 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.

[a] **35:2** Or *'I am righteous before God.'*

7 He does not take His eyes off the righteous, but He
enthrones them with kings 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
[a] 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 pros-
titutes.
15 God rescues the afflicted by their affliction[b] 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[c] 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.
29 Furthermore, who can understand how the clouds
spread out, how the thunder roars from His pavil-
ion?
30 See how He scatters His lightning around Him and
covers the depths of the sea.
31 For by these He judges[d] 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

Elihu Proclaims God's Majesty

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, accom-
plishing all that He commands over the face of all
the earth.
13 Whether for punishment or for His land, He accom-
plishes 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 won-
ders of Him who is perfect in knowledge?
17 You whose clothes get hot when the land lies hushed
under the south wind,
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[e] ?
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; awe-
some 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

The LORD Challenges Job

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind
and said:
2 "Who is this who obscures My counsel by words
without knowledge?[f]
3 Now brace yourself[g] like a man; I will question you,
and you shall inform Me.[h]

[a] **36:12** Or *they will cross the river of death*
[b] **36:15** Or *in their affliction*
[c] **36:19** Or *your cry for help*
[d] **36:31** Or *governs* or *nourishes*
[e] **37:20** Or *speak without being swallowed up*
[f] **38:2** Cited in Job 42:3
[g] **38:3** Hebrew *gird up your loins*
[h] **38:3** Cited in Job 42:4

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,[a]
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 dark-
ness 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 far-
ther; 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; its hills
stand out like the folds of a garment.
15 Light is withheld from the wicked, and their up-
raised 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 ob-
served 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 sur-
face 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 the constellations in their sea-
sons[b] or lead out the Bear[c] 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[d] or given under-
standing 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

The LORD Speaks of His Creation

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[e] 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; 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?

[a] **38:6** Or *who set its core in place*

[b] **38:32** Or *bring forth Mazzaroth in its season*

[c] **38:32** Or *Leo* or *Arcturus*

[d] **38:36** Or *Who has given the ibis wisdom*, that is, wisdom about the flooding of the Nile

[e] **39:13** *Pinions* are the outer parts of a bird's wings, including the flight feathers.

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.[a]
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 with fervor.[b] 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

Job Humbles Himself before the LORD

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."

The LORD Challenges Job Again

6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:
7 "Now brace yourself[c] like a man; I will question you, and you shall inform Me.[d]
8 Would you really annul My justice? Would you condemn Me to justify yourself?
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 grave.[e]
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;[f] 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,[g] hidden among the reeds of the marsh.
22 The lotus plants conceal him in their shade; the willows[h] 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?"

41

The LORD's Power Shown in Leviathan

1 "Can you pull in Leviathan with a hook or tie down his tongue with a rope?
2 Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook?
3 Will he beg you for mercy or speak to you softly?
4 Will he make a covenant with you to take him as a slave for life?
5 Can you pet him like a bird or put him on a leash for your maidens?
6 Will traders barter for him or divide him among the merchants?
7 Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?
8 If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the battle and never repeat it!
9 Surely hope of overcoming him is false. Is not the sight of him overwhelming?
10 No one is so fierce as to rouse Leviathan. Then who is able to stand against Me?
11 Who has given to Me that I should repay him?[i] Everything under heaven is Mine.
12 I cannot keep silent about his limbs, his power and graceful form.
13 Who can strip off his outer coat? Who can approach him with a bridle?[j]
14 Who can open his jaws, ringed by his fearsome teeth?
15 His rows of scales are his pride, tightly sealed together.
16 One scale is so near to another that no air can pass between them.
17 They are joined to one another; they clasp and cannot be separated.
18 His snorting flashes with light, and his eyes are like the rays of dawn.
19 Firebrands stream from his mouth; fiery sparks shoot forth!

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[a] **39:23** Or *javelin*
[b] **39:25** Or *he snorts, 'Aha!'*
[c] **40:7** Hebrew *gird up your loins*
[d] **40:7** Cited in Job 42:4
[e] **40:13** Or *in the hidden place*
[f] **40:19** Hebrew *ways*
[g] **40:21** Or *bramble bushes*; also in verse 22
[h] **40:22** Or *poplars*
[i] **41:11** Cited in Romans 11:35
[j] **41:13** Or *Who can come within his double mail?*

20 Smoke billows from his nostrils as from a boiling pot
over burning reeds.
21 His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames pour from
his mouth.
22 Strength resides in his neck, and dismay leaps be-
fore him.
23 The folds of his flesh are tightly joined; they are firm
and immovable.
24 His chest is as hard as a rock, as hard as a lower
millstone!
25 When Leviathan rises up, the mighty are terrified;
they withdraw before his thrashing.
26 The sword that reaches him has no effect, nor does
the spear or dart or arrow.
27 He regards iron as straw and bronze as rotten wood.
28 No arrow can make him flee; slingstones become
like chaff to him.
29 A club is regarded as straw, and he laughs at the
sound of the lance.[a]
30 His undersides are jagged potsherds, spreading out
the mud like a threshing sledge.
31 He makes the depths seethe like a cauldron; he
makes the sea like a jar of ointment.
32 He leaves a glistening wake behind him; one would
think the deep had white hair!
33 Nothing on earth is his equal— a creature devoid of
fear!
34 He looks down on all the haughty; he is king over all
the proud."

42

Job Submits Himself to the LORD

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?'[b] 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.'[c]
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."

The LORD Rebukes Job's Friends

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 your-
selves. Then My servant Job will pray for you, for I
will accept his prayer and not deal with you accord-
ing 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.

The LORD Blesses Job

10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD
restored his prosperity and doubled his former pos-
sessions.
11 All his brothers and sisters and prior acquaintances
came and dined with him in his house. They con-
soled him and comforted him over all the adversity
that the LORD had brought upon him. And each one
gave him a piece of silver[d] 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.

[a] **41:29** Or *javelin*

[b] **42:3** Job 38:2

[c] **42:4** Job 38:3 and Job 40:7

[d] **42:11** Hebrew *a kesitah*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known.

Psalms

Book of Psalms

1

BOOK I

Psalms 1–41

The Two Paths

(Matthew 5:3–12; Luke 6:20–23)

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 Law of the LORD, and on His
law 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

The Triumphant Messiah

(Acts 4:23–31)

1 Why do the nations rage[a] 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 One:[b]
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.[c]
8 Ask Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance,
the ends of the earth Your possession.
9 You will break them[d] with an iron scepter; You will
shatter them like pottery.[e] "
10 Therefore be wise, O kings; be admonished, O judges
of the earth.
11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trem-
bling.
12 Kiss the Son, 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.

[a] **2:1** Or *noisily assemble*; see Revelation 11:18.

[b] **2:2** Cited in Acts 4:25–26

[c] **2:7** Literally *today I have begotten You*; cited in Acts 13:33, Hebrews 1:5, and Hebrews 5:5

[d] **2:9** LXX *You will rule them* or *You will shepherd them*

[e] **2:9** Cited in Revelation 2:27; see also Revelation 12:5 and Revelation 19:15.

3

Deliver Me, O LORD!

(2 Samuel 15:13–29)

1 A Psalm of David, when he fled from his son Absalom.
O LORD, how my foes have increased! How many
rise up against me!
2 Many say of me, "God will not deliver him." Selah[f]
3 But You, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory,
and the One who lifts my head.
4 To the LORD I cry aloud, and He answers me from His
holy mountain. Selah
5 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the LORD
sustains me.
6 I will not fear the myriads set against me on every
side.
7 Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! Strike all my
enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked.
8 Salvation belongs to the LORD; may Your blessing be
on Your people. Selah

4

Answer Me When I Call!

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A
Psalm of David. Answer me when I call, O God of my
righteousness! You have relieved my distress; show
me grace and hear my prayer.
2 How long, O men, will my honor be maligned? How
long will you love vanity and seek after lies[g] ? Selah
3 Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Him-
self; the LORD hears when I call to Him.
4 Be angry, yet do not sin;[h] on your bed, search your
heart and be still. Selah
5 Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the
LORD.
6 Many ask, "Who can show us the good?" Shine the
light of Your face upon us, O LORD.
7 You have filled my heart with more joy than when
grain and new wine abound.
8 I will lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, O
LORD, make me dwell in safety.

5

Give Ear to My Words

1 For the choirmaster, to be accompanied by flutes. A
Psalm of David. Give ear to my words, O LORD; con-
sider my groaning.
2 Attend to the sound of my cry, my King and my God,
for to You I pray.
3 In the morning, O LORD, You hear my voice; at
daybreak I lay my plea before You and wait in expec-
tation.
4 For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; no
evil can dwell with You.

[f] **3:2** *Selah* or *Interlude* is probably a musical or literary term; here and throughout the Psalms.

[g] **4:2** Or *false gods*

[h] **4:4** Or *In your anger do not sin* or *Tremble and do not sin*; cited in Ephesians 4:26

5 The boastful cannot stand in Your presence; You hate
all workers of iniquity.
6 You destroy those who tell lies; the LORD abhors the
man of bloodshed and deceit.
7 But I will enter Your house by the abundance of Your
loving devotion;[a] in reverence I will bow down
toward Your holy temple.
8 Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of
my enemies; make straight Your way before me.
9 For not a word they speak can be trusted; destruction
lies within them. Their throats are open graves; their
tongues practice deceit.[b]
10 Declare them guilty, O God; let them fall by their
own devices. Drive them out for their many trans-
gressions, for they have rebelled against You.
11 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.
12 For surely You, O LORD, bless the righteous; You
surround them with the shield of Your favor.

6

Do Not Rebuke Me in Your Anger

(Psalm 38:1–22)

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments, ac-
cording to Sheminith.[c] A Psalm of David. O LORD,
do not rebuke me in Your anger or discipline me in
Your wrath.
2 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am frail; heal me, O
LORD, for my bones are in agony.
3 My soul is deeply distressed. How long, O LORD, how
long?
4 Turn, O LORD, and deliver my soul; save me because
of Your loving devotion.
5 For there is no mention of You in death; who can
praise You from Sheol?
6 I am weary from groaning; all night I flood my bed
with weeping and drench my couch with tears.
7 My eyes fail from grief; they grow dim because of all
my foes.
8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, for the
LORD has heard my weeping.
9 The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD
accepts my prayer.
10 All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they
will turn back in sudden disgrace.

7

I Take Refuge in You

1 A Shiggaion[d] of David, which he sang to the LORD
concerning the words of Cush, a Benjamite. O LORD
my God, I take refuge in You; save me and deliver me
from all my pursuers,
2 or they will shred my soul like a lion and tear me to
pieces with no one to rescue me.
3 O LORD my God, if I have done this, if injustice is on
my hands,
4 if I have rewarded my ally[e] with evil, if I have plun-
dered my foe without cause,
5 then may my enemy pursue me and overtake me;
may he trample me to the ground and leave my
honor in the dust. Selah
6 Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; rise up against the
fury of my enemies. Awake, my God, and ordain
judgment.
7 Let the assembled peoples gather around You; take
Your seat over them on high.
8 The LORD judges the peoples; vindicate me, O LORD,
according to my righteousness and integrity.
9 Put an end to the evil of the wicked, but establish the
righteous, O righteous God who searches hearts and
minds.[f]
10 My shield is with God, who saves the upright in
heart.
11 God is a righteous judge and a God who feels indig-
nation each day.
12 If one does not repent, God will sharpen His sword;
He has bent and strung His bow.
13 He has prepared His deadly weapons; He ordains
His arrows with fire.
14 Behold, the wicked man travails with evil; he con-
ceives trouble and births falsehood.
15 He has dug a hole and hollowed it out; he has fallen
into a pit of his own making.
16 His trouble recoils on himself, and his violence falls
on his own head.
17 I will thank the LORD for His righteousness and sing
praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

8

How Majestic Is Your Name!

1 For the choirmaster. According to Gittith.[g] A Psalm of
David. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name
in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the
heavens.
2 From the mouths of children and infants You have
ordained praise[h] on account of Your adversaries, to
silence the enemy and avenger.
3 When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fin-
gers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in
place —
4 what is man that You are mindful of him, or the son
of man that You care for him?
5 You made him a little lower than the angels;[i] You
crowned him with glory and honor.
6 You made him ruler of the works of Your hands; You
have placed everything under his feet:[j]

[a] **5:7** 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*.

[b] **5:9** Or *flattery*; cited in Romans 3:13

[c] **6:1** *Sheminith* is probably a musical term; here and in 1 Chronicles 15:21 and Psalm 12:1.

[d] **7:1** *Shiggaion* is probably a musical or liturgical term.

[e] **7:4** Hebrew *the one at peace with me*

[f] **7:9** Hebrew *hearts and kidneys*

[g] **8:1** *Gittith* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalms 81 and 84.

[h] **8:2** Literally *You have ordained strength*; LXX *You have prepared praise*; cited in Matthew 21:16

[i] **8:5** Or *than God* or *than the heavenly beings*; see also LXX.

[j] **8:6** Cited in 1 Corinthians 15:27 and Hebrews 2:6–8

7 all sheep and oxen, and even the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

9

I Will Give Thanks to the LORD

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Death of the Son." A Psalm of David.[a] I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will recount all Your wonders.
2 I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
3 When my enemies retreat, they stumble and perish before You.
4 For You have upheld my just cause; You sit on Your throne judging righteously.
5 You have rebuked the nations; You have destroyed the wicked; You have erased their name forever and ever.
6 The enemy has come to eternal ruin, and You have uprooted their cities; the very memory of them has vanished.
7 But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment.
8 He judges the world with justice; He governs the people with equity.
9 The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
10 Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.
11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion; proclaim His deeds among the nations.
12 For the Avenger of bloodshed remembers; He does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.
13 Be merciful to me, O LORD; see how my enemies afflict me! Lift me up from the gates of death,
14 that I may declare all Your praises — that within the gates of Daughter Zion I may rejoice in Your salvation.
15 The nations have fallen into a pit of their making; their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.
16 The LORD is known by the justice He brings; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands. Higgaion Selah[b]
17 The wicked will return to Sheol— all the nations who forget God.
18 For the needy will not always be forgotten; nor the hope of the oppressed forever dashed.
19 Rise up, O LORD, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged in Your presence.
20 Lay terror upon them, O LORD; let the nations know they are but men. Selah

10

The Perils of the Pilgrim

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,[c] 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; he lurks to seize the oppressed; he catches the lowly in his net.
10 They are crushed and beaten down;[d] 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

In the LORD I Take Refuge

(Habakkuk 1:12–17)

1 For the choirmaster. Of David. In the LORD I take refuge. How then can you say to me: "Flee like a bird to your mountain!
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.

[a] **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.

[b] **9:16** *Higgaion Selah* or *quiet interlude* is probably a musical or liturgical term.

[c] **10:7** LXX *bitterness*; cited in Romans 3:14

[d] **10:10** Or *He crouches and lies low*

6 On the wicked He will rain down fiery coals and
sulfur; a scorching wind will be their portion.
7 For the LORD is righteous; He loves justice. The upright will see His face.

12

The Godly Are No More

1 For the choirmaster. According to Sheminith.[a] A
Psalm of David. Help, O LORD, for the godly are no more; the faithful have vanished from among men.
2 They lie to one another; they speak with flattering lips
and a double heart.
3 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips and every
boastful tongue.
4 They say, "With our tongues we will prevail. We own
our lips— who can be our master?"
5 "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."
6 The words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace, like gold purified sevenfold.[b]
7 You, O LORD, will keep us; You will forever guard us
from this generation.
8 The wicked wander freely, and vileness is exalted
among men.

13

How Long, O LORD?

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. How long, O
LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?
2 How long must I wrestle in my soul, with sorrow in
my heart each day? How long will my enemy dominate me?
3 Consider me and respond, O LORD my God. Give light
to my eyes, lest I sleep in death,
4 lest my enemy say, "I have overcome him," and my
foes rejoice when I fall.
5 But I have trusted in Your loving devotion; my heart
will rejoice in Your salvation.
6 I will sing to the LORD, for He has been good to me.

14

The Fool Says There Is No God

(Psalm 53:1–6; Isaiah 59:1–17; Romans 3:9–20)

1 For the choirmaster. Of David. The fool[c] 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;[d] there is no one who does good, not even one.[e]
4 Will the workers of iniquity never learn? They de-
vour 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 salvation of Israel would come from
Zion! When the LORD restores His captive people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad!

15

Who May Dwell on Your Holy Mountain?

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 righteous-
ness, 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 will never be shaken.

16

The Presence of the LORD

(Acts 2:14–36)

1 A Miktam[f] of David. Preserve me, O God, for in You I
take refuge.
2 I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from You
I have no good thing."
3 As for the saints 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.[g]
8 I have set[h] 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.[i]
10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor will
You let Your Holy One see decay.[j]
11 You have made known to me the path of life; You
will fill me with joy in Your presence,[k] with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.

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[a] **12:1** *Sheminith* is probably a musical term; here and in 1 Chronicles 15:21 and Psalm 6:1.

[b] **12:6** Probable reading; MT *like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified sevenfold*

[c] **14:1** The Hebrew words rendered *fool* throughout the Psalms denote one who is morally deficient.

[d] **14:3** LXX *worthless*

[e] **14:3** Cited in Romans 3:10–12

[f] **16:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalm 16 and Psalms 56–60.

[g] **16:7** Or *my heart instructs me*; Hebrew *my kidneys instruct me*

[h] **16:8** LXX *I foresaw*

[i] **16:9** LXX *will dwell in hope*

[j] **16:10** Cited in Acts 13:35

[k] **16:11** Cited in Acts 2:25–28

17

Hear My Righteous Plea

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; 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[a] Your eye; hide me in the
shadow of Your wings
9 from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal ene-
mies 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[b] 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

The LORD Is My Rock

(2 Samuel 22:1–51)

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: I love
You, O LORD, my strength.
2 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 salvation, my stronghold.
3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
so shall I be saved from my enemies.
4 The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of
chaos overwhelmed me.
5 The cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death
confronted me.
6 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.
7 Then the earth shook and quaked, and the founda-
tions of the mountains trembled; they were shaken
because He burned with anger.
8 Smoke rose from His nostrils, and consuming fire
came from His mouth; glowing coals blazed forth.
9 He parted the heavens and came down with dark
clouds beneath His feet.
10 He mounted a cherub and flew; He soared on the
wings of the wind.
11 He made darkness His hiding place, and storm
clouds a canopy around Him.
12 From the brightness of His presence His clouds ad-
vanced — hailstones and coals of fire.[c]
13 The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the
Most High resounded — hailstones and coals of fire.
[d]
14 He shot His arrows and scattered the foes; He hurled
lightning and routed them.
15 The channels of the sea appeared, and the founda-
tions of the world were exposed, at Your rebuke, O
LORD, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.
16 He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
He drew me out of deep waters.
17 He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from foes
too mighty for me.
18 They confronted me in my day of calamity, but the
LORD was my support.
19 He brought me out into the open; He rescued me
because He delighted in me.
20 The LORD has rewarded me according to my right-
eousness; He has repaid me according to the clean-
ness of my hands.
21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not
wickedly departed from my God.
22 For all His ordinances are before me; I have not
disregarded His statutes.
23 And I have been blameless before Him and kept
myself from iniquity.
24 So the LORD has repaid me according to my right-
eousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in
His sight.
25 To the faithful You show Yourself faithful, to the
blameless You show Yourself blameless;
26 to the pure You show Yourself pure, but to the
crooked You show Yourself shrewd.
27 For You save an afflicted people, but You humble
those with haughty eyes.
28 For You, O LORD, light my lamp; my God lights up
my darkness.
29 For in You I can charge an army, and with my God I
can scale a wall.
30 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.
31 For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the
Rock except our God?
32 It is God who arms me with strength and makes my
way clear.
33 He makes my feet like those of a deer and stations
me upon the heights.

[a] **17:8** Literally *as the pupil, the daughter of*

[b] **17:14** Or *May what You have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies*

[c] **18:12** Or *bolts of lightning*; also in verse 13

[d] **18:13** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX do not include *—hailstones and coals of fire*; see 2 Samuel 22:14.

34 He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
35 You have given me Your shield of salvation; Your right hand upholds me, and Your gentleness exalts me.[a]
36 You broaden the path beneath me so that my ankles do not give way.
37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back until they were consumed.
38 I crushed them so they could not rise; they have fallen under my feet.
39 You have armed me with strength for battle; You have subdued my foes beneath me.
40 You have made my enemies retreat before me; I destroyed those who hated me.
41 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them — to the LORD, but He did not answer.
42 I ground them as dust in the face of the wind; I trampled them[b] like mud in the streets.
43 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.
44 When they hear me, they obey me; foreigners cower before me.
45 Foreigners lose heart and come trembling from their strongholds.
46 The LORD lives, and blessed be my Rock! And may the God of my salvation be exalted—
47 the God who avenges me and subdues nations beneath me,
48 who delivers me from my enemies. You exalt me above my foes; You rescue me from violent men.
49 Therefore I will praise You, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing praises to Your name.[c]
50 Great salvation He brings to His king. He shows loving devotion to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

19

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.
2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
3 Without speech or language, without a sound to be heard,[d]
4 their voice[e] has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.[f] In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.
5 Like a bridegroom emerging from his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course,
6 it rises at one end of the heavens and runs its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.
7 The Law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making wise the simple.
8 The precepts of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart; the commandments of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true, being altogether righteous.
10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.
11 By them indeed Your servant is warned; in keeping them is great reward.
12 Who can discern his own errors? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.
13 Keep Your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless and cleansed of great transgression.
14 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

The Day of Trouble

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
2 May He send you help from the sanctuary and sustain you from Zion.
3 May He remember all your gifts and look favorably on your burnt offerings. Selah
4 May He give you the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed.
5 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.
6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He answers him from His holy heaven with the saving power of His right hand.
7 Some trust in chariots and others in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
8 They collapse and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.
9 O LORD, save[g] the king. Answer us on the day we call.

21

After the Battle

(Proverbs 21:1–31)

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. O LORD, the king rejoices in Your strength. How greatly he exults in Your salvation!
2 You have granted his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah
3 For You welcomed him with rich blessings; You placed on his head a crown of pure gold.
4 He asked You for life, and You granted it— length of days, forever and ever.
5 Great is his glory in Your salvation; You bestow on him splendor and majesty.
6 For You grant him blessings forever; You cheer him with joy in Your presence.

[a] **18:35** Or *and Your help exalts me* or *and You stoop down to make me great*
[b] **18:42** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also 2 Samuel 22:43); MT *I poured them out*
[c] **18:49** Cited in Romans 15:9
[d] **19:3** Or *There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard*
[e] **19:4** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *their measuring line*
[f] **19:4** Cited in Romans 10:18
[g] **20:9** Or *give victory to*

7 For the king trusts in the LORD; through the loving
devotion of the Most High, he will not be shaken.
8 Your hand will apprehend all Your enemies; Your
right hand will seize those who hate You.
9 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.
10 You will wipe their descendants from the earth, and
their offspring from the sons of men.
11 Though they intend You harm, the schemes they
devise will not prevail.
12 For You will put them to flight when Your bow is
trained upon them.
13 Be exalted, O LORD, in Your strength; we will sing
and praise Your power.

22

The Psalm of the Cross

(Matthew 27:32–56; Mark 15:21–41; Luke 23:26–43; John 19:16–30)

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Doe of the
Dawn." A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why have
You forsaken me?[a] Why are You so far from saving
me, so far from my words of groaning?
2 I cry out by day, O my God, but You do not answer, and
by night, but I have no rest.
3 Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
4 In You our fathers trusted; they trusted and You deliv-
ered them.
5 They cried out to You and were set free; they trusted
in You and were not disappointed.
6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and
despised by the people.
7 All who see me mock me; they sneer and shake their
heads:
8 "He trusts in the LORD, let the LORD deliver him; let
the LORD rescue him, since He delights in him."[b]
9 Yet You brought me forth from the womb; You made
me secure at my mother's breast.
10 From birth I was cast upon You; from my mother's
womb You have been my God.
11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near and there is
no one to help.
12 Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan
encircle me.
13 They open their jaws against me like lions that roar
and maul.
14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are
disjointed. My heart is like wax; it melts away within
me.
15 My strength[c] is dried up like a potsherd, and my
tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You lay me in
the dust of death.
16 For dogs surround me; a band of evil men encircles
me; they have pierced my hands and feet.[d]
17 I can count all my bones; they stare and gloat over
me.
18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots
for my clothing.[e]
19 But You, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come
quickly to help me.
20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life
from the power of wild dogs.
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion; at the horns of
the wild oxen You have answered me!
22 I will proclaim Your name to my brothers; I will
praise You in the assembly.[f]
23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All descendants
of Jacob, honor Him! All offspring of Israel, revere
Him!
24 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.
25 My praise for You resounds in the great assembly; I
will fulfill my vows before those who fear You.
26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the
LORD will praise Him. May your hearts live forever!
27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to
the LORD. All the families of the nations will bow
down before Him.
28 For dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over
the nations.
29 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.
30 Posterity will serve Him; they will declare the Lord
to a new generation.
31 They will come and proclaim His righteousness to a
people yet unborn — all that He has done.

23

The LORD Is My Shepherd

(Ezekiel 34:11–24; John 10:1–21)

1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd;[g] I shall
not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me
beside quiet waters.
3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of
righteousness for the sake of His name.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,[h] 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 Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days
of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.[i]

[a] **22:1** Cited in Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34

[b] **22:8** Cited in Matthew 27:43

[c] **22:15** MT; or *My mouth* , a possible reading of the original Hebrew text

[d] **22:16** DSS, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac; most MT *like a lion at my hands and feet*

[e] **22:18** Cited in John 19:24; see also Matthew 27:35, Mark 15:24, and Luke 23:34

[f] **22:22** LXX *I will sing Your praises in the assembly*; cited in Hebrews 2:12.

[g] **23:1** See Revelation 7:17.

[h] **23:4** Or *the valley of deep darkness*

[i] **23:6** Literally *for a length of days*

24

The Earth Is the LORD's

1 A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof,[a] 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 his soul to an idol[b] or swear deceitfully.
5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from the God of his salvation.
6 Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face, O God of Jacob.[c] 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

To You I Lift Up My Soul

1 Of David.[d] 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.
5 Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; 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 soul 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.[e]
22 Redeem Israel, O God, from all its distress.

26

Vindicate Me, O LORD

1 Of David. Vindicate me, 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[f] 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 my soul 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

The LORD Is My Salvation

1 Of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation— 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.

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[a] **24:1** Cited in 1 Corinthians 10:26

[b] **24:4** Or *to falsehood* or *to vanity*

[c] **24:6** LXX, Syriac, and two Hebrew manuscripts; MT *who seek your face, O Jacob*

[d] **25:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

[e] **25:21** Or *because my hope is in You*; LXX *because I wait for You, O Lord*

[f] **26:2** Hebrew *my kidneys*

6 Then my head will be held high 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, “Seek His 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 salvation.
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 coura-
geous. Wait patiently for the LORD!

28

The LORD Is My Strength

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 holy sanctuary.
[a]
3 Do not drag me away with the wicked, and with the
workers of iniquity, who speak peace to their neigh-
bors 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
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 the strength of His people, a stronghold
of salvation for His anointed.
9 Save Your people and bless Your inheritance; shep-
herd them and carry them forever.

29

Ascribe Glory to the LORD

1 A Psalm of David. Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly
beings,[b] 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.[c]
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[d] 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 twists the oaks[e] 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

You Turned My Mourning into Dancing

1 A Psalm. A song for the dedication of the temple. Of
David. I will exalt You, O LORD, for You have lifted
me up and have not allowed my foes to rejoice over
me.
2 O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You
healed me.
3 O LORD, You pulled me up from Sheol; You spared me
from descending into the Pit.
4 Sing to the LORD, O you His saints, and praise His holy
name.[f]
5 For His anger is fleeting, but His favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping may stay the night, but joy comes in the
morning.
6 In prosperity I said, “I will never be shaken.”
7 O LORD, You favored me; You made my mountain
stand strong. When You hid Your face, I was dis-
mayed.
8 To You, O LORD, I called, and I begged my Lord for
mercy:
9 “What gain is there in my bloodshed,[g] in my descent
to the Pit?[h] Will the dust praise You? Will it proclaim
Your faithfulness?
10 Hear me, O LORD, and have mercy; O LORD, be my
helper.”
11 You turned my mourning into dancing; You peeled
off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
12 that my heart may sing Your praises and not be
silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks forever.

31

Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit

(Luke 23:44–49)

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. In You, O
LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to
shame; save me by Your righteousness.
2 Incline Your ear to me; come quickly to my rescue. Be
my rock of refuge, the stronghold of my deliverance.

[a] **28:2** Or *Your innermost sanctuary* or *Your Most Holy Place*

[b] **29:1** Or *sons of God* or *sons of might*

[c] **29:2** Or *in holy attire*

[d] **29:6** That is, Mount Hermon

[e] **29:9** Or *LORD makes the deer to calve*

[f] **30:4** Or *and praise the memorial of His holiness*; see Exodus 3:15.

[g] **30:9** Or *in my destruction*

[h] **30:9** Or *to corruption*

3 For You are my rock and my fortress; lead me and guide me for the sake of Your name.
4 You free me from the net laid out for me, for You are my refuge.
5 Into Your hands I commit my spirit;[a] You have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.
6 I hate[b] those who cling to worthless idols, but in the LORD I trust.
7 I will be glad and rejoice in Your loving devotion, for You have seen my affliction; You have known the anguish of my soul.
8 You have not delivered me to the enemy; You have set my feet in the open.
9 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes fail from sorrow, my soul and body as well.
10 For my life is consumed with grief and my years with groaning; my iniquity has drained my strength, and my bones are wasting away.
11 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.
12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind. I am like a broken vessel.
13 For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side. They conspire against me and plot to take my life.
14 But I trust in You, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."
15 My times are in Your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.
16 Make Your face shine on Your servant; save me by Your loving devotion.
17 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.
18 May lying lips be silenced — lips that speak with arrogance against the righteous, full of pride and contempt.
19 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!
20 You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the schemes of men. You conceal them in Your shelter from accusing tongues.
21 Blessed be the LORD, for He has shown me His loving devotion in a city under siege.
22 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.
23 Love the LORD, all His saints. The LORD preserves the faithful, but fully repays the arrogant.
24 Be strong and courageous, all you who hope in the LORD.

32

The Joy of Forgiveness

(Romans 4:1–12)

1 Of David. A Maskil.[c] Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.[d]
2 Blessed is the man whose iniquity the LORD does not count against him,[e] 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[f] 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; 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

Praise to the Creator

(Psalm 148:1–14)

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.

[a] **31:5** Cited in Luke 23:46

[b] **31:6** MT; one Hebrew manuscript, LXX, and Syriac *You hate*

[c] **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.

[d] **32:1** LXX *Blessed is he whose lawless acts are forgiven, whose sins are covered*; cited in Romans 4:7

[e] **32:2** LXX *Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him*; cited in Romans 4:8

[f] **32:4** Or *my vitality was turned*

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 salvation; 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

Taste and See That the LORD Is Good

(1 Samuel 21:8–15)

1 Of David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech,[a] so that the king drove him away.[b] I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.
2 My soul boasts in the LORD; let the oppressed hear and rejoice.
3 Magnify the LORD with me; let us exalt His name together.
4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.
5 Those who look to Him are radiant with joy; their faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor man called out, and the LORD heard him; He saved him from all his troubles.
7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and he delivers them.
8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
9 Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing.
10 Young lions go lacking and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
11 Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
12 Who is the man who delights in life, who desires to see good days?
13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceitful speech.
14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are inclined to their cry.[c]
16 But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, [d] to wipe out all memory of them from the earth.
17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears; He delivers them from all their troubles.
18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted; He saves the contrite in spirit.
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him from them all.
20 He protects all his bones; not one of them will be broken.[e]
21 Evil will slay the wicked, and the haters of the righteous will be condemned.
22 The LORD redeems His servants, and none who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

35

Contend with My Opponents, O LORD

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[f] against my pursuers; say to my soul: "I am your salvation."
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 soul.
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 salvation.
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.
13 Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting, but my prayers returned unanswered.[g]
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 godless jesters at a feast,[h] they gnashed their teeth at me.
17 How long, O Lord, will You look on? Rescue my soul from their ravages, my precious life from these lions.

[a] **34:1** *Abimelech* is another name for *Achish*; see 1 Samuel 21–29 and 1 Kings 2:39.
[b] **34:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
[c] **34:15** LXX *to their prayer*
[d] **34:16** Cited in 1 Peter 3:10–12
[e] **34:20** Cited in John 19:36
[f] **35:3** Or *and close the way*
[g] **35:13** Literally *returned to my bosom*
[h] **35:16** Or *Like a godless circle of mockers,*

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.[a]
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.

36

The Transgression of the Wicked

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD. An oracle is in my heart regarding the transgression of the wicked man: There is no fear of God before his eyes.[b]
2 For his eyes are too full of conceit to detect or hate his own sin.
3 The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and well-doing.
4 Even on his bed he plots wickedness; he sets himself on a path that is not good; he fails to reject evil.
5 Your loving devotion, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.
6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains; Your judgments are like the deepest sea. O LORD, You preserve man and beast.
7 How precious is Your loving devotion, O God, that the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings!
8 They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from Your river of delights.
9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.
10 Extend Your loving devotion to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart.
11 Let not the foot of the proud come against me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.
12 There the evildoers lie fallen, thrown down and unable to rise.

[a] **35:19** See John 15:25.

[b] **36:1** Cited in Romans 3:18

37

Delight Yourself in the LORD

(1 Kings 2:1–9)

1 Of David.[c] 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.
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[d] 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 is holding his hand.[e]
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.

[c] **37:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each stanza beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

[d] **37:11** Or *the earth*; see Matthew 5:5.

[e] **37:24** Or *upholds him with His hand*

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 saints. 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 posterity awaits the man of peace.[a]
38 But the transgressors will all be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.
39 The salvation 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

Do Not Rebuke Me in Your Anger

(Psalm 6:1–10)

1 A Psalm of David, for remembrance. O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger or discipline me in Your wrath.
2 For Your arrows have pierced me deeply, and Your hand has pressed down on me.
3 There is no soundness in my body because of Your anger; there is no rest in my bones because of my sin.
4 For my iniquities have overwhelmed me; they are a burden too heavy to bear.
5 My wounds are foul and festering because of my sinful folly.
6 I am bent and brought low; all day long I go about mourning.
7 For my loins are full of burning pain, and no soundness remains in my body.
8 I am numb and badly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart.
9 O Lord, my every desire is before You; my groaning is not hidden from You.
10 My heart pounds, my strength fails, and even the light of my eyes has faded.
11 My beloved and friends shun my disease, and my kinsmen stand at a distance.
12 Those who seek my life lay snares; those who wish me harm speak destruction, plotting deceit all day long.
13 But like a deaf man, I do not hear; and like a mute man, I do not open my mouth.
14 I am like a man who cannot hear, whose mouth offers no reply.
15 I wait for You, O LORD; You will answer, O Lord my God.
16 For I said, “Let them not gloat over me — those who taunt me when my foot slips.”
17 For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.
18 Yes, I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.
19 Many are my enemies without cause,[b] and many hate me without reason.[c]
20 Those who repay my good with evil attack me for pursuing the good.
21 Do not forsake me, O LORD; be not far from me, O my God.
22 Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.

39

I Will Watch My Ways

1 For the choirmaster. For Jeduthun. A Psalm of David. 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.”
2 I was speechless and still; I remained silent, even from speaking good, and my sorrow was stirred.
3 My heart grew hot within me; as I mused, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue:
4 “Show me, O LORD, my end and the measure of my days. Let me know how fleeting my life is.
5 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
6 Surely every man goes about like a phantom; surely he bustles in vain; he heaps up riches not knowing who will haul them away.
7 And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.
8 Deliver me from all my transgressions; do not make me the reproach of fools.
9 I have become mute; I do not open my mouth because of what You have done.
10 Remove Your scourge from me; I am perishing by the force of Your hand.
11 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
12 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.
13 Turn Your gaze away from me, that I may again be cheered before I depart and am no more.”

40

I Waited Patiently for the LORD

(Psalm 70:1–5; Hebrews 10:1–18)

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry.

[a] **37:37** Or *for there is a future for the man of peace*

[b] **38:19** One DSS manuscript; MT *My enemies are vigorous and strong*

[c] **38:19** See John 15:25

2 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.
3 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.
4 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.[a]
5 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.
6 Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but my ears
You have opened.[b] Burnt offerings and sin offerings
You did not require.
7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come — it is written
about me in the scroll:
8 I delight to do Your will, O my God;[c] Your law is
within my heart."
9 I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; be-
hold, I do not seal my lips, as You, O LORD, do know.
10 I have not covered up Your righteousness in my
heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and salva-
tion; I have not concealed Your loving devotion and
faithfulness from the great assembly.
11 O LORD, do not withhold Your mercy from me; Your
loving devotion and faithfulness will always guard
me.
12 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.
13 Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; hurry, O LORD,
to help me.
14 May those who seek my life be ashamed and con-
founded; may those who wish me harm be repelled
and humiliated.
15 May those who say to me, "Aha, aha!" be appalled at
their own shame.
16 May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
may those who love Your salvation always say, "The
LORD be magnified!"
17 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

Victory over Betrayal

(John 13:18–30)

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Blessed is the
one who cares for the poor; the LORD will deliver
him in the day of trouble.
2 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.
3 The LORD will sustain him on his bed of illness and
restore him from his bed of sickness.
4 I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have
sinned against You."
5 My enemies say with malice: "When will he die and
be forgotten?"
6 My visitor speaks falsehood; he gathers slander in his
heart; he goes out and spreads it abroad.
7 All who hate me whisper against me; they imagine
the worst for me:
8 "A vile disease has been poured into him; he will
never get up from where he lies!"
9 Even my close friend whom I trusted, the one who
shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.[d]
10 But You, O LORD, be gracious to me and raise me up,
that I may repay them.
11 By this I know that You delight in me, for my enemy
does not triumph over me.
12 In my integrity You uphold me and set me in Your
presence forever.
13 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from ever-
lasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

42

BOOK II

Psalms 42–72

As the Deer Pants for the Water

1 For the choirmaster. A Maskil of the sons of Korah.[e]
As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul
longs after You, O God.
2 My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When shall I
come and appear in God's presence?[f]
3 My tears have been my food both day and night, while
men ask me all day long, "Where is your God?"
4 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.
5 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 salvation of His presence.
6 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.
7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of Your waterfalls; all
Your breakers and waves have rolled over me.
8 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.
9 I say to God my Rock, "Why have You forgotten me?
Why must I walk in sorrow because of the enemy's
oppression?"
10 Like the crushing of my bones, my enemies taunt
me, while they say to me all day long, "Where is your
God?"
11 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.

[a] **40:4** Or *who turn aside to false gods* or *who run after lies*

[b] **40:6** Hebrew; some LXX manuscripts *but a body You prepared for me*

[c] **40:8** Cited in Hebrews 10:5–7

[d] **41:9** Cited in John 13:18

[e] **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.

[f] **42:2** Or *and see the face of God?*

43

Send Out Your Light

1 Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case 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

Redeem Us, O God

(Romans 8:35–39)

1 For the choirmaster. A Maskil[a] of the sons of Korah.
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.
2 With Your hand You drove out the nations and planted our fathers there; You crushed the peoples and cast them out.
3 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.
4 You are my King, O God, who ordains victories for Jacob.
5 Through You we repel our foes; through Your name we trample our enemies.
6 For I do not trust in my bow, nor does my sword save me.[b]
7 For You save us from our enemies; You put those who hate us to shame.
8 In God we have boasted all day long, and Your name we will praise forever. Selah
9 But You have rejected and humbled us; You no longer go forth with our armies.
10 You have made us retreat from the foe, and those who hate us have plundered us.
11 You have given us up as sheep to be devoured; You have scattered us among the nations.
12 You sell Your people for nothing; no profit do You gain from their sale.
13 You have made us a reproach to our neighbors, a mockery and derision to those around us.
14 You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock[c] among the peoples.
15 All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face,
16 at the voice of the scorner and reviler, because of the enemy, bent on revenge.
17 All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten You or betrayed Your covenant.
18 Our hearts have not turned back; our steps have not strayed from Your path.
19 But You have crushed us in the lair of jackals;[d] You have covered us with deepest darkness.
20 If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
21 would not God have discovered, since He knows the secrets of the heart?
22 Yet for Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.[e]
23 Wake up, O Lord! Why are You sleeping? Arise! Do not reject us forever.
24 Why do You hide Your face and forget our affliction and oppression?
25 For our soul has sunk to the dust; our bodies cling to the earth.
26 Rise up; be our help! Redeem us on account of Your loving devotion.

45

My Heart Is Stirred by a Noble Theme

(1 Kings 3:1–15; 2 Chronicles 1:1–13; Psalm 72:1–20)

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Lilies." A Maskil[f] of the sons of Korah. A love song. My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses to the king;[g] my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.
2 You are the most handsome of men; grace has anointed your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.
3 Strap your sword at your side, O mighty warrior; appear in your majesty and splendor.
4 In your splendor ride forth in victory on behalf of truth and humility and justice; may your right hand show your awesome deeds.
5 Your arrows pierce the hearts of the king's foes; the nations fall beneath your feet.
6 Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever, and justice is the scepter of Your kingdom.
7 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you above your companions with the oil of joy.[h]
8 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces of ivory the harps make you glad.
9 The daughters of kings are among your honored women; the queen stands at your right hand, adorned with the gold of Ophir.
10 Listen, O daughter! Consider and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty; bow to him, for he is your lord.
12 The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; men of wealth will seek your favor.

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[a] **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.

[b] **44:6** Or *give me victory*; similarly in verse 7

[c] **44:14** Literally *a shaking of the head*

[d] **44:19** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[e] **44:22** Cited in Romans 8:36

[f] **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.

[g] **45:1** Or *King*; here and throughout Psalm 45

[h] **45:7** Cited in Hebrews 1:8–9

13 All glorious is the princess in her chamber; her gown
is embroidered with gold.
14 In colorful garments she is led to the king; her virgin
companions are brought before you.
15 They are led in with joy and gladness; they enter the
palace of the king.
16 Your sons will succeed your fathers; you will make
them princes throughout the land.
17 I will commemorate your name through all genera-
tions; therefore the nations will praise you forever
and ever.

46

God Is Our Refuge and Strength

(2 Kings 18:13–16; 2 Chronicles 32:1–8)

1 For the choirmaster. Of the sons of Korah. According
to Alamoth.[a] A song. God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in times of trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth is trans-
formed and the mountains are toppled into the
depths of the seas,
3 though their waters roar and foam and the moun-
tains quake in the surge. Selah
4 There is a river whose streams delight the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
5 God is within her; she will not be moved. God will
help her when morning dawns.
6 Nations rage, kingdoms crumble; the earth melts
when He lifts His voice.
7 The LORD of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
fortress. Selah
8 Come, see the works of the LORD, who brings devas-
tation upon the earth.
9 He makes wars to cease throughout the earth; He
breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the
shields[b] in the fire.
10 "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted
among the nations, I will be exalted over the earth."
11 The LORD of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
fortress. Selah

47

Clap Your Hands, All You Peoples

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.
Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout unto God
with a voice of triumph.
2 How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King
over all the earth!
3 He subdues nations beneath us, and peoples under
our feet.
4 He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob,
whom He loves. Selah
5 God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD with
the sound of the horn.
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our
King, sing praises!
7 For God is King of all the earth; sing to Him a psalm
of praise.[c]
8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy
throne.
9 The nobles of the nations have assembled as the
people of the God of Abraham; for the shields of the
earth belong to God; He is highly exalted.

48

Broken Bondage

1 A song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. Great is the
LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our
God, His holy mountain.
2 Beautiful in loftiness, the joy of all the earth, like the
peaks of Zaphon[d] is Mount Zion, the city of the great
King.
3 God is in her citadels; He has shown Himself to be
a fortress.
4 For behold, the kings assembled; they all advanced
together.
5 They saw and were astounded; they fled in terror.
6 Trembling seized them there, anguish like a woman
in labor.
7 With a wind from the east You wrecked the ships of
Tarshish.[e]
8 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
9 Within Your temple, O God, we contemplate Your
loving devotion.
10 Your name, O God, like Your praise, reaches to the
ends of the earth; Your right hand is full of right-
eousness.
11 Mount Zion is glad, the daughters[f] of Judah rejoice,
on account of Your judgments.
12 March around Zion, encircle her, count her towers,
13 consider her ramparts, tour her citadels, that you
may tell the next generation.
14 For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be
our guide even till death.[g]

49

The Evanescence of Wealth

(Ecclesiastes 5:8–20)

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.
Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all inhabitants of
the world,
2 both low and high, rich and poor alike.
3 My mouth will impart wisdom, and the meditation of
my heart will bring understanding.
4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will express my
riddle with the harp:
5 Why should I fear in times of trouble, when wicked
usurpers surround me?
6 They trust in their wealth and boast in their great
riches.

[a] **46:1** *Alamoth*is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in 1 Chronicles 15:20.

[b] **46:9** Or *chariots*

[c] **47:7** Or *sing a Maskil of praise* or *sing praises with understanding*

[d] **48:2** Or *in the far north*; the most sacred mountain of the Canaanites was *Zaphon*

[e] **48:7** Or *a fleet of trading ships*

[f] **48:11** Or *the villages*

[g] **48:14** Or *He will guide us beyond death*

[a] **49:7** Or *redeem another*

7 No man can possibly redeem his brother[a] or pay his ransom to God.
8 For the redemption of his soul is costly, and never can payment suffice,
9 that he should live on forever and not see decay.
10 For it is clear that wise men die, and the foolish and the senseless both perish and leave their wealth to others.
11 Their graves[b] are their eternal homes — their dwellings for endless generations — even though their lands were their namesakes.
12 But a man, despite his wealth, cannot endure; he is like the beasts that perish.
13 This is the fate of the foolish[c] and their followers who endorse their sayings. Selah
14 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.
15 But God will redeem my life from Sheol, for He will surely take me to Himself. Selah
16 Do not be afraid when a man grows rich, when the splendor of his house increases.
17 For when he dies, he will carry nothing away; his abundance will not follow him down.
18 Though in his lifetime he blesses his soul — and men praise you when you prosper —
19 he will join the generation of his fathers, who will never see the light of day.
20 A man who has riches without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

50

The Mighty One Calls

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 saints, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."
6 And the heavens proclaim His righteousness, for God Himself is Judge.[d] 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.
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[e] just like you. But now I rebuke you and accuse you to your face.[f]
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 salvation of God."

51

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

(2 Samuel 12:1–12)

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. When Nathan the prophet came to him after his adultery with Bathsheba. Have mercy on me,[g] O God, according to Your loving devotion; according to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me clean of my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
4 Against You, You only, 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.[h]
5 Surely I was brought forth in iniquity; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.
6 Surely You desire truth in the inmost being; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
7 Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.
9 Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from Your presence; take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

[b] **49:11** LXX, Syriac, and Aramaic Targum; Hebrew *Their inward thoughts*

[c] **49:13** Or *the way of the foolish*

[d] **50:6** Or *He is a God of justice*

[e] **50:21** Or *you thought the 'I AM' was*

[f] **50:21** Literally *and I set it in order before your eyes*

[g] **51:1** Or *Be gracious to me*

[h] **51:4** LXX *and victorious when You judge*; cited in Romans 3:4

14 Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.
16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You take no pleasure in burnt offerings.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.
18 In Your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.
19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, in whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

52

Why Do You Boast of Evil?

(1 Samuel 22:6–23)

1 For the choirmaster. A Maskil[a] of David. After Doeg the Edomite went to Saul and told him, "David has gone to the house of Ahimelech." Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The loving devotion of God endures all day long.
2 Your tongue devises destruction like a sharpened razor, O worker of deceit.
3 You love evil more than good, falsehood more than speaking truth. Selah
4 You love every word that devours, O deceitful tongue.
5 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
6 The righteous will see and fear; they will mock the evildoer, saying,
7 "Look at the man who did not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his wealth and strengthened himself by destruction."
8 But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in the loving devotion of God forever and ever.
9 I will praise You forever, because You have done it. I will wait on Your name — for it is good — in the presence of Your saints.

53

The Fool Says There Is No God

(Psalm 14:1–7; Isaiah 59:1–17; Romans 3:9–20)

1 For the choirmaster. According to Mahalath.[b] A Maskil[c] of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt; their ways are vile. There is no one who does good.
2 God 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;[d] there is no one who does good, not even one.[e]
4 Will the workers of iniquity never learn? They devour my people like bread; they refuse to call upon God.
5 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.
6 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come from Zion! When God restores His captive people,[f] let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad!

54

Save Me by Your Name

(1 Samuel 23:7–29)

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Maskil[g] of David. When the Ziphites went to Saul and said, "Is David not hiding among us?" Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might!
2 Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.
3 For strangers rise up against me, and ruthless men seek my life — men with no regard for God. Selah
4 Surely God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my soul.
5 He will reward my enemies with evil. In Your faithfulness, destroy them.
6 Freely I will sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good.
7 For He has delivered me from every trouble, and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

55

Cast Your Burden upon the LORD

(2 Samuel 17:15–29)

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Maskil[h] of David. Listen to my prayer, O God, and do not ignore my plea.
2 Attend to me and answer me. I am restless in my complaint, and distraught
3 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.
4 My heart pounds within me, and the terrors of death assail me.
5 Fear and trembling grip me, and horror has overwhelmed me.
6 I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and find rest.
7 How far away I would flee! In the wilderness I would remain. Selah

[a] **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.
[b] **53:1** *Mahalath*is probably a musical or liturgical term; see also Psalm 88:1.
[c] **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.
[d] **53:3** LXX *worthless*
[e] **53:3** Cited in Romans 3:10–12
[f] **53:6** Or *the fortunes of His people*
[g] **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.
[h] **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.

8 I would hurry to my shelter, far from this raging tempest.”
9 O Lord, confuse and confound their speech, for I see violence and strife in the city.
10 Day and night they encircle the walls, while malice and trouble lie within.
11 Destruction is within; oppression and deceit never leave the streets.
12 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.
13 But it is you, a man like myself, my companion and close friend.
14 We shared sweet fellowship together; we walked with the crowd into the house of God.
15 Let death seize them by surprise; let them go down to Sheol alive, for evil is with them in their homes.
16 But I call to God, and the LORD saves me.
17 Morning, noon, and night, I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.
18 He redeems my soul in peace from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me.
19 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.
20 My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant.
21 His speech is smooth as butter, but war is in his heart. His words are softer than oil, yet they are swords unsheathed.
22 Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.
23 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

Be Merciful to Me, O God

(1 Samuel 21:8–15)

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of “A Dove on Distant Oaks.” A Miktam[a] of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Be merciful to me, O God, for men are hounding me; all day they press their attack.
2 My enemies pursue me all day long, for many proudly assail me.
3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.
4 In God, whose word I praise — in God I trust. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
5 All day long they twist my words; all their thoughts are on my demise.
6 They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps while they wait to take my life.
7 In spite of such sin, will they escape?[b] In Your anger, O God, cast down the nations.
8 You have taken account of my wanderings.[c] Put my tears in Your bottle — are they not in Your book?
9 Then my enemies will retreat on the day I cry for help. By this I will know that God is on my side.
10 In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise,
11 in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
12 Your vows are upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.
13 For You have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

57

In You My Soul Takes Refuge

(1 Samuel 22:1–5; Psalm 108:1–13; Psalm 142:1–7)

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Miktam[d] of David, when he fled from Saul into the cave. 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.
2 I cry out to God Most High,[e] to God who fulfills His purpose for me.
3 He reaches down from heaven and saves me; He rebukes those who trample me. Selah God sends forth His loving devotion and His truth.
4 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.
5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; may Your glory cover all the earth.
6 They spread a net for my feet; my soul was despondent. They dug a pit before me, but they themselves have fallen into it! Selah
7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing and make music.
8 Awake, my glory![f] Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.
9 I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing Your praises among the peoples.
10 For Your loving devotion reaches to the heavens, and Your faithfulness to the clouds.
11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; may Your glory cover all the earth.

58

God Judges the Earth

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Miktam[g] of David. Do you indeed speak justly, O rulers? Do you judge uprightly, O sons of men?
2 No, in your hearts you devise injustice; with your hands you mete out violence on the earth.
3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; the liars go astray from birth.
4 Their venom is like the venom of a snake, like a cobra that shuts its ears,

[a] **56:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60.
[b] **56:7** Or *do not let them escape*; MT does not include *do not*.
[c] **56:8** Or *sorrows*
[d] **57:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60.
[e] **57:2** Hebrew *Elohim-Elyon*
[f] **57:8** Or *Awake, my soul!*
[g] **58:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60.

5 refusing to hear the tune of the charmer who skillfully weaves his spell.
6 O God, shatter their teeth in their mouths; O LORD, tear out the fangs of the lions.
7 May they vanish like water that runs off; when they draw the bow, may their arrows be blunted.[a]
8 Like a slug that dissolves in its slime, like a woman's stillborn child, may they never see the sun.
9 Before your pots can feel the burning thorns— whether green or dry— He will sweep them away.
10 The righteous will rejoice when they see they are avenged; they will wash their feet in the blood of the wicked.
11 Then men will say, "There is surely a reward for the righteous! There is surely a God who judges the earth!"

59

Deliver Me from My Enemies

(1 Samuel 19:1–24)

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A Miktam[b] of David, when Saul sent men to watch David's house in order to kill him. Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise against me.
2 Deliver me from workers of iniquity, and save me from men of bloodshed.
3 See how they lie in wait for me. Fierce men conspire against me for no transgression or sin of my own, O LORD.
4 For no fault of my own, they move swiftly to attack me. Arise to help me, and take notice.
5 O LORD God of Hosts, the God of Israel, rouse Yourself to punish all the nations; show no mercy to the wicked traitors. Selah
6 They return in the evening, snarling like dogs and prowling around the city.
7 See what they spew from their mouths— sharp words from their lips: "For who can hear us?"
8 But You, O LORD, laugh at them; You scoff at all the nations.
9 I will keep watch for You, O my strength, because You, O God, are my fortress.
10 My God of loving devotion will come to meet me; God will let me stare down my foes.
11 Do not kill them, or my people will forget. Scatter them by Your power, and bring them down, O Lord, our shield.
12 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.
13 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
14 They return in the evening, snarling like dogs and prowling around the city.
15 They scavenge for food, and growl if they are not satisfied.
16 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.
17 To You, O my strength, I sing praises, for You, O God, are my fortress, my God of loving devotion.

60

Victory with God

(2 Samuel 8:1–14; 1 Chronicles 18:1–13; Psalm 108:1–13)

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "The Lily of the Covenant." A Miktam[c] of David for instruction. When he fought Aram-naharaim[d] and Aram-zobah,[e] and Joab returned and struck down 12,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. You have rejected us, O God; You have broken us; You have been angry; restore us!
2 You have shaken the land and torn it open. Heal its fractures, for it is quaking.
3 You have shown Your people hardship; we are staggered from the wine You made us drink.
4 You have raised a banner for those who fear You, that they may flee the bow.[f] Selah
5 Respond and save us with Your right hand, that Your beloved may be delivered.
6 God has spoken from His sanctuary:[g] "I will triumph! I will parcel out Shechem and apportion the Valley of Succoth.
7 Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim is My helmet, Judah is My scepter.
8 Moab is My washbasin; upon Edom I toss My sandal; over Philistia I shout in triumph."
9 Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?
10 Have You not rejected us, O God? Will You no longer march out, O God, with our armies?
11 Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless.
12 With God we will perform with valor, and He will trample our enemies.

61

You Have Heard My Vows

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. Of David. Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer.
2 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.
3 For You have been my refuge, a tower of strength against the enemy.
4 Let me dwell in Your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. Selah
5 For You have heard my vows, O God; You have given me the inheritance reserved for those who fear Your name.

[a] **58:7** Or *when they are trodden down, may they wither like grass*

[b] **59:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60.

[c] **60:1** *Miktam* is probably a musical or liturgical term; used for Psalms 16 and 56–60.

[d] **60:1** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia.

[e] **60:1** That is, the land northeast of Damascus

[f] **60:4** Or *that it may be displayed because of truth*

[g] **60:6** Or *in His holiness*

6 Increase the days of the king's life; may his years span
many generations.
7 May he sit enthroned in God's presence forever; ap-
point Your loving devotion and Your faithfulness to
guard him.
8 Then I will ever sing praise to Your name and fulfill
my vows day by day.

62

Waiting on God

1 For the choirmaster. According to Jeduthun. A Psalm
of David. In God alone my soul finds rest; my salva-
tion comes from Him.
2 He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my
fortress; I will never be shaken.
3 How long will you threaten a man? Will all of you
throw him down like a leaning wall or a tottering
fence?
4 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
5 Rest in God alone, O my soul, for my hope comes from
Him.
6 He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my
fortress; I will not be shaken.
7 My salvation and my honor rest on God, my strong
rock; my refuge is in God.
8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your
hearts before Him. God is our refuge. Selah
9 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.
10 Place no trust in extortion or false hope in stolen
goods. If your riches increase, do not set your heart
upon them.
11 God has spoken once; I have heard this twice: that
power belongs to God,
12 and loving devotion to You, O Lord. For You will
repay each man according to his deeds.[a]

63

Thirsting for God

(2 Samuel 15:30–37)

1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of
Judah. 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.
2 So I have seen You in the sanctuary and beheld Your
power and glory.
3 Because Your loving devotion is better than life, my
lips will glorify You.
4 So I will bless You as long as I live; in Your name I will
lift my hands.
5 My soul is satisfied as with the richest of foods; with
joyful lips my mouth will praise You.
6 When I remember You on my bed, I think of You
through the watches of the night.
7 For You are my help; I will sing for joy in the shadow
of Your wings.
8 My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.
9 But those who seek my life to destroy it will go into
the depths of the earth.
10 They will fall to the power of the sword; they will
become a portion for foxes.
11 But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by
Him will exult, for the mouths of liars will be shut.

64

The Hurtful Tongue

(James 3:1–12)

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Hear, O God,
my voice of complaint; preserve my life from dread
of the enemy.
2 Hide me from the scheming of the wicked, from the
mob of workers of iniquity,
3 who sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their
bitter words like arrows,
4 ambushing the innocent in seclusion, shooting sud-
denly, without fear.
5 They hold fast to their evil purpose; they speak of
hiding their snares. "Who will see them?" they say.
6 They devise injustice and say, "We have perfected a
secret plan." For the inner man and the heart are
mysterious.
7 But God will shoot them with arrows; suddenly they
will be wounded.
8 They will be made to stumble, their own tongues
turned against them. All who see will shake their
heads.
9 Then all mankind will fear and proclaim the work of
God; so they will ponder what He has done.
10 Let the righteous rejoice in the LORD and take
refuge in Him; let all the upright in heart exult.

65

Praise Awaits God in Zion

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A song. Praise
awaits You, O God, in Zion; to You our vows will be
fulfilled.
2 O You who listen to prayer, all people will come to You.
3 When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our
transgressions.
4 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.
5 With awesome deeds of righteousness You answer us,
O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the
earth and of the farthest seas.
6 You formed the mountains by Your power, having
girded Yourself with might.
7 You stilled the roaring of the seas, the pounding of
their waves, and the tumult of the nations.
8 Those who live far away fear Your wonders; You
make the dawn and sunset shout for joy.[b]
9 You attend to the earth and water it;[c] with abun-
dance You enrich it. The streams of God are full of
water, for You prepare our grain by providing for the
earth.[d]

[a] **62:12** Cited in Romans 2:6

[b] **65:8** Or *where morning dawns and evening fades You call forth songs of joy.*

[c] **65:9** Or *and make it overflow*

[d] **65:9** Or *to provide the people with grain, for so You have ordained it*

10 You soak its furrows and level its ridges; You soften
it with showers and bless its growth.
11 You crown the year with Your bounty, and Your
paths overflow with plenty.
12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills
are robed with joy.
13 The pastures are clothed with flocks, and the val-
leys are decked with grain. They shout in triumph;
indeed, they sing.

66

Make a Joyful Noise

(Psalm 100:1–5)

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
8 Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise
be heard.
9 He preserves our lives and keeps our feet from slip-
ping.
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 praised Him
with my tongue.[a]
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

May God Cause His Face to Shine upon Us

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A
Psalm. A song. May God be gracious to us and bless
us, and cause His face to shine upon us, Selah
2 that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salva-
tion among all nations.
3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples
praise You.
4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge
the peoples justly and lead the nations of the earth.
Selah
5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples
praise You.
6 The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God,
blesses us.
7 God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth shall fear
Him.

68

God's Enemies Are Scattered

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A song. God
arises. His enemies are scattered, and those who
hate Him flee His presence.
2 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.
3 But the righteous will be glad and rejoice before God;
they will celebrate with joy.
4 Sing to God! Sing praises to His name. Exalt Him who
rides on the clouds[b] — His name is the LORD— and
rejoice before Him.
5 A father of the fatherless and a defender of widows is
God in His holy habitation.
6 God settles the lonely in families; He leads the pris-
oners out to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a
sun-scorched land.
7 O God, when You went out before Your people, when
You marched through the wasteland, Selah
8 the earth shook and the heavens poured down rain
before God, the One on Sinai, before God, the God of
Israel.
9 You sent abundant rain, O God; You refreshed Your
weary inheritance.
10 Your flock settled therein; O God, from Your bounty
You provided for the poor.
11 The Lord gives the command; a great company of
women proclaim it:
12 "Kings and their armies flee in haste; she who waits
at home divides the plunder.
13 Though you lie down among the sheepfolds, the
wings of the dove are covered with silver, and her
feathers with shimmering gold."
14 When the Almighty[c] scattered the kings in the land,
it was like the snow falling on Zalmon.
15 A mountain of God is Mount Bashan; a mountain of
many peaks is Mount Bashan.
16 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.
17 The chariots of God are tens of thousands — thou-
sands of thousands are they; the Lord is in His
sanctuary as He was at Sinai.[d]

[a] **66:17** Or *and His praise was on my tongue*

[b] **68:4** Or *rides through the deserts*

[c] **68:14** Hebrew *Shaddai*

[d] **68:17** Or *the Lord has come from Sinai in His holiness*

18 You have ascended on high; You have led captives
away. You have received gifts from men,[a] even from
the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.
19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the
God of our salvation. Selah
20 Our God is a God of deliverance; the Lord GOD is our
rescuer from death.
21 Surely God will crush the heads of His enemies, the
hairy crowns of those who persist in guilty ways.
22 The Lord said, "I will retrieve them from Bashan, I
will bring them up from the depths of the sea,
23 that your foot may be dipped in the blood of your
foes— the tongues of your dogs in the same."
24 They have seen Your procession, O God — the march
of my God and King into the sanctuary.
25 The singers lead the way, the musicians follow after,
among the maidens playing tambourines.
26 Bless God in the great congregation; bless the LORD
from the fountain of Israel.
27 There is Benjamin, the youngest, ruling them, the
princes of Judah in their company, the princes of
Zebulun and of Naphtali.
28 Summon Your power, O God;[b] show Your strength,
O God, which You have exerted on our behalf.
29 Because of Your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring
You gifts.
30 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 de-
light in war.
31 Envoys will arrive from Egypt; Cush[c] will stretch
out her hands to God.
32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to
the Lord— Selah
33 to Him who rides upon the highest heavens of old;
behold, His mighty voice resounds.
34 Ascribe the power to God, whose majesty is over
Israel, whose strength is in the skies.
35 O God, You are awesome in Your sanctuary; the God
of Israel Himself gives strength and power to His
people. Blessed be God!

69

The Waters Are up to My Neck

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of "Lilies." Of David.
Save me, O God, for the waters are up to my neck.
2 I have sunk into the miry depths, where there is no
footing; I have drifted into deep waters, where the
flood engulfs me.
3 I am weary from my crying; my throat is parched. My
eyes fail, looking for my God.
4 Those who hate me without cause outnumber the
hairs of my head; many are those who would destroy
me — my enemies for no reason.[d] Though I did not
steal, I must repay.
5 You know my folly, O God, and my guilt is not hidden
from You.
6 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.
7 For I have endured scorn for Your sake, and shame
has covered my face.
8 I have become a stranger to my brothers and a for-
eigner to my mother's sons,
9 because zeal for Your house has consumed me,[e] and
the insults of those who insult You have fallen on
me.[f]
10 I wept and fasted, but it brought me reproach.
11 I made sackcloth my clothing, and I was sport to
them.
12 Those who sit at the gate mock me, and I am the song
of drunkards.
13 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 salvation.
14 Rescue me from the mire and do not let me sink;
deliver me from my foes and out of the deep waters.
15 Do not let the floods engulf me or the depths swallow
me up; let not the Pit close its mouth over me.
16 Answer me, O LORD, for Your loving devotion is
good; turn to me in keeping with Your great compas-
sion.
17 Hide not Your face from Your servant, for I am in
distress. Answer me quickly!
18 Draw near to my soul and redeem me; ransom me
because of my foes.
19 You know my reproach, my shame and disgrace. All
my adversaries are before You.
20 Insults have broken my heart, and I am in despair.
I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for com-
forters, but I found no one.
21 They poisoned my food with gall and gave me vine-
gar to quench my thirst.
22 May their table become a snare; may it be a retribu-
tion and a trap.[g]
23 May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and
their backs be bent forever.[h]
24 Pour out Your wrath upon them, and let Your burn-
ing anger overtake them.
25 May their place be deserted; let there be no one to
dwell in their tents.[i]
26 For they persecute the one You struck and recount
the pain of those You wounded.
27 Add iniquity to their iniquity; let them not share in
Your righteousness.
28 May they be blotted out of the Book of Life and not
listed with the righteous.
29 But I am in pain and distress; let Your salvation
protect me, O God.
30 I will praise God's name in song and exalt Him with
thanksgiving.
31 And this will please the LORD more than an ox, more
than a bull with horns and hooves.

[a] **68:18** Cited in Ephesians 4:8

[b] **68:28** LXX and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *Your God has summoned your power*

[c] **68:31** That is, the upper Nile region

[d] **69:4** See John 15:25

[e] **69:9** Cited in John 2:17

[f] **69:9** Cited in Romans 15:3

[g] **69:22** A slight revocalization of the Hebrew (see also LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate); literally *may their prosperity be a trap*; cited in Romans 11:9

[h] **69:23** LXX; Hebrew *and may their loins tremble continually*; cited in Romans 11:10

[i] **69:25** Cited in Acts 1:20

32 The humble will see and rejoice. You who seek God,
let your hearts be revived!
33 For the LORD listens to the needy and does not
despise His captive people.
34 Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and
everything that moves in them.
35 For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of
Judah, that they may dwell there and possess it.
36 The descendants of His servants will inherit it, and
those who love His name will settle in it.

70

Hurry, O LORD, to Help Me!

(Psalm 40:1–17; Psalm 141:1–10)

1 For the choirmaster. Of David. To bring remem-
brance. Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Hurry, O
LORD, to help me!
2 May those who seek my life be ashamed and con-
founded; may those who wish me harm be repelled
and humiliated.
3 May those who say, “Aha, aha!” retreat because of
their shame.
4 May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; may
those who love Your salvation always say, “Let God
be magnified!”
5 But I am poor and needy; hurry to me, O God. You are
my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.

71

Be My Rock of Refuge

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 refuge, 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, 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 the accusers of my soul be ashamed and con-
sumed; 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
salvation 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 gener-
ation, 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 mis-
fortunes, 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 faithful-
ness, O my God; 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 dis-
graced and confounded.

72

Endow the King with Your Justice

(1 Kings 3:1–15; 2 Chronicles 1:1–13; Psalm 45:1–17)

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 him[a] 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
[b] 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. May people ever pray for him; may they bless
him all day long.

[a] **72:5** LXX *He shall endure*

[b] **72:8** Hebrew *the River*

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 con-
tinue[a] 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

BOOK III

Psalms 73–89

Surely God Is Good to Israel

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 vio-
lence covers them.
7 From their prosperity proceeds iniquity;[b] the imagi-
nations 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 their people[c] 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.
13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure; in inno-
cence 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 trouble-
some 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[d] 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

Why Have You Rejected Us Forever?

(Psalm 79:1–13; Jeremiah 52:1–11)

1 A Maskil[e] of Asaph. Why have You rejected us for-
ever, 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 inheri-
tance — Mount Zion, where You dwell.
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 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 com-
pletely.” 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![f]
12 Yet God is my King from ancient times, working
salvation 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
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[g] and the sun.

[a] **72:17** Or *increase*

[b] **73:7** Literally *Their eye bulges with fatness*; Syriac *From their callous heart proceeds iniquity*

[c] **73:10** Or *His people*

[d] **73:26** Hebrew *rock*

[e] **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.

[f] **74:11** Literally *From the midst of Your bosom destroy them!* or *From the midst of Your bosom remove it!*

[g] **74:16** Literally *the light*

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 soul 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.

75

God's Righteous Judgment

(Romans 2:1–16)

1 For the choirmaster: To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A Psalm of Asaph. A song. We give thanks to You, O God; we give thanks, for Your Name is near. The people declare Your wondrous works.
2 "When I choose a time, I will judge fairly.
3 When the earth and all its dwellers quake, it is I who bear up its pillars. Selah
4 I say to the proud, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn.
5 Do not lift up your horn against heaven or speak with an outstretched neck.'"
6 For exaltation comes neither from east nor west, nor out of the desert,
7 but it is God who judges; He brings down one and exalts another.
8 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.
9 But I will proclaim Him[a] forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob.
10 "All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous will be exalted."

76

God's Name Is Great in Israel

1 For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A song. God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.
2 His tent is in Salem,[b] His dwelling place in Zion.
3 There He shattered the flaming arrows, the shield and sword and weapons of war. Selah
4 You are resplendent with light, more majestic than mountains filled with game.
5 The valiant lie plundered; they sleep their last sleep. No men of might could lift a hand.
6 At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both horse and rider lie stunned.
7 You alone are to be feared. When You are angry, who can stand before You?
8 From heaven You pronounced judgment, and the earth feared and was still
9 when God rose up to judge, to save all the lowly of the earth. Selah
10 Even the wrath of man shall praise You; with the survivors of wrath You will clothe Yourself.[c]
11 Make and fulfill your vows to the LORD your God; let all the neighboring lands bring tribute to Him who is to be feared.
12 He breaks the spirits of princes; He is feared by the kings of the earth.

77

In the Day of Trouble I Sought the Lord

1 For the choirmaster. According to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph. I cried out to God; I cried aloud to God to hear me.
2 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.
3 I remembered You, O God, and I groaned; I mused and my spirit grew faint. Selah
4 You have kept my eyes from closing; I am too troubled to speak.
5 I considered the days of old, the years long in the past.
6 At night I remembered my song; in my heart I mused, and my spirit pondered:
7 "Will the Lord spurn us forever and never show His favor again?
8 Is His loving devotion gone forever? Has His promise failed for all time?
9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has His anger shut off His compassion?" Selah
10 So I said, "I am grieved that the right hand of the Most High has changed."[d]
11 I will remember the works of the LORD; yes, I will remember Your wonders of old.
12 I will reflect on all You have done and ponder Your mighty deeds.
13 Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?
14 You are the God who works wonders; You display Your strength among the peoples.
15 With power You redeemed Your people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah
16 The waters saw You, O God; the waters saw You and swirled; even the depths were shaken.
17 The clouds poured down water; the skies resounded with thunder; Your arrows flashed back and forth.
18 Your thunder resounded in the whirlwind; the lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.
19 Your path led through the sea, Your way through the mighty waters, but Your footprints were not to be found.[e]
20 You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

[a] **75:9** Or *proclaim it*

[b] **76:2** That is, Jerusalem

[c] **76:10** Or *Surely Your wrath against men brings You praise, and the survivors of Your wrath will be restrained.*

[d] **77:10** Or *"To this I will appeal: to the years of the right hand of the Most High."*

[e] **77:19** Or *were unknown*

78

I Will Open My Mouth in Parables

(Matthew 13:34–35)

1 A Maskil[a] 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 the beginning,[b]
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, 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 salvation.
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.[c]
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,[d] 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[e] 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[f] — 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 sleet.[g]
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.
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.

[a] **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.
[b] **78:2** Or *from ancient times*; see also LXX; cited in Matthew 13:35
[c] **78:24** Cited in John 6:31
[d] **78:33** Or *in vapor*
[e] **78:35** Hebrew *El-Elyon*
[f] **78:42** Or *His hand*
[g] **78:47** Or *frost* or *driving rain*

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 fa-
thers, twisted like a faulty bow.
58 They enraged Him with their high places and pro-
voked 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 splen-
dor 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 shep-
herd of His people Jacob, of Israel His inheritance.
72 So David shepherded them with integrity of heart
and guided them with skillful hands.

79

A Prayer for Deliverance

(Psalm 74:1–23; Jeremiah 52:1–11)

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 saints 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 ac-
knowledge 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 salvation, 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

Hear Us, O Shepherd of Israel

1 For the choirmaster. To the tune of “The Lilies of the
Covenant.” A Psalm of Asaph. Hear us, O Shepherd
of Israel, who leads Joseph like a flock; You who sit
enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Rally Your
mighty power and come to save us.
3 Restore us, O God, and cause Your face to shine upon
us, that we may be saved.
4 O LORD God of Hosts, how long will Your anger smol-
der against the prayers of Your people?
5 You fed them with the bread of tears and made them
drink the full measure of their tears.
6 You make us contend with our neighbors; our ene-
mies mock us.
7 Restore us, O God of Hosts, and cause Your face to
shine upon us, that we may be saved.
8 You uprooted a vine from Egypt; You drove out the
nations and transplanted it.
9 You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and
filled the land.
10 The mountains were covered by its shade, and the
mighty cedars with its branches.
11 It sent out its branches to the Sea,[a] and its shoots
toward the River.[b]
12 Why have You broken down its walls, so that all who
pass by pick its fruit?
13 The boar from the forest ravages it, and the crea-
tures of the field feed upon it.
14 Return, O God of Hosts, we pray! Look down from
heaven and see! Attend to this vine—
15 the root Your right hand has planted, the son You
have raised up for Yourself.
16 Your vine has been cut down and burned; they per-
ish at the rebuke of Your countenance.
17 Let Your hand be upon the man at Your right hand,
on the son of man You have raised up for Yourself.
18 Then we will not turn away from You; revive us, and
we will call on Your name.
19 Restore us, O LORD God of Hosts; cause Your face to
shine upon us, that we may be saved.

[a] **80:11** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

[b] **80:11** That is, the Euphrates

81

Sing for Joy to God Our Strength

1 For the choirmaster. According to Gittith.[a] Of Asaph.
Sing for joy to God our strength; make a joyful noise
to the God of Jacob.
2 Lift up a song, strike the tambourine, play the sweet-
sounding harp and lyre.
3 Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and at the full
moon on the day of our Feast.
4 For this is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God
of Jacob.
5 He ordained it as a testimony for Joseph[b] when he
went out over the land of Egypt, where I heard an
unfamiliar language:
6 "I relieved his shoulder of the burden; his hands were
freed from the basket.
7 You called out in distress, and I rescued you; I an-
swered you from the cloud of thunder; I tested you
at the waters of Meribah.[c] Selah
8 Hear, O My people, and I will warn you: O Israel, if
only you would listen to Me!
9 There must be no strange god among you, nor shall
you bow to a foreign god.
10 I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of
Egypt. Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.
11 But My people would not listen to Me, and Israel
would not obey Me.
12 So I gave them up to their stubborn hearts to follow
their own devices.
13 If only My people would listen to Me, if Israel would
follow My ways,
14 how soon I would subdue their enemies and turn My
hand against their foes!
15 Those who hate the LORD would feign obedience,
and their doom would last forever.
16 But I would feed you the finest wheat; with honey
from the rock I would satisfy you."

82

God Presides in the Divine Assembly

1 A Psalm of Asaph. God presides in the divine assem-
bly; He renders judgment among the gods:
2 "How long will you judge unjustly[d] and show partial-
ity 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.'[e]
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

O God, Be Not Silent

1 A song. A Psalm of Asaph. O God, be not silent; be not
speechless;[f] be not still, O God.
2 See how Your enemies rage, how Your foes have
reared their heads.
3 With cunning they scheme against Your people and
conspire against those You cherish,
4 saying, "Come, let us erase them as a nation; may the
name of Israel be remembered no more."
5 For with one mind they plot together; they form an
alliance against You—
6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and
the Hagrites,
7 of Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, of Philistia with the
people of Tyre.
8 Even Assyria has joined them, lending strength to the
sons of Lot. Selah
9 Do to them as You did to Midian, as to Sisera and Jabin
at the River Kishon,
10 who perished at Endor and became like dung on the
ground.
11 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, and all their
princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
12 who said, "Let us possess for ourselves the pastures
of God."
13 Make them like tumbleweed, O my God, like chaff
before the wind.
14 As fire consumes a forest, as a flame sets the moun-
tains ablaze,
15 so pursue them with Your tempest, and terrify them
with Your storm.
16 Cover their faces with shame, that they may seek
Your name, O LORD.
17 May they be ever ashamed and terrified; may they
perish in disgrace.
18 May they know that You alone, whose name is the
LORD, are Most High over all the earth.

84

Better Is One Day in Your Courts

(John 1:14–18)

1 For the choirmaster. According to Gittith.[g] A Psalm of
the sons of Korah. How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O LORD of Hosts!
2 My soul longs, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
3 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.
4 How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They
are ever praising You. Selah
5 Blessed are those whose strength is in You, whose
hearts are set on pilgrimage.

[a] **81:1** *Gittith* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalms 8 and 84.
[b] **81:5** Or *in Joseph*
[c] **81:7** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7.
[d] **82:2** Or *How long will you defend the unjust*
[e] **82:6** Cited in John 10:34
[f] **83:1** Or *deaf*
[g] **84:1** *Gittith* is probably a musical or liturgical term; here and in Psalms 8 and 81.

6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca,[a] they make
it a place of springs; even the autumn rain covers it
with pools.[b]
7 They go from strength to strength, until each appears
before God in Zion.
8 O LORD God of Hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God
of Jacob. Selah
9 Take notice of our shield, O God, and look with favor
on the face of Your anointed.
10 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.
11 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.
12 O LORD of Hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts
in You!

85

You Showed Favor to Your Land

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. You
showed favor to Your land, O LORD; You restored
Jacob from captivity.[c]
2 You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered
all their sin. Selah
3 You withheld all Your fury; You turned from Your
burning anger.
4 Restore us, O God of our salvation, and put away Your
displeasure toward us.
5 Will You be angry with us forever? Will You draw out
Your anger to all generations?
6 Will You not revive us again, that Your people may
rejoice in You?
7 Show us Your loving devotion, O LORD, and grant us
Your salvation.
8 I will listen to what God the LORD will say; for He will
surely speak peace to His people and His saints; He
will not let them return to folly.
9 Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that His glory may dwell in our land.
10 Loving devotion and faithfulness have joined to-
gether; righteousness and peace have kissed.
11 Faithfulness sprouts from the earth, and righteous-
ness looks down from heaven.
12 The LORD will indeed provide what is good, and our
land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before Him to prepare the way
for His steps.

86

Tried but Trusting

1 A prayer of David. Incline Your ear, O LORD, and
answer me, for I am poor and needy.
2 Preserve my soul, 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, 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 ruth-
less 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

The LORD Loves the Gates of Zion

1 A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A song. He has founded
His city on the holy mountains.[d]
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[e] and Babylon among those
who know Me — along with Philistia, Tyre, and Cush
[f] — 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

I Cry Out before You

1 A song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. For the choir-
master. According to Mahalath Leannoth.[g] A Maskil
[h] of Heman the Ezrahite. O LORD, the God of my
salvation, day and night I cry out before You.

[a] **84:6** Or *Valley of Poplars*

[b] **84:6** Or *with blessings*

[c] **85:1** Or *restored the fortunes of Jacob*

[d] **87:1** Literally *His foundation is on the holy mountains*

[e] **87:4** *Rahab* is a poetic name for Egypt.

[f] **87:4** That is, the upper Nile region

[g] **88:1** *Mahalath Leannoth*is probably a musical or liturgical term; see also Psalm 53:1.

[h] **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.

2 May my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to
my cry.
3 For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near
to Sheol.
4 I am counted among those descending to the Pit. I am
like a man without strength.
5 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.
6 You have laid me in the lowest Pit, in the darkest of
the depths.
7 Your wrath weighs heavily upon me; all Your waves
have submerged me. Selah
8 You have removed my friends from me; You have
made me repulsive to them; I am confined and can-
not escape.
9 My eyes grow dim with grief. I call to You daily, O
LORD; I spread out my hands to You.
10 Do You work wonders for the dead? Do departed
spirits rise up to praise You? Selah
11 Can Your loving devotion be proclaimed in the
grave, Your faithfulness in Abaddon[a] ?
12 Will Your wonders be known in the darkness, or
Your righteousness in the land of oblivion?
13 But to You, O LORD, I cry for help; in the morning
my prayer comes before You.
14 Why, O LORD, do You reject me? Why do You hide
Your face from me?
15 From my youth I was afflicted and near death. I have
borne Your terrors; I am in despair.
16 Your wrath has swept over me; Your terrors have
destroyed me.
17 All day long they engulf me like water; they enclose
me on every side.
18 You have removed my beloved and my friend; dark-
ness is my closest companion.

89

I Will Sing of His Love Forever

1 A Maskil[b] of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the
loving devotion of the LORD forever; with my mouth
I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.
2 For I have said, “Loving devotion is built up forever;
in the heavens You establish Your faithfulness.”
3 You said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen
one, I have sworn to David My servant:
4 ‘I will establish your offspring forever and build up
your throne for all generations.’” Selah
5 The heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD — Your
faithfulness as well — in the assembly of the holy
ones.
6 For who in the skies can compare with the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings[c] is like the LORD?
7 In the council of the holy ones, God is greatly feared,
and awesome above all who surround Him.
8 O LORD God of Hosts, who is like You? O mighty LORD,
Your faithfulness surrounds You.
9 You rule the raging sea; when its waves mount up,
You still them.
10 You crushed Rahab like a carcass; You scattered Your
enemies with Your mighty arm.
11 The heavens are Yours, and also the earth. The earth
and its fullness You founded.
12 North and south You created; Tabor and Hermon
shout for joy at Your name.
13 Mighty is Your arm; strong is Your hand. Your right
hand is exalted.
14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your
throne; loving devotion and faithfulness go before
You.
15 Blessed are those who know the joyful sound, who
walk, O LORD, in the light of Your presence.
16 They rejoice in Your name all day long, and in Your
righteousness they exult.
17 For You are the glory of their strength, and by Your
favor our horn is exalted.
18 Surely our shield belongs to the LORD, and our king
to the Holy One of Israel.
19 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.
20 I have found My servant David; with My sacred oil I
have anointed him.
21 My hand will sustain him; surely My arm will
strengthen him.
22 No enemy will exact tribute; no wicked man will
oppress him.
23 I will crush his foes before him and strike down
those who hate him.
24 My faithfulness and loving devotion will be with
him, and through My name his horn will be exalted.
25 I will set his hand over the sea, and his right hand
upon the rivers.
26 He will call to Me, ‘You are my Father, my God, the
Rock of my salvation.’
27 I will indeed appoint him as My firstborn, the high-
est of the kings of the earth.
28 I will forever preserve My loving devotion for him,
and My covenant with him will stand fast.
29 I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as
the heavens endure.
30 If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My
judgments,
31 if they violate My statutes and fail to keep My com-
mandments,
32 I will attend to their transgression with the rod, and
to their iniquity with stripes.
33 But I will not withdraw My loving devotion from
him, nor ever betray My faithfulness.
34 I will not violate My covenant or alter the utterance
of My lips.
35 Once and for all I have sworn by My holiness — I
will not lie to David —
36 his offspring shall endure forever, and his throne
before Me like the sun,
37 like the moon, established forever, a faithful witness
in the sky.” Selah
38 Now, however, You have spurned and rejected him;
You are enraged by Your anointed one.
39 You have renounced the covenant with Your servant
and sullied his crown in the dust.
40 You have broken down all his walls; You have
reduced his strongholds to rubble.

[a] **88:11** *Abaddon* means *Destruction*.

[b] **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.

[c] **89:6** Or *the sons of God* or *the sons of might*

41 All who pass by plunder him; he has become a reproach to his neighbors.
42 You have exalted the right hand of his foes; You have made all his enemies rejoice.
43 You have bent the edge of his sword and have not sustained him in battle.
44 You have ended his splendor and cast his throne to the ground.
45 You have cut short the days of his youth; You have covered him with shame. Selah
46 How long, O LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath keep burning like fire?
47 Remember the briefness of my lifespan! For what futility You have created all men!
48 What man can live and never see death? Can he deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? Selah
49 Where, O Lord, is Your loving devotion of old, which You faithfully swore to David?
50 Remember, O Lord, the reproach of Your servants, which I bear in my heart from so many people —
51 how Your enemies have taunted, O LORD, and have mocked every step of Your anointed one!
52 Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and amen.

90

BOOK IV
Psalms 90–106

From Everlasting to Everlasting

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,[a] 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[b] of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish for us the work of our hands— yes, establish the work of our hands!

91

You Are My Refuge and My Fortress

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.[c]
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, 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.[d]
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 salvation."

92

How Great Are Your Works!

1 A Psalm. A song for the Sabbath day. It is good to praise the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High,
2 to proclaim Your loving devotion in the morning and Your faithfulness at night
3 with the ten-stringed harp and the melody of the lyre.
4 For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your deeds; I sing for joy at the works of Your hands.
5 How great are Your works, O LORD, how deep are Your thoughts!
6 A senseless man does not know, and a fool does not understand,
7 that though the wicked sprout like grass, and all evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed.
8 But You, O LORD, are exalted forever!

[a] **90:4** See 2 Peter 3:8.

[b] **90:17** Or *beauty*

[c] **91:1** Hebrew *Shaddai*

[d] **91:12** Cited in Matthew 4:6 and Luke 4:10–11

9 For surely Your enemies, O LORD, surely Your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered.
10 But You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; with fine oil I have been anointed.
11 My eyes see the downfall of my enemies; my ears hear the wailing of my wicked foes.[a]
12 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
13 Planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.
14 In old age they will still bear fruit; healthy and green they will remain,
15 to proclaim, "The LORD is upright; He is my Rock, and in Him there is no unrighteousness."

93

The LORD Reigns!

(Psalm 99:1–9)

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

The LORD Will Not Forget His People

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?
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.[b]
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.[c]
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

Do Not Harden Your Hearts

(Hebrews 3:7–11)

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout to the Rock of our salvation!
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, 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,[d] in the day at Massah in the wilderness,[e]
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,[f] and they have not known My ways."
11 So I swore on oath in My anger, "They shall never enter My rest."[g]

[a] **92:11** Or *my ears hear evildoers when they rise against me*

[b] **94:11** Cited in 1 Corinthians 3:20

[c] **94:21** Or *condemn innocent blood*

[d] **95:8** LXX *as you did in the rebellion*; *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7; cited in Hebrews 3:15 and Hebrews 4:7.

[e] **95:8** LXX *in the day of testing in the wilderness*; *Massah* means *testing*; see Exodus 17:7.

[f] **95:10** LXX *They always go astray in the heart*

[g] **95:11** Cited in Hebrews 3:7–11, Hebrews 4:3, and Hebrews 4:5

96

Sing to the LORD, All the Earth

(1 Chronicles 16:23–36)

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 salvation 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
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

Let the Earth Rejoice

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 souls of His saints; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
11 Light shines[a] on the righteous, gladness on the upright in heart.
12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous ones, and praise His holy name.

98

Sing to the LORD a New Song

(Psalm 149:1–9; Isaiah 42:10–17)

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 salvation 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 salvation of our God.
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

The LORD Reigns!

(Psalm 93:1–5)

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![b]
4 The mighty King loves justice.[c] 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

Make a Joyful Noise

(Psalm 66:1–20)

1 A Psalm of thanksgiving. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
2 Serve the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with joyful songs.

[a] **97:11** One Hebrew manuscript, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; most Hebrew manuscripts *Light is sown*

[b] **99:3** Or *it is holy!*

[c] **99:4** Or *The might of the King loves justice.*

3 Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and
we are His;[a] 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

I Will Set No Worthless Thing before My Eyes

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

The Prayer of the Afflicted

1 A prayer of one who is afflicted, when he grows faint
and pours out his lament before the LORD. Hear my
prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come before You.
2 Do not hide Your face from me in my day of distress.
Incline Your ear to me; answer me quickly when I
call.
3 For my days vanish like smoke, and my bones burn
like glowing embers.
4 My heart is afflicted, and withered like grass; I even
forget to eat my bread.
5 Through my loud groaning my skin hangs on my
bones.
6 I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.
7 I lie awake; I am like a lone bird on a housetop.
8 All day long my enemies taunt me; they ridicule me
and curse me.
9 For I have eaten ashes like bread and mixed my drink
with tears
10 because of Your indignation and wrath, for You have
picked me up and cast me aside.
11 My days are like lengthening shadows, and I wither
away like grass.
12 But You, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; Your
renown endures to all generations.
13 You will rise up and have compassion on Zion, for
it is time to show her favor — the appointed time
has come.
14 For Your servants delight in her stones and take pity
on her dust.
15 So the nations will fear the name of the LORD, and
all the kings of the earth will fear Your glory.
16 For the LORD will rebuild Zion; He has appeared in
His glory.
17 He will turn toward the prayer of the destitute; He
will not despise their prayer.
18 Let this be written for the generation to come, so that
a people not yet created may praise the LORD.
19 For He looked down from the heights of His sanctu-
ary; the LORD gazed out from heaven to earth
20 to hear a prisoner's groaning, to release those con-
demned to death,
21 that they may proclaim the name of the LORD in
Zion and praise Him in Jerusalem,
22 when peoples and kingdoms assemble to serve the
LORD.
23 He has broken my strength on the way; He has cut
short my days.
24 I say: "O my God, do not take me in the midst of my
days! Your years go on through all generations.
25 In the beginning You laid the foundations of the
earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.
26 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.
27 But You remain the same, and Your years will never
end.[b]
28 The children of Your servants will dwell securely,
and their descendants will be established before
You."

103

Bless the LORD, O My Soul

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.

[a] **100:3** Or *and not we ourselves*

[b] **102:27** Cited in Hebrews 1:10–12

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;
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, all 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

How Many Are Your Works, O LORD!

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.[a]
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; they sing among the branches.
13 He waters the mountains from His chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of His 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 cypresses.[b]
18 The high mountains are for the wild goats, the cliffs a refuge for the rock badgers.[c]
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 Spirit,[d] they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.
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![e]

105

Tell of His Wonders

(1 Chronicles 16:7–22)

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.

[a] **104:4** LXX *He makes His angels winds, His servants flames of fire.*Cited in Hebrews 1:7
[b] **104:17** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*
[c] **104:18** Or *the coneys* or *the hyraxes*
[d] **104:30** Or *breath*
[e] **104:35** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*

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!"
16 He called down famine on the land and cut off all their supplies[a] 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 instruct[b] 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— yet they defied His words.[c]
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 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![d]

106

Give Thanks to the LORD, for He Is Good

1 Hallelujah![e] 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 salvation,
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 Red Sea.[f]
8 Yet He saved them for the sake of His name, to make His power known.
9 He rebuked the Red Sea, 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 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.

[a] **105:16** Hebrew *staff*

[b] **105:22** LXX and Syriac; MT *to bind*

[c] **105:28** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew *for had they not defied His words?*

[d] **105:45** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*

[e] **106:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 48

[f] **106:7** Or *the Sea of Reeds*; also in verses 9 and 22

[a] **106:19** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

19 At Horeb[a] they made a calf and worshiped a molten image.
20 They exchanged their Glory[b] 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 Red Sea.
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[c] 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[d] they angered the LORD, and trouble came to Moses because of them.
33 For they rebelled against His Spirit,[e] and Moses spoke rashly with his lips.
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

BOOK V

Psalms 107–150

Thanksgiving for Deliverance

(Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25)

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.[f]
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.

[b] **106:20** Or *their glorious God*

[c] **106:27** Or *cast down* or *cause to fall*

[d] **106:32** *Meribah* means *quarreling*; see Exodus 17:7.

[e] **106:33** Or *they provoked His Spirit*

[f] **107:3** Hebrew *north and the sea*

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.[a]
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 the waves of the sea[b] 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

Israel's Kingdom Blessing

(Psalm 57:1–11; Psalm 60:1–12)

1 A song. A Psalm of David. My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my being.[c]
2 Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.
3 I will praise You, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing Your praises among the peoples.
4 For Your loving devotion extends beyond the heavens, and Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; may Your glory cover all the earth.
6 Respond and save us with Your right hand, that Your beloved may be delivered.
7 God has spoken from His sanctuary:[d] "I will triumph!
I will parcel out Shechem and apportion the Valley of Succoth.
8 Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim is My helmet, Judah is My scepter.
9 Moab is My washbasin; upon Edom I toss My sandal; over Philistia I shout in triumph."
10 Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?
11 Have You not rejected us, O God? Will You no longer march out, O God, with our armies?
12 Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless.
13 With God we will perform with valor, and He will trample our enemies.

109

The Song of the Slandered

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.[e]
9 May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.
10 May his children wander as beggars, seeking sustenance[f] 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.
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, may it fall on him; the blessing in which he refused to delight, may it be far from him.
18 The cursing that he wore like a coat, may it soak 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.

[a] **107:27** Or *and all their wisdom was swallowed up* or *and they were at their wits' end*
[b] **107:29** DSS; MT *their waves*
[c] **108:1** Or *with my glory*
[d] **108:7** Or *in His holiness*
[e] **109:8** Cited in Acts 1:20
[f] **109:10** Hebrew; LXX *may they be driven*

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 the condemners of his soul.

110

God's Faithful Messiah

(Genesis 14:17–24; Hebrews 5:1–10)

1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said to my Lord: "Sit at
My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool
for Your feet."[a]
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. Ar-
rayed 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."[b]
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

Majestic Is His Work

1 Hallelujah![c] 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 remem-
bers 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 or-
dained 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.
His praise endures forever!

112

The Blessed Fear of the LORD

(Psalm 128:1–6)

1 Hallelujah![d] Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in His commandments.
2 His descendants will be mighty in the land; the gener-
ation of the upright will be blessed.
3 Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteous-
ness 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 right-
eousness endures forever;[e] 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

The LORD Exalts the Humble

(1 Samuel 1:1–8)

1 Hallelujah![f] 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, with the princes of His
people.

[a] **110:1** Cited in Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42–43, Acts 2:34–35, and Hebrews 1:13

[b] **110:4** Cited in Hebrews 5:6, Hebrews 7:17, and Hebrews 7:21

[c] **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.

[d] **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.

[e] **112:9** Cited in 2 Corinthians 9:9

[f] **113:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 9

9 He settles the barren woman in her home as a joyful
mother to her children. Hallelujah!

114

A Psalm of Exodus

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 foun-
tain of water!

115

To Your Name Be the Glory

(Psalm 135:1–21)

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.[a]
8 Those who make them become like them, as do all
who trust in them.
9 O Israel,[b] trust in the LORD! 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![c]

116

The LORD Has Heard My Voice

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 soul!"
5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of
compassion.
6 The LORD preserves the simplehearted; I was help-
less, 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 my soul 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,[d] "I am greatly afflicted."
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 salvation 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
saints.
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![e]

117

Extol Him, All You Peoples

1 Praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol Him, all you
peoples![f]
2 For great is His loving devotion toward us, and the
faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Hallelu-
jah![g]

118

The LORD Is on My Side

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His loving
devotion endures forever.
2 Let Israel[h] say, "His loving devotion endures forever."
3 Let the house of Aaron say, "His loving devotion en-
dures forever."

[a] **115:7** Literally *they cannot utter with their throat*

[b] **115:9** MT; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac *O house of Israel*

[c] **115:18** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*

[d] **116:10** LXX *therefore I have spoken*; cited in 2 Corinthians 4:13

[e] **116:19** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*

[f] **117:1** Cited in Romans 15:11

[g] **117:2** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*

[h] **118:2** LXX *the house of Israel*

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;[a] I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?[b]
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 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 salvation.
15 Shouts of joy and salvation 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 salvation.
22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.[c]
23 This is from the LORD, and it is marvelous in our eyes.[d]
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.[e] We beseech You, O LORD, cause us to prosper!
26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.[f] 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.[g]
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; His loving devotion endures forever.

119

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

א

ALEPH

1 Blessed[h] are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Law 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.

ב

BETH

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.

ג

GIMEL

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.
23 Though rulers sit and slander me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes.
24 Your testimonies are indeed my delight; they are my counselors.

[a] **118:6** Or *The LORD is with me*; also in verse 7; LXX *The Lord is my helper*
[b] **118:6** Cited in Hebrews 13:6
[c] **118:22** Hebrew *the head of the corner*; cited in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, and 1 Peter 2:7
[d] **118:23** Cited in Matthew 21:42 and Mark 12:11
[e] **118:25** Hebrew *hosia-na*, meaning *save, we pray* or *save now*; see Matthew 21:9, Matthew 21:15, Mark 11:9, and John 12:13.
[f] **118:26** Cited in Matthew 21:9, Matthew 23:39, Mark 11:9, Luke 13:35, Luke 19:38, and John 12:13
[g] **118:27** Or *Join in the festal procession with boughs in hand, up to the horns of the altar.*

[h] **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.

ד

DALETH

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.

ה

HE

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I will keep them to the end.[a]
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 with Your word.[b]
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.

ו

WAW

41 May Your loving devotion come to me, O LORD, Your salvation, 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.
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.

ז

ZAYIN

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.

ח

HETH

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.

ט

TETH

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 callous and insensitive,[c] 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.

י

YODH

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.

[a] **119:33** Or *keep them as my reward*

[b] **119:37** Two MT manuscripts and DSS; most MT manuscripts *in Your way*

[c] **119:70** Or *fat*

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.

כ

KAPH

81 My soul faints for Your salvation; 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 days must Your servant wait?[a] 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 perse-
cuted 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.

ל

LAMEDH

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 Your ordinances stand to this day,[b] 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.
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 com-
mandment is without limit.

מ

MEM

97 Oh, how I love Your law! All day long it is my medi-
tation.
98 Your commandments make me wiser than my ene-
mies, 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; there-
fore I hate every false way.

נ

NUN

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.

ס

SAMEKH

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.

ע

AYIN

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 salvation, 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.

פ

PE

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 com-
mandments.

[a] **119:84** Or *How many are the days of Your servant?*

[b] **119:91** Or *They stand this day according to Your ordinances*

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.

צ

TZADE
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.

ק

KOPH
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.

ר

RESH
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 Salvation 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.

ש

SIN and SHIN
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 salvation, 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.

ת

TAW
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 salvation, 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

In My Distress I Cried to the LORD

1 A song of ascents. In my distress I cried to the LORD, and He answered me.
2 Deliver my soul, 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

I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills

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 pre-
serve your soul.
8 The LORD will watch over your coming and going,
both now and forevermore.

122

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

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 prosper.[a]
7 May there be peace within your walls, and prosperity
[b] 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

I Lift Up My Eyes to You

1 A song of ascents. I lift up my eyes to You, the One
enthroned in heaven.
2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their
master, as the eyes of a maidservant look to the hand
of her mistress, so our eyes are on the LORD our God
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

Our Help Is in the Name of the LORD

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.

[a] **122:6** Or *be secure*

[b] **122:7** Or *security*

125

The LORD Surrounds His People

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

Zion’s Captives Restored

1 A song of ascents. When the LORD restored the cap-
tives of Zion,[c] we were like dreamers.[d]
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 captives,[e] 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

Children Are a Heritage from the LORD

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

The Blessed Fear of the LORD

(Psalm 112:1–10)

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.

[c] **126:1** Or *brought back the captives to Zion* or *restored the fortunes of Zion*

[d] **126:1** Or *like those restored to health*

[e] **126:4** Or *Restore our fortunes*

4 In this way indeed shall blessing come 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

The Cords of the Wicked

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 me from 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

Out of the Depths

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 redemp-
tion in abundance.
8 And He will redeem Israel from all iniquity.

131

I Have Stilled My Soul

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

The LORD Has Chosen Zion

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.[a] "
6 We heard that the ark was in Ephrathah;[b] 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 saints 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.[c]
12 If your sons keep My covenant and the testimony I
will teach them, then their sons will also sit 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 salvation, and her
saints 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

How Pleasant to Live in Harmony!

(1 Corinthians 1:10–17; Ephesians 4:1–16)

1 A song of ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and
pleasant it is when brothers live together in har-
mony!
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 bless-
ing of life forevermore.

134

Bless the LORD, All You Servants

1 A song of ascents. Come, bless the LORD, all you ser-
vants 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.

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[a] **132:5** LXX *for the God of Jacob*; see Acts 7:46.

[b] **132:6** Literally *Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah*

[c] **132:11** Literally *"From the fruit of your body I will set (one) on your throne.*Cited in Acts 2:30

135

Give Praise, O Servants of the LORD

(Psalm 115:1–18)

1 Hallelujah![a] 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, 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 kings 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[b] 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

His Loving Devotion Endures Forever

(2 Chronicles 7:1–3)

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.
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 Red Sea[c] in two His loving devotion endures forever.
14 and led Israel through the midst, His loving devotion endures forever.
15 but swept[d] Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea. 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.

137

By the Rivers of Babylon

(Ezekiel 1:1–3)

1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.
2 There on the willows[e] 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!

[a] **135:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verses 3 and 21

[b] **135:14** Or *will judge His people*; see also LXX; cited in Hebrews 10:30.

[c] **136:13** Or *the Sea of Reeds*; also in verse 15

[d] **136:15** Hebrew *shook off*

[e] **137:2** Or *poplars*

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

A Thankful Heart

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 name and Your
word above all else.
3 On the day I called, You answered me; You embold-
ened me and strengthened my soul.[a]
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, 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

You Have Searched Me and Known Me

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;[b] 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, 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 before
one of them came to be.
17 How precious to me are Your thoughts,[c] 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.[d]
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

Rescue Me from Evil Men

1 For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Rescue me,
O LORD, from evil men. Protect me from men of
violence,
2 who devise evil in their hearts and stir up war all day
long.
3 They sharpen their tongues like snakes; the venom of
vipers is on their lips.[e] Selah
4 Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked.
Keep me safe from men of violence who scheme to
make me stumble.
5 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
6 I say to the LORD, “You are my God.” Hear, O LORD,
my cry for help.
7 O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You
shield my head in the day of battle.
8 Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; do not
promote their evil plans, lest they be exalted. Selah
9 May the heads of those who surround me be covered
in the trouble their lips have caused.
10 May burning coals fall on them; may they be thrown
into the fire, into the miry pits, never to rise again.
11 May no slanderer be established in the land; may
calamity hunt down the man of violence.
12 I know that the LORD upholds justice for the poor
and defends the cause of the needy.
13 Surely the righteous will praise Your name; the up-
right will dwell in Your presence.

[a] **138:3** Or *You emboldened me with strength in my soul*

[b] **139:13** Hebrew *my kidneys*

[c] **139:17** Or *How amazing are Your thoughts concerning me*

[d] **139:20** Hebrew *Your enemies take in vain* or *Your enemies bear up in vain*; LXX *Your enemies take Your cities in vain*

[e] **140:3** Cited in Romans 3:13

141

Come Quickly to Me

(Psalm 70:1–5)

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 leave my soul defenseless.[a]
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.

142

I Lift My Voice to the LORD

(1 Samuel 22:1–5; Psalm 57:1–11)

1 A Maskil[b] of David, when he was in the cave. A prayer.
I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift my voice to the LORD for mercy.
2 I pour out my complaint before Him; I reveal my trouble to Him.
3 Although my spirit grows faint within me, You know my way. Along the path I travel they have hidden a snare for me.
4 Look to my right and see; no one attends to me. There is no refuge for me; no one cares for my soul.
5 I cry to You, O LORD: "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."
6 Listen to my cry, for I am brought quite low. Rescue me from my pursuers, for they are too strong for me.
7 Free my soul from prison, that I may praise Your name. The righteous will gather around me because of Your goodness to me.

143

I Stretch Out My Hands to You

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 my soul, 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. 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; I flee to You for refuge.[c]
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 my soul out of trouble.
12 And in Your loving devotion, cut off my enemies. Destroy all who afflict me, for I am Your servant.

144

Blessed Be the LORD, My Rock

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 peoples[d] 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,
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.

[a] **141:8** Or *do not pour out my life* or *do not give me over to death*

[b] **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.

[c] **143:9** LXX and one Hebrew manuscript; most Hebrew manuscripts *in You I take cover*

[d] **144:2** Many Hebrew manuscripts, DSS, Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *subdues my people*

[a] **144:14** Or *Our chieftains will be firmly established*

14 Our oxen will bear great loads.[a] 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

I Will Exalt You, My God and King

1 A Psalm of praise. Of David.[b] 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.
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 saints will bless You.
11 They will tell of the glory of Your kingdom and speak of Your might,
12 to make known to men Your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His actions.[c]
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

Praise the LORD, O My Soul

1 Hallelujah![d] 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 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

It Is Good to Sing Praises

1 Hallelujah![e] 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.
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 pebbles.[f] 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 word to Jacob, His statutes and judgments to Israel.

[b] **145:1** This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
[c] **145:13** The final two lines are supplied by one MT manuscript, LXX, Syriac, and DSS.
[d] **146:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 10
[e] **147:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 20
[f] **147:17** Or *like crumbs* or *like morsels*

20 He has done this for no other nation; they do not know His judgments.[a] Hallelujah!

148

Praise the LORD from the Heavens

(Psalm 33:1–22)

1 Hallelujah![b] Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the highest places.[c]
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, the praise of all His saints, of Israel, a people near to Him. Hallelujah!

149

Sing to the LORD a New Song

(Psalm 98:1–9; Isaiah 42:10–17)

1 Hallelujah![d] 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 salvation.
5 Let the saints 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 saints. Hallelujah!

150

Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the LORD

1 Hallelujah![e] Praise God in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty heavens.[f]
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!

[a] **147:20** MT; DSS and LXX *He has not made known to them His judgments*

[b] **148:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 14

[c] **148:1** See Matthew 21:9, Mark 11:10, and Luke 19:38.

[d] **149:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 9

[e] **150:1** Or *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verse 6

[f] **150:1** Or *in the expanse of His might* or *in the firmament of His might*; see also Genesis 1:6–8.

Proverbs

Proverbs of Solomon

1

The Beginning of Knowledge

(Proverbs 9:1–12)

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[a] 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[b] despise wisdom and discipline.

The Enticement of Sin

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.

Wisdom Calls Aloud

20 Wisdom calls out in the street, she lifts her voice in
the square;
21 in the main concourse[c] she cries aloud, 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

The Benefits of Wisdom

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 saints.
9 Then you will discern righteousness 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,[d] from
the stranger[e] with seductive words

[a] **1:4** The Hebrew word rendered *simple* in Proverbs refers to one who is naive, without moral direction, or inclined to evil.

[b] **1:7** The Hebrew words rendered as *fool* in Proverbs denote one who is morally deficient.

[c] **1:21** Or *from the top of the wall*

[d] **2:16** Or *wayward wife*

[e] **2:16** Or *adulteress*

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.[a]
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 blame-
less will remain in it;
22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the
unfaithful will be uprooted.

3

Trust in the LORD with All Your Heart

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[b] 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.
8 This will bring healing to your body[c] and refresh-
ment[d] to your bones.
9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first-
fruits 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;[e]
12 for the LORD disciplines the one He loves, as does a
father the son in whom he delights.[f]

The Blessings of Wisdom

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 estab-
lished 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[g] 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.
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 hum-
ble.[h]
35 The wise will inherit honor, but fools are held up to
shame.

4

A Father’s Instruction

1 Listen, my sons, to a father’s instruction; pay atten-
tion 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 what-
ever you may acquire,[i] 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.

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[a] **2:18** Hebrew *to the Rephaim*

[b] **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*.

[c] **3:8** Hebrew *navel*

[d] **3:8** Or *medicine*

[e] **3:11** LXX *and do not lose heart when He rebukes*; cited in Hebrews 12:5

[f] **3:12** LXX *and He flogs every son He receives*; cited in Hebrews 12:6

[g] **3:27** Or *from its owners*

[h] **3:34** LXX *The Lord opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*; cited in James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5

[i] **4:7** Or *And whatever else you acquire*

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.
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 Make a level path for your feet,[a] 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

Avoiding Immorality

(Leviticus 20:10–21; 1 Corinthians 5:1–8)

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[b] drip honey
and her speech[c] 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 lead straight to
Sheol.[d]
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, 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[e] by her
love forever.
20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress, or
embrace the bosom of a stranger?[f]
21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD,
and the LORD examines[g] 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

Warnings against Foolishness

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 your-
self,[h] and press your plea with your neighbor.
4 Allow no sleep to your eyes or slumber to your eye-
lids.
5 Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the
hunter,[i] like a bird from the snare of the fowler.
6 Walk in the manner of 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; 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 point-
ing with his fingers.

[a] **4:26** Or *Ponder the path for your feet*; LXX *Make straight paths for your feet*; cited in Hebrews 12:13

[b] **5:3** Or *the adulteress*

[c] **5:3** Or *her palate*

[d] **5:5** Or *lay hold of Sheol*

[e] **5:19** Or *be led astray* ; also in verse 20

[f] **5:20** Or *a foreign woman* or *another man's wife*

[g] **5:21** Or *ponders* or *makes level*

[h] **6:3** Or *hasten*

[i] **6:5** Hebrew does not include *of the hunter*.

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.

Warnings against Adultery

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.[a]
25 Do not lust in your heart for her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes.[b]
26 For the levy of the prostitute is poverty,[c] 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.
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

Warnings about the Adulteress

1 My son, keep my words and treasure my commandments within you.
2 Keep my commandments and live; guard my teachings as the apple[d] 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. 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 a deer bounding into a trap,[e]
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

The Excellence of Wisdom

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, gain understanding.[f]

[a] **6:24** Or *the stranger*
[b] **6:25** Or *eyelids* or *eyelashes*
[c] **6:26** Literally *a crust of bread*
[d] **7:2** Literally *the pupil*
[e] **7:22** Probable reading (see LXX, Vulgate, Syriac); Hebrew *like fetters to discipline a fool*
[f] **8:5** Or *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 knowl-
edge rather than pure gold.
11 For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and noth-
ing you desire compares with her.
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 in-
sight and strength.
15 By me kings reign, and rulers enact just laws;
16 By me princes rule, and all nobles who govern justly.
[a]
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 har-
vest 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,[b] before
His works of old.
23 From everlasting I was established, from the begin-
ning, 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[c] day by day, rejoicing always in His
presence.
31 I was rejoicing in His whole world, delighting to-
gether 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; 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

The Way of Wisdom

(Proverbs 1:1–7)

1 Wisdom has built her house; she has carved out[d] 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 wisdom[e] your days will be multiplied,
and years will be added to your life.
12 If you are wise, you are wise to your own advan-
tage; but if you scoff, you alone will bear the conse-
quences.

The Way of Folly

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[f] are there, that
her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

10

Solomon's Proverbs: The Wise Son

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.

[a] **8:16** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *who govern the earth*

[b] **8:22** Or *The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way*

[c] **8:30** Or *filled with His delight*

[d] **9:1** Hebrew; LXX, Syriac, and Aramaic Targum *has set up*

[e] **9:11** LXX, Syriac, and Aramaic Targum; Hebrew *through me*

[f] **9:18** Hebrew *the Rephaim*

6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the
mouth of the wicked conceals violence.[a]
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.[b]
11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but
the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers all trans-
gressions.[c]
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.
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

Dishonest Scales

(Deuteronomy 25:13–16; Ezekiel 45:10–12)

1 Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but
an accurate weight is His delight.
2 When pride comes, disgrace follows, but with humil-
ity comes wisdom.
3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the per-
versity of the faithless destroys them.
4 Riches are worthless in the day of wrath, but right-
eousness 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 neigh-
bor, but through knowledge the righteous are res-
cued.
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 de-
light.
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 with-
holds what is right, only to become poor.
25 A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes
others will himself be refreshed.
26 The people will curse the hoarder of grain, but bless-
ing 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.

[a] **10:6** Or *but violence covers the mouth of the wicked*; also in verse 11

[b] **10:10** Or *babbling fools will fall*

[c] **10:12** See 1 Peter 4:8

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 souls is wise.
31 If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner![a]

12

Loving Discipline and Knowledge

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.
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, but another path leads to death.

13

A Father's Discipline

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 soul of the diligent is 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.
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[b] 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.

[a] **11:31** LXX *If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?*Cited in 1 Peter 4:18

[b] **13:14** Or *law*

14

The Wise Woman

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.
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 knowl-
edge 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 pru-
dent man watches his steps.
16 A wise man fears[a] 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.
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[b] loving devotion and faith-
fulness.
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 effort
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.[c]
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

A Gentle Answer Turns Away Wrath

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.
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[d] 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, 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.

[a] **14:16** Or *fears the LORD*

[b] **14:22** Or *show*

[c] **14:33** Hebrew; LXX and Syriac *but among fools she is not known*

[d] **15:11** Or *Death and Destruction*

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

The Reply of the Tongue Is from the LORD

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 deter-
mines 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,[a] and
blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.
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 his speech[b] 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

Better a Dry Morsel in Quietness

1 Better a dry morsel in quietness than a house full of
feasting[c] with strife.
2 A wise servant 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; 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.

[a] **16:20** Or *Whoever speaks prudently will find what is good*

[b] **16:27** Or *and what is on his lips*

[c] **17:1** Or *sacrifices*

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[a] 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 maintains a calm spirit.
28 Even a fool is considered wise if he keeps silent, and
discerning when he holds his tongue.

18

The Selfishness of the Unfriendly

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[b] 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 soul.
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; the right-
eous run to it[c] 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 hu-
mility 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

The Man of Integrity

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, yet his heart rages
against the LORD.
4 Wealth attracts many friends, but a poor man is de-
serted 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 soul will
suffer hunger.
16 He who keeps a commandment preserves his soul,
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.
20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may
be wise the rest of your days.

[a] **17:23** Hebrew *a bribe from the bosom*

[b] **18:5** Hebrew *Lifting the face*

[c] **18:10** Or *to Him*

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

Wine Is a Mocker

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and who-
ever 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.[a]
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.
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[b] — 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 foreigner.[c]
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[d] 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, 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 spirit[e] of a man is the lamp of the LORD, search-
ing 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

The King's Heart

(Psalm 21:1–13)

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.
11 When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wis-
dom; and when a wise man is instructed, he acquires
knowledge.
12 The Righteous One[f] 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[g]
pacifies great wrath.
15 Justice executed is a joy to the righteous, but a terror
to the workers of iniquity.

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[a] **20:2** Literally *sins against his own soul*

[b] **20:10** Hebrew *A stone and a stone, an ephah and an ephah*

[c] **20:16** Or *a wayward woman*

[d] **20:19** Or *the one who is simple*

[e] **20:27** Or *breath* or *speech*

[f] **21:12** Or *The righteous one*

[g] **21:14** Hebrew *a bribe in the bosom*

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 his soul
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, but the man who listens
to truth will speak forever.
29 A wicked man hardens his face,[a] but the upright
man makes his way sure.
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

A Good Name

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 soul 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.[b]
9 A generous man[c] 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! 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.

Thirty Sayings of the Wise

Saying 1

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 thirty sayings[d] about
counsel and knowledge,
21 to show you true and reliable words, that you may
soundly answer those who sent you?

Saying 2

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.

Saying 3

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.

Saying 4

26 Do not be one who gives pledges, who puts up secu-
rity for debts.
27 If you have nothing with which to pay, why should
your bed be taken from under you?

Saying 5

28 Do not move an ancient boundary stone which your
fathers have placed.

Saying 6

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

True Riches

(1 Timothy 6:17–19; James 5:1–6)

Saying 7

1 When you sit down to dine with a ruler, consider
carefully what is set before you,[e]
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.

Saying 8

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.

[a] **21:29** Or *puts up a bold front*

[b] **22:8** LXX includes *God blesses a cheerful and generous man, but foolish works will come to an end*; see also 2 Corinthians 9:7.

[c] **22:9** Literally *He whose eye is good*

[d] **22:20** Or *written for you excellent sayings* or *written for you three times*

[e] **23:1** Or *who is before you*

Saying 9

6 Do not eat the bread of a stingy man,[a] and do not crave his delicacies;
7 for he is keeping track, inwardly counting the cost.[b]
"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.

Saying 10

9 Do not speak to a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Saying 11

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.

Saying 12

12 Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

Saying 13

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 his soul from Sheol.

Saying 14

15 My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart will indeed rejoice.
16 My inmost being[c] will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.

Saying 15

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.

Saying 16

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.

Saying 17

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!

Saying 18

26 My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes delight in my ways.
27 For a prostitute is a deep pit, and an adulteress[d] is a narrow well.
28 Like a robber she lies in wait and multiplies the faithless among men.

Saying 19

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? 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

Do Not Envy

Saying 20

1 Do not envy wicked men or desire their company;
2 for their hearts devise violence, and their lips declare trouble.

Saying 21

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.

Saying 22

5 A wise man is strong,[e] 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.

Saying 23

7 Wisdom is too high for a fool; he does not open his mouth in the meeting place.

Saying 24

8 He who plots evil will be called a schemer.
9 A foolish scheme is sin, and a mocker is detestable to men.

Saying 25

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?

Saying 26

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.

[a] **23:6** Literally *of him whose eye is evil*

[b] **23:7** Or *for as he calculates in his soul, so is he*

[c] **23:16** Hebrew *My kidneys*

[d] **23:27** Or *a foreign woman* or *a wayward wife*

[e] **24:5** LXX *The wise are mightier than the strong*

Saying 27

15 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, near the dwelling
of the righteous; 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.

Saying 28

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.

Saying 29

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.

Saying 30

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?

Further Sayings of the Wise

23 These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality
in judgment is not good.
24 Whoever tells the guilty, "You are innocent"— peo-
ples 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 cov-
ered 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

More Proverbs of Solomon

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.
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[a]
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 betray-
ing 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 confi-
dence in a faithless man in time of trouble.
20 Like one who removes a garment on a cold day or
vinegar poured on a wound[b] 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 in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his
head,[c] 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 right-
eous man who gives way to the wicked.
27 It is not good to eat too much honey or to search out
one's own glory.
28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man
who does not control his temper.

26

Similitudes and Instructions

1 Like snow in summer and rain at harvest, honor does
not befit a fool.
2 Like a fluttering sparrow or darting swallow, an un-
deserved curse does not come to rest.
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.

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[a] **25:7** Or *Even the one*

[b] **25:20** Or *on soda*

[c] **25:22** LXX; Hebrew *For you will heap burning coals on his head*; cited in Romans 12:20

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,[a] so a fool repeats his
folly.
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 ar-
rows,
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 glaze covering an earthen vessel are burning[b]
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

Do Not Boast about Tomorrow

(James 4:13–17)

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 aggrava-
tion from a fool outweighs them both.
4 Wrath is cruel and anger is like a flood, but who can
withstand jealousy?
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 The soul that is full loathes honey, but to a hungry
soul, 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 foreigner.[c]
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.[d]
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[e] are never satisfied; so the eyes
of man are never satisfied.
21 A crucible for silver and a furnace for gold, 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

The Boldness of the Righteous

1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the right-
eous 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 leader 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.

[a] **26:11** Cited in 2 Peter 2:22

[b] **26:23** Hebrew; LXX *smooth*

[c] **27:13** Or *a wayward woman*

[d] **27:17** Hebrew *sharpens the face of another* or *sharpens the countenance of a friend*

[e] **27:20** Or *Death and Destruction*

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.
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 who-
ever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.
14 Blessed is the man who is always reverent,[a] 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 oppres-
sor, but he who hates dishonest profit will prolong
his days.
17 A man burdened by bloodguilt will flee into the Pit;
[b] 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[c] 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 them-
selves; but when they perish, the righteous flourish.

29

The Flourishing of the Righteous

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[d] 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 care for his life.[e]
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 com-
mon: 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.
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 re-
straint; but blessed is he who keeps the Law.
19 A servant 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 servant pampered from his youth will bring grief
in the end.
22 An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tem-
pered 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 soul; 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 jus-
tice from the LORD.
27 An unjust man is detestable to the righteous, and
one whose way is upright is detestable to the wicked.

30

The Words of Agur

1 These are the words of Agur son of Jakeh — the
burden that this man declared to Ithiel: “I am weary,
O God, and worn out.[f]
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

[a] **28:14** Or *always fears the LORD*; Hebrew does not include *the LORD*.

[b] **28:17** Or *will be a fugitive until death*

[c] **28:22** Hebrew *A man whose eye is evil*

[d] **29:4** Or *who taxes heavily* or *who takes bribes*

[e] **29:10** Or *but the upright seek his soul*

[f] **30:1** Or *declared to Ithiel: “I am weary, O God, but I can prevail.* (revocalizations); Hebrew *declared to Ithiel—to Ithiel and Ucal:*

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.
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, say-
ing, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and
steal, profaning the name of my God.
10 Do not slander a servant 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 obedi-
ence 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 servant who becomes king, a fool who is filled with
food,
23 an unloved woman who marries, and a maidservant
who supplants her mistress.
24 Four things on earth are small, yet they are exceed-
ingly wise:
25 The ants are creatures of little strength, yet they
store up their food in the summer;
26 the rock badgers[a] 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 be-
fore anything;
31 a strutting rooster; a he-goat; and a king with his
army around him.[b]
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

The Sayings for King Lemuel

1 These are the words of King Lemuel — the burden
that his mother taught him:
2 What shall I say,[c] 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.

The Virtues of a Noble Woman

10 A wife[d] of noble character, who can find? She is far
more precious than rubies.
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[e] 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.[f]
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.

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[a] **30:26** Or *the coneys* or *the hyraxes*

[b] **30:31** Or *a king against whom there is no rising up*

[c] **31:2** Or *What* or *What are you doing*

[d] **31:10** Verses 10–31 are an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

[e] **31:17** Hebrew *She girds her loins*

[f] **31:21** Or *doubly clothed*

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.

Ecclesiastes

1

Everything Is Futile

1 These are the words of the Teacher,[a] the son of David,
king in Jerusalem:
2 "Futility[b] 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 de-
scribe; 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.

With Wisdom Comes Sorrow

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.
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

The Futility of Pleasure

1 I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with plea-
sure; 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 menservants and maidservants, and ser-
vants 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.

The Wise and the Foolish

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.

The Futility of Work

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

[a] **1:1** Or *the Convener* or *the Preacher* or *the leader of the assembly*; Hebrew *Qoheleth* is rendered as *the Teacher* throughout Ecclesiastes.

[b] **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*.

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 Him,[a] 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

To Everything There Is a Season

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.

God's Works Remain Forever

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.
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.

From Dust to Dust

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.[b] 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

The Evil of Oppression

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 eyes are still not content with his wealth: "For whom do I toil and bereave my soul 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.

The Futility of Power

13 Better is a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take a warning.
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.

[a] **2:25** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *apart from me* or *more than I*

[b] **3:19** Or *spirit*

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.

5

Approaching God with Fear

1 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.
2 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.
3 As a dream comes through many cares, so the speech
of a fool comes with many words.
4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfill-
ing it, because He takes no pleasure in fools. Fulfill
your vow.
5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not
fulfill it.
6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, and
do not tell the messenger[a] that your vow was a
mistake. Why should God be angry with your words
and destroy the work of your hands?
7 For as many dreams bring futility, so do many words.
Therefore, fear God.

The Futility of Wealth

(Psalm 49:1–20)

8 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.
9 The produce of the earth is taken by all; the king
himself profits from the fields.
10 He who loves money is never satisfied by money,
and he who loves wealth is never satisfied by
income. This too is futile.
11 When good things increase, so do those who con-
sume them; what then is the profit to the owner,
except to behold them with his eyes?
12 The sleep of the worker is sweet, whether he eats
little or much, but the abundance of the rich man
permits him no sleep.
13 There is a grievous evil I have seen under the sun:
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner,
14 or wealth lost in a failed venture, so when that man
has a son there is nothing to pass on.
15 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.
16 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?
17 Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness, with
much sorrow, sickness, and anger.
18 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.
19 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.
20 For a man seldom considers the days of his life,
because God keeps him occupied with the joy of his
heart.

6

The Futility of Life

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.[b]
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

The Value of Wisdom

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 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.

[a] **5:6** Or *angel*

[b] **6:7** Hebrew *filled*

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.[a]
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 advan-
tage 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.

The Limits of Human Wisdom

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 your-
self 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.[b]
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?
25 I directed my mind to understand, to explore, to
search out wisdom and explanations, and to under-
stand 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 explana-
tion.
28 While my soul was still searching but not finding,
among a thousand I have found one upright 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

Obey the King

1 Who is like the wise man? Who knows the interpreta-
tion 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 proce-
dure.
6 For there is a right time and procedure to every pur-
pose, 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.

Fear God

(Isaiah 8:11–15)

10 Then too, I saw the burial of the wicked who used
to go in and out of the holy place, and they were
praised[c] in the city where they had done so. This too
is futile.
11 When the sentence for a crime is not speedily exe-
cuted, 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.

God's Ways Are Mysterious

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.
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.

[a] **7:9** Hebrew *in the bosom of fools*

[b] **7:18** Or *will avoid all extremes*

[c] **8:10** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate; most Hebrew manuscripts *were soon forgotten*

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

Death Comes to Good and Bad

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 and the bad, [a] 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.

Enjoy Your Portion in This Life

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[b] 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.

Wisdom Is Better than Strength

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.
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

Wisdom and Folly

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 youth,[c] 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— 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.

[a] **9:2** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew does not include *and the bad*.

[b] **9:9** Or *futile*; twice in this verse

[c] **10:16** Or *a servant*

11

Cast Your Bread upon the Waters

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 path of the wind, or how
the bones are formed[a] 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.

Enjoy Your Years

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, for youth and vigor are fleeting.[b]

12

Remember Your Creator

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 dark-
ened, 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!"

The Whole Duty of Man

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.[c]
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.[d]
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 mat-
ter 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.

[a] **11:5** Or *As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones*

[b] **11:10** Or *futile*

[c] **12:10** Or *and sought to write what was upright and true*

[d] **12:11** Or *shepherd*

Song of Solomon

1

The Bride Confesses Her Love

(Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Peter 3:1–7)

1 This is Solomon's Song of Songs.[a]

The Bride

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.

The Friends

The Bride

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?

The Friends

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.

The Bridegroom

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.

The Friends

11 We will make you ornaments of gold, studded with
beads of silver.

The Bride

12 While the king was at his table, my perfume spread
its fragrance.
13 My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh resting be-
tween my breasts.
14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in
the vineyards of En-gedi.

The Bridegroom

15 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how very
beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.

The Bride

16 How handsome you are, my beloved! Oh, how de-
lightful! The soft grass is our bed.

The Bridegroom

17 The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are
fragrant firs.

2

The Bride's Admiration

The Bride

1 I am a rose of Sharon,[b] a lily of the valley.

The Bridegroom

2 Like a lily among the thorns is my darling among the
maidens.

The Bride

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,[c] 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 win-
dows, 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 singing[d] has come, and the cooing of tur-
tledoves is heard in our land.
13 The fig tree ripens its figs; the blossoming vines
spread their fragrance. Arise, come away, my dar-
ling; come away with me, my beautiful one."

The Bridegroom

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.

The Friends

15 Catch for us the foxes— the little foxes that ruin the
vineyards— for our vineyards are in bloom.

The Bride

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.[e]

[a] **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.

[b] **2:1** Sharon Plain is a region in the coastal plain of Israel

[c] **2:4** That is, the banquet hall

[d] **2:12** Or *pruning*

[e] **2:17** Or *the rugged mountains*

3

The Bride's Dream

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.

Solomon Arrives on His Wedding Day

6 Who is this coming up from the wilderness like a
column of smoke, scented with myrrh and frankin-
cense from all the spices of the merchant?
7 Behold, it is Solomon's carriage,[a] escorted by sixty of
the mightiest men of Israel.
8 All are skilled with the sword, experienced in war-
fare. 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.
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

Solomon Admires His Bride

The Bridegroom

1 How beautiful you are, my darling— how very beau-
tiful! 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[b] 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!
Your love is much better than wine, and the fra-
grance of your perfume than all spices.
11 Your lips, my bride, drip sweetness like the honey-
comb; 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[c]
flowing down from Lebanon.

The Bride

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

The Bride and Her Beloved

The Bridegroom

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.

The Friends

The Bride

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.
My heart sank at his departure. 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.

[a] **3:7** That is, the couch on which servants carry a king

[b] **4:8** Or *Look down*

[c] **4:15** Or *flowing water* or *living water*

The Friends

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?

The Bride

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[a] is most sweet; he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

6

Together in the Garden

The Friends

1 Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Which way has he turned? We will seek him with you.

The Bride

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; he pastures his flock among the lilies.

The Bridegroom

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.

The Friends

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?

The Bridegroom

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 royal chariots of my people.[b]

The Friends

13 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[c] ?

The Bridegroom

7

Admiration by the Bridegroom

1 How beautiful are your sandaled feet, O daughter of the prince! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, the handiwork of a master.
2 Your navel is a rounded goblet; it never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by the lilies.
3 Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.
4 Your neck is like a tower made of ivory; your eyes are like the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim; your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, facing toward Damascus.
5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel, the hair of your head like purple threads; the king is captured in your tresses.
6 How fair and pleasant you are, O love, with your delights!
7 Your stature is like a palm tree; your breasts are clusters of fruit.
8 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,
9 and your mouth[d] like the finest wine. May it flow smoothly to my beloved, gliding gently over lips and teeth.[e]

The Bride

10 I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me.
11 Come, my beloved, let us go to the countryside; let us spend the night among the wildflowers.[f]
12 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.
13 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

Longing for Her Beloved

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.

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[a] **5:16** Hebrew *palate*

[b] **6:12** Or *among the chariots of Amminadab*

[c] **6:13** Or *the dance of the two camps*

[d] **7:9** Hebrew *palate*

[e] **7:9** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; Hebrew *gliding gently over lips as we sleep*

[f] **7:11** Or *among the henna blossoms* or *in the villages*

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.

The Friends

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.

The Bride

6 Set me as a seal over your heart, as a seal upon your
arm. For love is as strong as death, its jealousy[a] 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.

The Friends

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.

The Bride

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.[b]
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.

The Bridegroom

13 You who dwell in the gardens, my companions are
listening for your voice. Let me hear it!

The Bride

14 Come away, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a
young stag on the mountains of spices.

[a] **8:6** Or *passion*

[b] **8:11** Hebrew *a thousand of silver*; that is, approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver

Isaiah

Book of Isaiah

1

Judah's Rebellion

(2 Chronicles 28:5–15)

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,
[a] we would have become like Sodom, we would
have resembled Gomorrah.[b]

Meaningless Offerings

10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God, you people of
Gomorrah!
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 re-
quired this of you— this trampling of My courts?
13 Bring your worthless offerings no more; your in-
cense 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 cov-
ered 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 correct the op-
pressor.[c] 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.

The Corruption of Zion

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, 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 coun-
selors 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

The Mountain of the House of the LORD

(Micah 4:1–5)

1 This is the message that was revealed to Isaiah son of
Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
2 In the last days 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.

[a] **1:9** LXX *had left us descendants*

[b] **1:9** Cited in Romans 9:29

[c] **1:17** Or *and encourage the oppressed*

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. Na-
tion will no longer take up the sword against nation,
nor train anymore for war.

The Day of Reckoning

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,[a] 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,
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

Judgment on Jerusalem and Judah

1 For behold, the Lord GOD of Hosts is about to remove
from Jerusalem and Judah both supply[b] and sup-
port: 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 en-
chanter.
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 honor-
able.
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 healer.[c] I
have no food or clothing in my house. Do not make
me leader of the people!"
8 For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen
because they spoke and acted against the LORD,
defying His glorious presence.[d]
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 dis-
aster 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
people.
14 The LORD brings this charge against the elders and
leaders of His people: "You have devoured the vine-
yard; 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.

A Warning to the Daughters of Zion

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, jin-
gling the bracelets on their ankles —
17 the Lord will bring sores on the heads of the daugh-
ters of Zion, and the LORD will make their foreheads
bare.[e] "
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; instead of styled hair, baldness;
instead of fine clothing, sackcloth; instead of beauty,
shame.[f]

[a] **2:16** Or *every ship of trade*

[b] **3:1** Hebrew *staff*

[c] **3:7** Or *binder of wounds*

[d] **3:8** Hebrew *defying the eyes of His glory*

[e] **3:17** Or *will uncover their secret parts*

[f] **3:24** DSS; MT *branding*

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

A Remnant in Zion

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 all 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

The Song of the Vineyard

(Luke 13:6–9)

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, 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.

Woes to the Wicked

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,[a] and a homer of seed only an ephah of grain.
[b] "
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.
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[c] 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. 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.

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[a] **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.

[b] **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.

[c] **5:17** LXX *lambs*

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

Isaiah's Commission

(Matthew 13:10–17; Mark 4:10–12; Acts 28:16–31)

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[a] 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, 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.'[b]
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.[c] "
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

A Message to Ahaz

1 Now in the days that Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, Rezin king of Aram[d] 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,[e] 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[f] to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct that feeds the upper pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field,
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[g] 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.'"

The Sign of Immanuel

(Matthew 1:18–25)

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
11 "Ask for a sign from the LORD your God, whether from the depths of Sheol or the heights of heaven."
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 virgin[h] will be with child and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.[i]
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.

[a] **6:1** Or *the hem of His robe*

[b] **6:9** Hebrew; LXX *'You shall be ever hearing, but never understanding; you shall be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'*Cited in Matthew 13:14, Mark 4:12, Luke 8:10, and Acts 28:26

[c] **6:10** Hebrew; 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.*Cited in Matthew 13:15, Mark 4:12, John 12:40, and Acts 28:27

[d] **7:1** That is, Syria

[e] **7:2** Or *had set up camp in Ephraim*, that is, the northern kingdom of Israel

[f] **7:3** *Shear-jashub* means *a remnant shall return*.

[g] **7:6** Hebrew *split it open*

[h] **7:14** Or *young woman*

[i] **7:14** *Immanuel* means *God 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*; cited in Matthew 1:23.

Judgment to Come

(Micah 1:1–7)

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[a] — 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.
23 And on that day, in every place that had a thousand
vines worth a thousand shekels of silver,[b] 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 be-
come places for oxen to graze and sheep to trample.

8

Assyrian Invasion Prophesied

1 Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large scroll and
write on it with an ordinary[c] stylus: Maher-shalal-
hash-baz.[d]
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 con-
ceived 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[e] — 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![f]
9 Huddle together,[g] O peoples, and be shattered; pay
attention, all you distant lands; prepare for battle,
and be shattered; prepare for battle, and be shat-
tered!
10 Devise a plan, but it will be thwarted; state a pro-
posal, but it will not happen. For God is with us.[h] "

A Call to Fear God

(Ecclesiastes 8:10–13)

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 everything these people re-
gard as conspiracy. Do not fear what they fear;[i] do
not live in dread.[j]
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,[k] 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.[l]
18 Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me
[m] as signs and symbols in Israel from the LORD of
Hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

Darkness and Light

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.

9

Unto Us a Child Is Born

(Matthew 4:12–17; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:14–15)

1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those
in distress. In the past He humbled the land of Zebu-
lun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future He will

[a] **7:20** Hebrew *the River*

[b] **7:23** Hebrew *a thousand of silver*; that is, approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver

[c] **8:1** Hebrew *with a man's*

[d] **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.

[e] **8:7** Hebrew *the River*

[f] **8:8** *Immanuel* means *God with us*.

[g] **8:9** Or *Raise the war cry* or *Be evil* or *Be broken*

[h] **8:10** Hebrew *Immanuel*; see Matthew 1:23.

[i] **8:12** Or *Do not fear their threats*

[j] **8:12** LXX *do not be shaken*; cited in 1 Peter 3:14

[k] **8:14** Cited in Romans 9:33 and 1 Peter 2:8

[l] **8:17** Or *I will eagerly look for Him*; cited in Hebrews 2:13

[m] **8:18** Cited in Hebrews 2:13

honor the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations:
2 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.[a]
3 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.
4 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.
5 For every trampling boot of battle and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 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.

Judgment against Israel's Pride

8 The Lord has sent a message against Jacob, and it has fallen upon Israel.
9 All the people will know it — Ephraim[b] and the dwellers of Samaria. With pride and arrogance of heart they will say:
10 "The bricks have fallen, but we will rebuild with finished stone; the sycamores have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars."
11 The LORD has raised up the foes of Rezin against him and joined his enemies together.
12 Aram[c] 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.

Judgment against Israel's Hypocrisy

13 But the people did not return to Him who struck them; they did not seek the LORD of Hosts.
14 So the LORD will cut off Israel's head and tail, both palm branch and reed in a single day.
15 The head is the elder and honorable man, and the tail is the prophet who teaches lies.
16 For those who guide this people mislead them, and those they mislead are swallowed up.
17 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.

Judgment against Israel's Unrepentance

18 For wickedness burns like a fire that consumes the thorns and briers and kindles the forest thickets, which roll upward in billows of smoke.
19 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.
20 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.[d]
21 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

Woe to Tyrants

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.

Judgment on Assyria

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.
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.

[a] **9:2** Cited in Matthew 4:15–16

[b] **9:9** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel

[c] **9:12** That is, Syria

[d] **9:20** Literally *of his own arm*

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.

A Remnant Shall Return

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] — 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.[b] Destruction has
been decreed, overflowing with righteousness.
23 For the Lord GOD of Hosts will carry out the destruc-
tion decreed upon the whole land.[c]
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 sub-
side, 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 your neck will be too large.[d]
28 Assyria has entered Aiath and passed through Mi-
gron, 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. 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

The Root of Jesse

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,[e] 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 tod-
dler 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,[f] 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 As-
syria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush,[g] from
Elam, from Shinar,[h] from Hamath, and from the
islands[i] 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[j] will depart, and
the adversaries[k] of Judah will be cut off. 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[l] the gulf[m]
of the Sea of Egypt; with a scorching wind He will
sweep His hand over the Euphrates.[n] 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.

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[a] **10:21** Hebrew *Shear-jashub*; also in verse 22; see Isaiah 7:3.

[b] **10:22** LXX *Though the people of Israel be like the sand of the sea, only a remnant will be saved.*Cited in Romans 9:27

[c] **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.*Cited in Romans 9:28

[d] **10:27** Literally *broken because of fatness*; LXX *broken from your shoulders*

[e] **11:6** Hebrew; LXX *the young calf and bull and lion will feed together*

[f] **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*; cited in Romans 15:12.

[g] **11:11** That is, the upper Nile region

[h] **11:11** That is, Babylonia

[i] **11:11** Or *coastlands*

[j] **11:13** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel

[k] **11:13** Or *hostility*

[l] **11:15** Or *will completely dry up*

[m] **11:15** Hebrew *the tongue*

[n] **11:15** Hebrew *the River*

12

Joyful Thanksgiving

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 salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He also has become my salvation."
3 With joy you will draw water from the springs of salvation,
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

The Burden against Babylon

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 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.[a]
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, 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[b] will dwell there, and wild goats will leap about.
22 Hyenas will howl in her fortresses and jackals[c] in her luxurious palaces. Babylon's time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.

14

Restoration for Israel

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 menservants and maidservants in the LORD's land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors.

The Fall of the King of Babylon

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 his fury[d] 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[e] and cedars of Lebanon exult over you: "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!"

[a] **13:6** Hebrew *Shaddai*

[b] **13:21** Literally *Daughters of an ostrich* or *Daughters of an owl*

[c] **13:22** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[d] **14:4** DSS, LXX, and Syriac; MT *the golden city*

[e] **14:8** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

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 day star,[a] 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, in the far reaches of the north.[b]
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.[c]
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. 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.

God's Purpose against Assyria

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?

Philistia Will Be Destroyed

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

The Burden against Moab

(Jeremiah 48:1–47)

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.[d] 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.[e]
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[f] 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

Moab's Destruction

(Zephaniah 2:8–11)

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 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,

[a] **14:12** Or *morning star* or *shining one* or *Lucifer*

[b] **14:13** Or *in the remote parts of Zaphon* or *on the heights of Zaphon*

[c] **14:18** Hebrew *house*

[d] **15:5** Or *Zoar, like a heifer three years of age.*

[e] **15:7** Or *Poplars*

[f] **15:9** MT, twice in this verse; DSS and Vulgate *Dibon*; *Dimon*, a wordplay on *Dibon* (see verse 2), sounds like the Hebrew for *blood.*

[a] **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

5 in loving devotion[a] 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.[b]
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 tram-
ples 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.[c]
12 When Moab appears on the high place, when he
wearies himself and enters his sanctuary to pray, it
will do him no good.
13 This is the message that the LORD spoke earlier con-
cerning 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

The Burden against Damascus

(Jeremiah 49:23–27)

1 This is the burden against Damascus: "Behold, Dam-
ascus 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,[d] 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 salvation
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 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 morn-
ing, they are no more! This is the portion of those
who loot us and the lot of those who plunder us.

18

A Message to Cush

1 Woe to the land of whirring wings,[e] along the rivers
of Cush,[f]
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— to
Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the LORD of
Hosts.

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love , *goodness* , *kindness* , *faithfulness* , and *mercy* , as well as *loyalty to a covenant* .

[b] **16:8** Or *and had gone as far as the sea*; that is, probably the Dead Sea

[c] **16:11** *Kir-heres* is a variant of *Kir-hareseth*; see verse 7.

[d] **17:3** Or *The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim*, that is, from the northern kingdom of Israel

[e] **18:1** Or *of many locusts*

[f] **18:1** That is, the upper Nile region

19

The Burden against Egypt

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," de-
clares 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 The workers in cloth[a] 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[b] are deceived. The cornerstones of her
tribes have led Egypt astray.
14 The LORD has poured into her a spirit of confusion.
Egypt has been led astray in all she does, as a drunk-
ard staggers through his own vomit.
15 There is nothing Egypt can do — head or tail, palm
or reed.

A Blessing upon the Earth

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; when-
ever 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
the Sun.[c]
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

A Sign against Egypt and Cush

1 Before 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,[d]
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.
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

Babylon Is Fallen

(Revelation 18:1–8)

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 bewil-
dered to hear, I am dismayed to see.

[a] **19:10** Or *Its pillars*

[b] **19:13** LXX; Hebrew *Noph*

[c] **19:18** Some MT manuscripts, DSS, and Vulgate; most MT manuscripts *City of Destruction*

[d] **20:3** That is, the upper Nile region; similarly in verses 4 and 5

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, rid-
ers on donkeys, riders on camels, he must be alert,
fully alert."
8 Then the lookout[a] 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!
[b] All the images of her gods lie shattered on the
ground!"
10 O my people, crushed on the threshing floor, I tell
you what I have heard from the LORD of Hosts, the
God of Israel.

The Burden against Edom

(Isaiah 34:5–17)

11 This is the burden against Dumah:[c] One calls to me
from Seir,[d] "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."

The Burden against Arabia

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

The Valley of Vision

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 destruc-
tion 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 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 horse-
men 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 wa-
ters 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 weep-
ing 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 tomor-
row we die!"[e]
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.

A Message for Shebna

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.[f]
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 dri-
ven 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.

[a] **21:8** DSS and Syriac; MT *lion*

[b] **21:9** See Revelation 14:8 and Revelation 18:2.

[c] **21:11** *Dumah* is a wordplay on *Edom*, meaning *silence*.

[d] **21:11** *Seir* is another name for Edom.

[e] **22:13** Cited in 1 Corinthians 15:32

[f] **22:22** See Revelation 3:7.

23

The Burden against Tyre

(Ezekiel 26:1–21)

1 This is the burden against Tyre: Wail, O ships of Tarshish,[a] for Tyre is laid waste, without house or harbor. Word has reached them from the land of Cyprus.[b]
2 Be silent, O dwellers of the coastland, you merchants of Sidon, whose traders have crossed the sea.[c]
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 Cultivate[d] 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, 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[e] — 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.

[a] **23:1** Or *Wail, O fleet of trading ships*; also in verse 14
[b] **23:1** Hebrew *Kittim*; also in verse 12
[c] **23:2** DSS and LXX; MT *whom the seafarers have enriched*
[d] **23:10** DSS and some LXX manuscripts; MT *Overflow*
[e] **23:13** That is, the Babylonians

24

God's Judgment on the Earth

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, servant and master, maid 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 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.
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 west[f] 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 islands[g] of the sea.
16 From the ends of the earth we hear singing: "Glory to the Righteous One." 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 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

[f] **24:14** Or *from the sea*
[g] **24:15** Or *coastlands*

Zion and in Jerusalem, and before His elders with great glory.

25

Praise to the Victorious God

(Jeremiah 51:15–19)

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.[a] The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face[b] 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. Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."
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, despite[c] the skill of his hands.
12 The high-walled fortress will be brought down, cast to the ground, into the dust.

26

A Song of Salvation

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; salvation 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 seeks You at dawn.[d] 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. 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 salvation to the earth, nor brought any life into the world.
19 Your dead will live; their 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

The LORD's Vineyard

(John 15:1–8)

1 In that day the LORD will take His sharp, great, and mighty sword, and bring judgment on Leviathan the fleeing serpent[e] — 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; I water it continually. I guard it night and day so no one can disturb it;

[a] **25:8** Or *He will swallow up death in victory*; cited in 1 Corinthians 15:54
[b] **25:8** Cited in Revelation 7:17 and Revelation 21:4
[c] **25:11** Or *along with*
[d] **26:9** Or *my spirit within me seeks You.*
[e] **27:1** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*; twice in this verse

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 oppres-
sors? Was she killed like those who slayed her?
8 By warfare and exile[a] 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:[b]
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[c] to the Wadi of Egypt, and you, O Is-
raelites, 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

The Captivity of Ephraim

1 Woe to the majestic crown of Ephraim’s[d] 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 who is strong and mighty.
Like a hailstorm or destructive tempest, like a driv-
ing 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 be-
cause 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 explain-
ing His message? To infants just weaned from milk?
To babies removed from the breast?
10 For they hear:[e] “Order on order, order on order, line
on line, line on line;[f] a little here, a little there.”
11 Indeed, with mocking lips and foreign tongues, He
will speak to this people[g]
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:
“Order on order, order on order, line on line, line on
line; a little here, a little there,” so that they will go
stumbling backward and will be injured, ensnared,
and captured.

A Cornerstone in Zion

(1 Corinthians 3:10–15; Ephesians 2:19–22; 1 Peter 2:1–8)

14 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, O scoffers
who rule this people in Jerusalem.
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[h] 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.[i]
17 I will make justice the measuring line and righteous-
ness 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.

[a] **27:8** Or *By driving her away into exile* or *Measure by measure, by exile*

[b] **27:9** LXX *Therefore the guilt of Jacob will be taken away, and this is his blessing when I take away his sin*; cited in Romans 11:27

[c] **27:12** Hebrew *River*

[d] **28:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 3

[e] **28:10** Or *For He says* or *For it is*; literally *For*

[f] **28:10** Or *Do this, do that, a rule for this, a rule for that*; Hebrew *sav lasav sav lasav kav lakav kav lakav* (possibly meaningless sounds to demonstrate an inability to understand); also in verse 13

[g] **28:11** Cited in 1 Corinthians 14:21

[h] **28:15** Or *false gods*

[i] **28:16** LXX *will never be put to shame*; cited in Romans 9:33, Romans 10:11, and 1 Peter 2:6

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.

Listen and Hear

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. 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

Woe to David's City

(Luke 19:41–44)

1 Woe to you, O Ariel,[a] 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 an altar hearth[b] 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; 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 to read, he will say, "I cannot, because it is sealed."
12 Or if the scroll is handed to one unable to read, 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.[c]
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.[d] "
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"?[e] Can the pottery say of the potter, "He has no understanding"?

Sanctification for the Godly

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: "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

The Worthless Treaty with Egypt

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,

[a] **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
[b] **29:2** Or *like Ariel*; see the footnote for verse 1.
[c] **29:13** Hebrew; LXX *They worship Me in vain; they teach as doctrine the precepts of men.*Cited in Matthew 15:8–9 and Mark 7:6–7
[d] **29:14** Hebrew; LXX *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will hide the intelligence of the intelligent.*Cited in 1 Corinthians 1:19
[e] **29:16** Cited in Romans 9:20

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.[a]
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,
a witness forever and ever.
9 These are rebellious people, deceitful children, chil-
dren unwilling to obey the LORD's instruction.
10 They say to the seers, "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.

God Will Be Gracious

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 rod of punishment
[b] that the LORD brings down on them, the tam-
bourines 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

Woe to Those Who Rely on Egypt

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; 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 bla-
tantly rebelled, O children of Israel.

[a] **30:7** Hebrew *Rahab-hem-shebeth*

[b] **30:32** Some Hebrew manuscripts, Syriac; MT *the rod of foundation*; DSS *the rod of His foundation*

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," de-
clares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, whose furnace
is in Jerusalem.

32

A Righteous King

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.

The Women of Jerusalem

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 daugh-
ters 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 merri-
ment in this city of revelry.
14 For the palace will be forsaken, the busy city aban-
doned. The hill[a] 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 right-
eousness 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, 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

The LORD Is Exalted

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 be-
traying, you will be betrayed.
2 O LORD, be gracious to us! We wait for You. Be our
strength every morning and our salvation in time of
trouble.
3 The peoples flee the thunder of Your voice; the na-
tions scatter when You rise.
4 Your spoil, O nations,[b] 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 store-
house of salvation, 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[c] has been broken, the witnesses[d] are de-
spised, 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; 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 the 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.

[a] **32:14** Hebrew *The Ophel*

[b] **33:4** *O nations* is added for clarity.

[c] **33:8** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant* .

[d] **33:8** DSS; MT *the cities*

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

Judgment on the Nations

1 Come near, O nations, to listen; pay attention, O peo-
ples. 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 destruc-
tion;[a] 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.

Judgment on Edom

(Isaiah 21:11–12)

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 rec-
ompense for the cause of Zion.[b]
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.[c] 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,[d] an abode for ostriches.[e]
14 The desert creatures will meet with hyenas, and one
wild goat will call to another. There the night crea-
ture[f] will settle 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 He has ordered it by His mouth, and He will
gather them by His Spirit.
17 He has allotted their portion; His hand has distrib-
uted it by measure. They will possess it forever; they
will dwell in it from generation to generation.

35

The Glory of Zion

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![g]
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[h]
once lay, there will be grass and reeds and papyrus.
8 And there will be a highway called the Way of Holi-
ness. The unclean will not travel it — only those who
walk in the Way — and fools will not stray onto it.
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

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

(2 Kings 18:13–37; 2 Chronicles 32:1–8)

1 In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sen-
nacherib king of Assyria attacked and captured all
the fortified cities of Judah.

[a] **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.

[b] **34:8** Or *of recompense for (Edom's) hostility against Zion.*

[c] **34:11** The precise identification of these birds is uncertain.

[d] **34:13** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[e] **34:13** Literally *for daughters of an ostrich* or *for daughters of an owl*

[f] **34:14** Hebrew *Lilith*

[g] **35:3** Cited in Hebrews 12:12

[h] **35:7** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

2 And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh,[a] 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 administra-
tor, 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 You claim to have[b] a strategy and strength for war,
but these are empty words. 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 Rab-
shakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic,
since we understand it. Do not speak to us in Hebrew
[c] 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
Hebrew: "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.
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[d] 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 the people remained silent and did not answer
a word, for Hezekiah had commanded, "Do not an-
swer 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

Isaiah's Message of Deliverance

(2 Kings 19:1–7)

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 sack-
cloth, 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.'"

Sennacherib's Blasphemous Letter

(2 Kings 19:8–13)

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:[e] "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.

[a] **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

[b] **36:5** Literally *You speak*; see DSS and 2 Kings 18:20; MT *I speak*.

[c] **36:11** Or *in the dialect of Judah*; also in verse 13

[d] **36:16** Or *Make a blessing with me*

[e] **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.[a] 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?'"

Hezekiah's Prayer

(2 Kings 19:14–19)

14 So Hezekiah received the letter from the messen-
gers, 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 king-
doms 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 Sen-
nacherib 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, O LORD, are God.[b] "

Sennacherib's Fall Prophesied

(2 Kings 19:20–34)

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.[c] I have reached
its farthest heights, the densest of its forests.
25 I have dug wells and drunk foreign[d] waters. With
the soles of my feet I have dried up all the streams
of Egypt."
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,
scorched[e] 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.'"

Jerusalem Delivered from the Assyrians

(2 Kings 19:35–37; 2 Chronicles 32:20–23)

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[f] 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

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

(2 Kings 20:1–11; 2 Chronicles 32:24–31)

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.

[a] **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.

[b] **37:20** DSS (see also 2 Kings 19:19); MT *You alone are the LORD*

[c] **37:24** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

[d] **37:25** DSS (see also 2 Kings 19:24); MT does not include *foreign*.

[e] **37:27** DSS, some MT manuscripts, and some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Kings 19:26); most MT manuscripts *on the rooftops and terraced fields*

[f] **37:36** Hebrew *When they got up*

6 And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of
the king of Assyria. I will defend this city.[a]
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.

Hezekiah's Song of Thanksgiving

9 This is a writing by Hezekiah king of Judah after his
illness and recovery:
10 I said, "In the prime[b] 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 composed myself[c] 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. O Lord, I am
oppressed; be my security."
15 What can I say? He has spoken to me, and He Him-
self 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

Hezekiah Shows His Treasures

(2 Kings 20:12–19)

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

Prepare the Way for the LORD

(Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20; John 1:19–28)

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;[d] make a straight highway for our
God in the desert.[e]
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.[f]
5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all
humanity together will see it."[g] For the mouth of the
LORD has spoken.

The Enduring Word

(1 Peter 1:22–25)

6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I 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."[h]

[a] **38:6** MT and LXX; DSS includes *for My sake and for the sake of My servant David*; see 2 Kings 20:6.

[b] **38:10** Or *In the quiet* or *In the middle*

[c] **38:13** Or *I cried out* ; see Targum Yonaton.

[d] **40:3** Or *A voice of one calling in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the LORD*

[e] **40:3** LXX *make straight the paths of our God*; cited in Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4, and John 1:23

[f] **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.*Cited in Luke 3:5

[g] **40:5** Literally *and all flesh together will see it.*Cited in Luke 3:6

[h] **40:8** Cited in 1 Peter 1:24–25

Here Is Your God!

(Romans 11:33–36)

9 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,[a] 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; 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 Spirit of the LORD,[b] or in-
formed Him as His counselor?[c]
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 un-
derstanding?
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 islands[d] 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 re-
gards 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[e] 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.
26 Lift up your eyes on high: 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 under-
standing 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

God's Help to Israel

1 "Be silent before Me, O islands,[f] 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[g] ? 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 islands see and fear; the ends of the earth trem-
ble. 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 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 them 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

[a] **40:9** Or *O herald of good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. O herald of good news to Jerusalem, lift it up,*

[b] **40:13** Or *mind of the LORD*; see also LXX.

[c] **40:13** Cited in Romans 11:34 and 1 Corinthians 2:16

[d] **40:15** Or *coastlands*

[e] **40:23** Or *judges*

[f] **41:1** Or *coastlands*; also in verse 5

[g] **41:2** Or *from the east, whom victory meets at every step*

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[a] in the desert, elms and boxwood together,
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."

Meaningless Idols

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 I was the first to tell Zion:[b] '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

Here Is My Servant

(Matthew 12:15–21)

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; He will faithfully bring forth justice.
4 He will not grow weak or discouraged[c] before He has established justice on the earth. In His law the islands will put their hope."[d]
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."

A New Song of Praise

(Psalm 98:1–9; Psalm 149:1–9)

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 islands,[e] 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 islands.
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; 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 dry land[f] 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.

Israel Is Deaf and Blind

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."

[a] **41:19** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

[b] **41:27** Or *Formerly I said to Zion:*

[c] **42:4** Or *bruised*

[d] **42:4** Or *In His teaching the coastlands will put their hope*; LXX *In His name the nations will put their hope*; cited in Matthew 12:18–21

[e] **42:10** Or *coastlands*; also in verse 12

[f] **42:15** Or *coastlands* or *islands*

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

Israel’s Only Savior

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, 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[a] 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?”

A Way in the Wilderness

14 Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake, I will send to Babylon and bring them all as fugitives, even the Chaldeans,[b] 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[c] and the ostriches,[d] 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.

Israel’s Unfaithfulness

(Judges 2:10–15; Jeremiah 2:23–37)

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, and I will devote Jacob to destruction[e] and Israel to reproach.”

44

The LORD Has Chosen Israel

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,[f] whom I have chosen.

[a] **43:3** That is, the upper Nile region

[b] **43:14** That is, the Babylonians

[c] **43:20** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[d] **43:20** Literally *and daughters of an ostrich* or *and daughters of an owl*

[e] **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.

[f] **44:2** *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, a term of endearment for Israel.

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[a] 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 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[b] 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?"

Jerusalem to Be Restored

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.
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 ful-
fills 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

God Calls Cyrus

(2 Chronicles 36:22–23; Ezra 1:1–4)

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 mountains;[c] 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, 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 pros-
perity and create calamity. I, the LORD, do all these
things.

[a] **44:4** Or *poplars*

[b] **44:14** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

[c] **45:2** DSS and LXX; MT *level the terrain*

8 Drip down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies
pour down righteousness. Let the earth open up that
salvation 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?'[a] 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,[b] along with the
Sabeans, men of stature, 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 ever-
lasting salvation; 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.[c]
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

Babylon's Idols

1 Bel crouches; Nebo cowers. Their idols weigh down
beasts and cattle. The images you carry are burden-
some, a load to the weary animal.
2 The gods cower; they crouch together, unable to
relieve the burden; but they themselves go into cap-
tivity.
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 an-
cient times what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose
will stand, and all My good pleasure I will accom-
plish.'
11 I summon a bird of prey from the east, a man for
My purpose from a far-off land. 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 salvation will not be delayed. I will
grant salvation to Zion and adorn Israel with My
splendor."

47

The Humiliation of Babylon

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![d] 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.

[a] **45:9** Cited in Romans 9:20

[b] **45:14** That is, the upper Nile region

[c] **45:23** Literally *every tongue will swear*; LXX *every tongue will swear by God*; cited in Romans 14:11

[d] **47:1** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 5

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: 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 your-
self 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

Israel's Stubbornness

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.

Deliverance Promised to Israel

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.[a]
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 begin-
ning 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.
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 command-
ments, 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;[b] their name would never be cut off or elimi-
nated 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."

[a] **48:14** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 20

[b] **48:19** Literally *like the sand, and your offspring like its grains*

49

The Servant and Light to the Gentiles

(Acts 13:42–52)

1 Listen to Me, O islands;[a] 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—
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 salvation to the ends of the earth."[b]
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 salvation I will help You;[c] 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.[d] 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,[e] and from the land of Aswan.[f] "
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!
16 Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are ever before Me.
17 Your builders[g] 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 [h] 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 face-down 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 a tyrant[i] 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, the Mighty One of Jacob."

50

Israel's Sin

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."

[a] **49:1** Or *coastlands*

[b] **49:6** Cited in Acts 13:47

[c] **49:8** LXX *In the time of favor I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped You;*cited in 2 Corinthians 6:2

[d] **49:10** Cited in Revelation 7:16

[e] **49:12** Or *from the sea*

[f] **49:12** That is, a region in southern Egypt (from DSS); MT *the land of Sinim*

[g] **49:17** DSS; MT *Your sons*

[h] **49:22** Hebrew *in their bosom*

[i] **49:24** DSS, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also verse 25); MT *of the righteous*

The Servant's Obedience

(Matthew 27:27–31; Mark 15:16–20; Luke 22:63–65; John 19:1–15)

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

Salvation for Zion

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 salvation is on the
way, and My arms will bring justice to the nations.
The islands[a] 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 salvation 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 salvation through all generations."
9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD.
Wake up as in days past, 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 establish[b] the
heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You
are My people.'"

God's Fury Removed

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? Who can comfort you?[c]
20 Your sons have fainted; they lie at the head of every
street, like an antelope in a net. 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

Deliverance for Jerusalem

1 Awake, awake, clothe yourself with strength, O Zion!
Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, holy

[a] **51:5** Or *coastlands*

[b] **51:16** Or *to plant*

[c] **51:19** DSS, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; MT *How can I comfort you?*

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 taunt,[a] declares the LORD, and My
name is blasphemed continually all day long.[b]
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,[c] who proclaim peace, who
bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, 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 re-
deemed 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
salvation of our God.
11 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean
thing;[d] 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.

The Servant Exalted

(Philippians 2:5–11)

13 Behold, My Servant will prosper;[e] He will be raised
and lifted up and highly exalted.
14 Just as many were appalled at Him[f] — His appear-
ance was disfigured beyond that of any man, and His
form was marred beyond human likeness—
15 so He will sprinkle[g] 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.[h]

53

The Suffering Servant

(Acts 8:26–40; 1 Peter 2:21–25)

1 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the
arm of the LORD been revealed?[i]
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 sor-
rows, acquainted with grief. Like one from whom
men hide their faces, He was despised, and we es-
teemed Him not.
4 Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our
sorrows;[j] yet we considered Him stricken, struck
down by God, and afflicted.
5 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was
crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that
brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes
we are healed.[k]
6 We all like sheep have gone astray,[l] 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;[m] He was stricken for
the transgression of My people.

A Grave Assigned

(Matthew 27:57–61; Mark 15:42–47; Luke 23:50–56; John 19:38–42)

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.[n]
10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush Him and to cause
Him to suffer; and when His soul is made a guilt
offering,[o] 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 the light
of life[p] and be satisfied. By His knowledge My right-
eous Servant will justify many, and He will bear their
iniquities.
12 Therefore I will allot Him a portion with the great,

[a] **52:5** DSS and Vulgate; MT *wail*

[b] **52:5** LXX *—on account of you My name is blasphemed continually among the Gentiles*; cited in Romans 2:24

[c] **52:7** Cited in Romans 10:15

[d] **52:11** Cited in 2 Corinthians 6:17

[e] **52:13** Or *will act wisely*

[f] **52:14** Syriac; Hebrew *at You*

[g] **52:15** Or *startle*

[h] **52:15** LXX *For those who were not told will see, and those who have not heard will understand.*Cited in Romans 15:21

[i] **53:1** Cited in John 12:38 and Romans 10:16

[j] **53:4** LXX *This One bears our sins and is pained for us*; cited in Matthew 8:17 and 1 Peter 2:24

[k] **53:5** Cited in 1 Peter 2:24

[l] **53:6** Cited in 1 Peter 2:25

[m] **53:8** LXX *In humiliation He was deprived of justice. Who can recount His descendants? For His life was removed from the earth;*cited in Acts 8:32–33.

[n] **53:9** Cited in 1 Peter 2:22

[o] **53:10** Or *and though He makes His life a guilt offering*

[p] **53:11** DSS (see also LXX); MT does not include *the light of life.*

[q] **53:12** Or *many*

[q] and He will divide the spoils with the strong,[a]
because He has poured out His life unto death, and
He was numbered with the transgressors.[b] Yet He
bore the sin of many and made intercession for the
transgressors.

54

Future Blessings for Zion

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,"[c] says the LORD.
2 "Enlarge the site of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, do not hold back. Lengthen your ropes and drive your stakes in deep.[d]
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 to Me this is like the days of Noah,[e] 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.[f]
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,[g] and great will be their prosperity.
14 In righteousness you will be established, far from oppression, 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

Invitation to the Needy

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 your soul may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant — My loving devotion promised to David.[h]
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[i] 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."

[a] **53:12** Or *numerous*
[b] **53:12** Cited in Luke 22:37
[c] **54:1** Cited in Galatians 4:27
[d] **54:2** Or *and strengthen your stakes*
[e] **54:9** Some manuscripts *For this is like the waters of Noah*
[f] **54:11** Or *lapis lazuli*
[g] **54:13** Cited in John 6:45
[h] **55:3** Cited in Acts 13:34
[i] **55:13** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

56

Salvation for Foreigners

1 This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do
what is right, for My salvation 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 with-
out profaning it 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 offer-
ings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar, for
My house will be called a house of prayer[a] for all
the nations."
8 Thus declares the Lord GOD, who gathers the dis-
persed of Israel: "I will gather to them still others
besides those already gathered."

Israel's Sinful Leaders

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

The Blessed Death of the Righteous

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.

God Condemns Idolatry

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 trans-
gression, 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 Molech[b] with oil and multiplied your
perfumes. You have sent your envoys[c] a great dis-
tance; 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 de-
liver 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."

Healing for the Repentant

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.
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

True Fasts and Sabbaths

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.

[a] **56:7** Cited in Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, and Luke 19:46

[b] **57:9** Or *to the king*

[c] **57:9** Or *idols*

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 no-
ticed?" "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 hon-
orable, 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

Sin Separates Us from God

(Psalm 14:1–7; Psalm 53:1–6; Romans 3:9–20)

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 hon-
estly. 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[a] lie in their wake.
8 The way of peace they have not known,[b] 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, grop-
ing 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 salvation, 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 be-
comes prey. The LORD looked and was displeased[c]
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 salvation, and His own righteousness
sustained Him.
17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and the
helmet of salvation on His head; He put on garments
of vengeance and wrapped Himself in a cloak of zeal.

The Covenant of the Redeemer

18 So He will repay according to their deeds: fury to His
enemies, retribution to His foes, and recompense to
the islands.[d]
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.[e]

[a] **59:7** LXX *misery*

[b] **59:8** Cited in Romans 3:15–17

[c] **59:15** Hebrew *and it was evil in His eyes*

[d] **59:18** Or *coastlands*

[e] **59:19** Or *When the enemy comes like a raging flood, the Spirit of the LORD will drive him back*

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob
who turn from transgression,[a] " declares the LORD.
21 "As for Me, this is My covenant with them,"[b] says
the LORD. "My Spirit will not depart from you,[c]
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

Future Glory for Zion

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, bearing gold and frankincense and proclaim-
ing 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 al-
tar with acceptance; I will adorn My glorious house.
8 Who are these who fly like clouds, like doves to their
shelters?
9 Surely the islands[d] will wait for Me, with the ships of
Tarshish[e] 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,
[f] 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 everlast-
ing 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, 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 Salvation and your gates Praise.
19 No longer will the sun be your light by day, nor the
brightness of the moon shine on your night;[g] for the
LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God
will be your splendor.[h]
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

The Year of the LORD's Favor

(Luke 4:16–30)

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,[i]
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor[j] 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 mourn-
ing, and a garment of praise for a spirit of despair. So
they will be called oaks of righteousness, the plant-
ing 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 ru-
ined cities, the desolations of many generations.
5 Strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and for-
eigners 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 por-
tion, and instead of humiliation, they will rejoice in

[a] **59:20** LXX *to remove godlessness from Jacob*; cited in Romans 11:26

[b] **59:21** Cited in Romans 11:27

[c] **59:21** Literally *My Spirit, who is upon you,*

[d] **60:9** Or *coastlands*

[e] **60:9** Or *a fleet of trading ships*

[f] **60:13** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

[g] **60:19** DSS, LXX, and Targum Yonaton; MT *shine on you*

[h] **60:19** Or *your beauty*

[i] **61:1** Hebrew; LXX *to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind*; cited in Luke 4:18

[j] **61:2** Or *to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD*; cited in Luke 4:19

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 salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteous-
ness, 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

Zion's Salvation and New Name

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for
Jerusalem's sake I will not keep still, until her right-
eousness shines like a bright light, her salvation 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,[a] nor your land
named Desolate;[b] but you will be called Hephzibah,
[c] and your land Beulah;[d] for the LORD will take
delight in you, and your land will be His bride.
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 rec-
ompense goes before Him."
12 And they will be called the Holy People, the Re-
deemed of The LORD; and you will be called Sought
Out, A City Not Forsaken.

63

God's Vengeance on the Nations

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,[e] mighty to save."
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 salva-
tion, 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."

God's Mercies Recalled

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[f] 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?
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.

A Prayer for Mercy

(Jeremiah 14:19–22)

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.

[a] **62:4** Hebrew *Azubah*

[b] **62:4** Hebrew *Shemamah*

[c] **62:4** *Hephzibah* means *My delight is in her*.

[d] **62:4** *Beulah* means *married*.

[e] **63:1** Or *It is I, speaking in righteousness,*

[f] **63:9** Or *angel of His presence*

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 Everlast-
ing 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 sanctu-
ary.
19 We have become like those You never ruled, like
those not called by Your name.

64

A Prayer for God's Power

1 If only You would rend the heavens and come down,
so that mountains would quake at Your presence,
2 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!
3 When You did awesome works that we did not expect,
You came down, and the mountains trembled at
Your presence.
4 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.[a]
5 You welcome those who gladly do right, who remem-
ber Your ways. Surely You were angry, for we sinned.
How can we be saved if we remain in our sins?
6 Each of us has become like something unclean, and
all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;[b] we all
wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away
like the wind.
7 No one calls on Your name or strives to take hold
of You. For You have hidden Your face from us and
delivered us into the hand[c] of our iniquity.
8 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.
9 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!
10 Your holy cities have become a wilderness. Zion has
become a wasteland and Jerusalem a desolation.
11 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.
12 After all this, O LORD, will You restrain Yourself?
Will You keep silent and afflict us beyond measure?

65

Judgments and Promises

(Romans 10:1–21)

1 "I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me;
I was found by those who did not seek Me.[d] To a
nation that did not call My name, I said, 'Here I am!
Here I am!'
2 All day long I have held out My hands to an obstinate
people[e] 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 mea-
sure into their laps full payment for their former
deeds."
8 This is what the LORD says: "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 from Judah; My elect will possess My moun-
tains,[f] 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[g] and fill
bowls of mixed wine for Destiny,[h]
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 ser-
vants 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.

[a] **64:4** Cited in 1 Corinthians 2:9

[b] **64:6** Or *like a stained menstrual garment*

[c] **64:7** LXX, Syriac, and Targum Yonaton; MT *have made us melt in the hand*

[d] **65:1** Cited in Romans 10:20

[e] **65:2** LXX *to a disobedient and obstinate people*; cited in Romans 10:21

[f] **65:9** Or *and heirs to My mountains out of Judah; My elect will possess them*

[g] **65:11** Hebrew *Gad*, the Babylonian god of fortune

[h] **65:11** Hebrew *Meni*, the Babylonian god of fate

[a] **65:17** LXX *a new heaven and a new earth*; see also Isaiah 66:22 and Revelation 21:1.

A New Heaven and a New Earth

(Revelation 21:1–8)

17 For behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.[a] The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever 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[b] will be dust. They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

66

Heaven Is My Throne

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?[c] 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.
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!

Rejoice with Jerusalem

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.

Final Judgments against the Wicked

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[d] 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, Put, and the archers of Lud; to Tubal, Javan, and the islands[e] 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.

[a] **66:22** LXX *the new heaven and the new earth*; see also Isaiah 65:17 and Revelation 21:1.

[b] **65:25** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

[c] **66:2** Cited in Acts 7:49–50

[d] **66:18** Literally *And I, their deeds and their thoughts, am coming*

[e] **66:19** Or *coastlands*

22 “For just as the new heavens and the new earth,[a]
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 Sab-
bath 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,[b] and
they will be a horror to all mankind.”

[b] **66:24** Cited in Mark 9:48

Jeremiah

Book of Jeremiah

1

The Call of 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 thir-
teenth 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[a] 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 king-
doms of the north," declares the LORD. "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.[b] Stand up and tell them every-
thing 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 forti-
fied 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

Israel Has Forsaken God

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 worth-
less 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.
8 The priests did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?' The
experts in the law no longer knew Me, and the lead-
ers 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[c] 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[d] for useless idols.
12 Be stunned by this, O heavens; be shocked and ut-
terly 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.

The Consequence of Israel's Sin

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[e] and Tahpanhes have shaved
the crown of your head.

[a] **1:12** The Hebrew for *watching* sounds like the Hebrew for *almond tree*.

[b] **1:17** Hebrew *Gird up your loins.*

[c] **2:10** Hebrew *Kittim*

[d] **2:11** Or *their glorious God*

[e] **2:16** LXX; Hebrew *Noph*

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[a] ? What will you gain
on your way to Assyria to drink the waters of the
Euphrates[b] ?
19 Your own evil will discipline you; your own apos-
tasies will reprimand you. Consider and realize how
evil and bitter it is for you to forsake the LORD your
God and to have no fear of Me," declares the Lord
GOD of Hosts.
20 "For long ago you broke your yoke and tore off your
chains, saying, 'I will not serve!' 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.

Israel's Unfaithfulness

(Judges 2:10–15; Isaiah 43:22–28)

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 them-
selves; 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.
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 im-
moral 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

The Wages of the Harlot

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."

Judah Follows Israel's Example

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 She saw[c] 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.

A Call to Repentance

(Hosea 14:1–3; Zechariah 1:1–6)

11 And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has
shown herself more righteous than unfaithful Ju-
dah.
12 Go, proclaim this message toward the north: 'Re-
turn, 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.

[a] **2:18** Hebrew *of Shihor*, a branch of the Nile River

[b] **2:18** Hebrew *the River*

[c] **3:8** DSS, one LXX manuscript, and Syriac; MT *I saw*

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 understand-
ing."
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.
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 inheri-
tance 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 commo-
tion from the mountains. Surely the salvation 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

A Plea to Return

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, be-
cause of your evil deeds."

Disaster from the North

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 offi-
cials 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 peo-
ple, 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, be-
cause 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!"

Lamentation for Judah

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 I 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. 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

No One Is Just

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 every-
one 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 for-
saken 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 their own predictions befall them.[a] "

Judgment Proclaimed

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 estab-
lished 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:
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 ap-
pointed 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?

[a] **5:13** Literally *let this befall them.*

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

Jerusalem's Final Warning

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.[a]
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: "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,[b] 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.
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."

An Invasion from the North

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 spear;[c] 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."
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,[d] 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

Jeremiah's Message at the Temple Gate

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.

[a] **6:2** Or *To a lovely and delicate woman I have likened the Daughter of Zion*
[b] **6:10** Hebrew *uncircumcised*
[c] **6:23** Or *javelin*
[d] **6:27** Or *to examine My people, a fortress*

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 father-
less 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 per-
jury, burn incense to Baal, and follow other gods that
you have not known,
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[a] 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[b] 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.

Judah's Idolatry Persists

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 sacri-
fices 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.[c]
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.'

The Valley of Slaughter

30 For the people of Judah have done evil in My sight,
declares the LORD. They have set up their abomina-
tions 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 com-
manded, 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 Slaugh-
ter. 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

Judah's Sin and Punishment

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.

[a] **7:11** Cited in Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, and Luke 19:46

[b] **7:13** Literally *I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,*

[c] **7:25** Literally *I have sent you all My servants the prophets daily, rising up early and sending (them).*

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 sea-
sons. The turtledove, the swift, and the thrush[a] 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 Law of the
LORD is with us,’ when in fact the lying pen of the
scribes 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 take away their harvest, 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.”

The People Respond

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.

Jeremiah Weeps for His People

18 My sorrow is beyond healing;[b] 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 worth-
less 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?

9

A Lament over Zion

1 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.
2 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 peo-
ple.
3 “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.
4 “Let everyone guard against his neighbor; do not
trust any brother, for every brother deals craftily,
and every friend spreads slander.
5 Each one betrays his friend; no one tells the truth.
They have taught their tongues to lie; they wear
themselves out committing iniquity.
6 You dwell[c] in the midst of deception; in their deceit
they refuse to know Me,” declares the LORD.
7 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “Be-
hold, I will refine them and test them, for what else
can I do because of[d] the daughter of My people?
8 Their tongues are deadly arrows; they speak decep-
tion. With his mouth a man speaks peace to his
neighbor, but in his heart he sets a trap for him.
9 Should I not punish them for these things? declares
the LORD. Should I not avenge Myself on such a
nation as this?”
10 I will take up a weeping and wailing for the moun-
tains, 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.
11 “And I will make Jerusalem a heap of rubble, a haunt
for jackals;[e] and I will make the cities of Judah a
desolation, without inhabitant.”
12 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?
13 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.
14 Instead, they have followed the stubbornness of
their hearts and gone after the Baals, as their fathers
taught them.”
15 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says: “Behold, I will feed this people worm-
wood and give them poisoned water to drink.

[a] **8:7** The precise identification of some of these birds is uncertain.

[b] **8:18** Or *O my Comforter in sorrow,*

[c] **9:6** That is, Jeremiah dwells (the Hebrew is singular)

[d] **9:7** LXX *because of the wickedness of*

[e] **9:11** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

16 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."
17 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Take note,
and summon the wailing women; send for the most
skillful among them.
18 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.
19 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.'"
20 Now, O women, hear the word of the LORD. Open
your ears to the word of His mouth. Teach your
daughters to wail, and one another to lament.
21 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.
22 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."
23 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.
24 But let him who boasts boast in this, that he under-
stands and knows Me, that I am the LORD,[a] who
exercises loving devotion,[b] justice and righteous-
ness on the earth — for I delight in these things,"
declares the LORD.
25 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will punish all who are circumcised only in
the flesh—
26 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

The Sovereignty of God

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 can-
not speak. They must be carried because they cannot
walk. 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, in-
structed 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."[c]
12 The LORD made the earth by His power; He estab-
lished 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.

The Coming Captivity of Judah

17 Gather up your belongings from this land, you who
live under siege.
18 For this is what the LORD says: "Behold, at this time
I will sling out the inhabitants of the land and bring
distress upon them so that they may be captured."
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 pros-
pered, 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.[d]
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 ac-
knowledge You, and on the families that do not call
on Your name. For they have devoured Jacob; they

[a] **9:24** Cited in 1 Corinthians 1:31 and 2 Corinthians 10:17

[b] **9:24** 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*.

[c] **10:11** The original text of this verse is in Aramaic.

[d] **10:22** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

have consumed him and finished him off; they have devastated his homeland.

11

The Broken Covenant

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." "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,[a] 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."

A Plot against Jeremiah

(Jeremiah 18:18–23)

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[b] and mind, let me see Your vengeance upon them, 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

The Prosperity of the Wicked

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.[c]
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."

God's Answer to Jeremiah

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.

[a] **11:7** Literally *I earnestly warned them, rising up early and warning (them),*

[b] **11:20** Hebrew *the kidneys*

[c] **12:2** Hebrew *their kidneys*

8 My inheritance has become to Me like a lion in the
forest. She has roared against Me; therefore I hate
her.
9 Is not My inheritance to Me like a speckled bird of
prey with other birds of prey[a] 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."

A Message for Israel's Neighbors

(Amos 1:1–15)

14 This is what the LORD says: "As for all My evil neigh-
bors 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 peo-
ple 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

The Linen Loincloth

1 This is what the LORD said to me: "Go and buy your-
self 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[b] and hide it there in a
crevice of the rocks."
5 So I went and hid it at Perath, as the LORD had com-
manded 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:
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.

The Wineskins

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.'"

Captivity Threatened

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.[c]
23 Can the Ethiopian[d] change his skin, or the leopard
his spots? Neither are you able to do good — you who
are accustomed to doing evil.

[a] **12:9** Or *like a speckled hyena with birds of prey*

[b] **13:4** Or possibly *to the Euphrates*; similarly in verses 5–7

[c] **13:22** Literally *and your heels have suffered violence*

[d] **13:23** Hebrew *that Cushite* ; that is, probably a person from the upper Nile region

24 “I will scatter you 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 shame-
less 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

Drought, Famine, Sword, and Plague

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;[a] their eyes fail for lack of pasture.”
7 Although our iniquities testify against us, O LORD, act
for the sake of Your name. 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 over-
flow 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.’”

A Prayer for Mercy

(Isaiah 63:15–19)

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

Judgment to Continue

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;[b] 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.

[a] **14:6** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[b] **15:2** See Revelation 13:10.

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 ene-
mies," declares the LORD.

Jeremiah's Woe

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 enslave you to your enemies in a land[a]
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 words
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 cele-
brate with them. Because Your hand was on me, I sat
alone, for You have filled me with indignation.
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.

The LORD's Promise

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

Disaster Predicted

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 him-
self 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 bride-
groom.
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.'

God Will Restore Israel

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 ban-
ished 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."

[a] **15:14** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also Jeremiah 17:4); most Hebrew manuscripts *Then I will cause your enemies to bring you into a land*

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

The Sin and Punishment of Judah

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 their 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. I will enslave you to your enemies in a
land that you do not know, for you have kindled 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[a] 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 fear 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[b]
to reward a man according to his way, 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."

Jeremiah's Prayer for Deliverance

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.
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.

Restoring the Sabbath

(Nehemiah 13:15–22)

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,[c] 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

The Potter and the Clay

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.

[a] **17:5** Hebrew *arm*

[b] **17:10** Hebrew *kidneys*

[c] **17:26** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

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 king-
dom will be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed.
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 resi-
dents of Jerusalem that this is what the LORD says:
'Behold, I am planning a disaster for you and devis-
ing 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."

Another Plot against Jeremiah

(Jeremiah 11:18–23)

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 hus-
bands 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

The Broken Jar

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 fa-
thers 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 — some-
thing 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 Slaugh-
ter.
7 And in this place I will ruin[a] 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.[b] 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 daugh-
ters, 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 burned incense
to all the host of heaven and poured out drink offer-
ings to other gods."
14 Then Jeremiah returned from Topheth, where the
LORD had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the

[a] **19:7** The Hebrew term for *ruin* sounds like the Hebrew for *jar*; see verses 1 and 10.
[b] **19:8** Literally *and a hissing*

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

Pashhur Persecutes Jeremiah

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.[a]
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.'"

Jeremiah's Complaint

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 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[b] 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

Jerusalem Will Fall to Babylon

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 Nebuchadnezzar[c] king of Babylon is waging war against us. Perhaps the LORD will perform for us something like all His past wonders, so that Nebuchadnezzar 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[d] 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.'
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 Nebuchadnezzar 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.'

A Message to the House of David

11 Moreover, tell the house of the king of Judah to hear the word of the LORD.

[a] **20:3** *Magor-missabib* means *terror on every side* or *the man who lives in terror*.
[b] **20:12** Hebrew *kidneys*
[c] **21:2** Hebrew *Nebuchadrezzar*, a variant of *Nebuchadnezzar* (king of Babylon), which occurs frequently in Jeremiah. The latter spelling is used throughout Jeremiah for consistency.
[d] **21:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 9

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 their 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

A Warning to Judah’s Kings

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 offi-
cials 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.’”

A Warning about the Palace

6 For this is what the LORD says concerning the house
of the king of Judah: “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 wor-
shiped and served other gods.’”

A Warning about Shallum

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
[a] 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.”

A Warning about Jehoiakim

13 “Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteous-
ness, 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[b] 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!’
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 wicked-
ness.
23 O inhabitant of Lebanon,[c] nestled in the cedars,
how you will groan when pangs of anguish come
upon you, agony like a woman in labor.”

A Warning to Coniah

24 “As surely as I live,” declares the LORD, “evenif you,
Coniah[d] 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 Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon and to the Chaldeans.[e]
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 You will never return to the land for which you
long.”
28 Is this man Coniah a despised and shattered pot, a
jar that no one wants? Why are he and his descen-
dants 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.”

[a] **22:11** *Shallum* was also called *Jehoahaz*.

[b] **22:15** Or *because you enclose yourself*

[c] **22:23** That is, the palace in Jerusalem; see 1 Kings 7:2.

[d] **22:24** *Coniah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; also in verse 28.

[e] **22:25** That is, the Babylonians

23

David's Righteous Branch

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.
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[a] 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 Our Righteousness.[b]
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."

Lying Prophets

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 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 con-
cerning 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.
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.

False Prophecies

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.'

[a] **23:5** Or *up for David's line*

[b] **23:6** Hebrew *YHWH Tsidqenu*

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

The Good and Bad Figs

1 After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away Jeconiah[a] 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,[b] 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?” “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.[c]
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

Seventy Years of Captivity

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 Nebuchadnezzar 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,[d] but you have not listened.
4 And the LORD has sent all His servants the prophets to you again and again,[e] 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 Nebuchadnezzar 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[f] and make them an object of horror and contempt, an everlasting desolation.
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,[g] 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.’”

[a] **24:1** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.
[b] **24:1** Or *metalsmiths, and had brought them from Jerusalem to Babylon*
[c] **24:5** That is, the Babylonians
[d] **25:3** Literally *I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,*
[e] **25:4** Literally *to you, rising up early and sending (them),*
[f] **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.
[g] **25:12** That is, the Babylonians

The Cup of God's Wrath

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 offi-
cials;
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[a]
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; 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 be-
cause 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! Dis-
aster 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.

[a] **25:26** *Sheshach* is a code name for Babylon.

The Cry of the Shepherds

34 Wail, you shepherds, and cry out; roll in the dust,
you leaders of the flock. For the days of your slaugh-
ter have come; you will fall and be shattered like fine
pottery.[b]
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 sword[c] of the oppressor,
and because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

26

A Warning to the Cities of Judah

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
[d] 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.'"

Jeremiah Threatened with Death

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 assem-
bled 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.
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

[b] **25:34** Hebrew; LXX *you will fall like the best of the rams*

[c] **25:38** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX (see also Jeremiah 46:16 and Jeremiah 50:16); most Hebrew manuscripts *anger*

[d] **26:5** Literally *I have sent you, rising up early and sending (them),*

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."

Jeremiah Spared from Death

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.'[a]
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!"

The Prophet Uriah

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.[b]
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.
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

The Yoke of Nebuchadnezzar

1 At the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah[c] son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD.[d]
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 Send word 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, 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[e] son of Jehoiakim king of

[a] **26:18** Micah 3:12

[b] **26:20** Literally *according to all the words of Jeremiah*

[c] **27:1** A few Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac (see also verses 3 and 12, and Jeremiah 28:1); most Hebrew manuscripts *Jehoiakim*

[d] **27:1** Most LXX manuscripts do not include this verse.

[e] **27:20** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

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

Hananiah's False Prophecy

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[a] 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 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.
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

Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles

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,[b] 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."[c]
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.
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 you from captivity[d] and gather you from all

[a] **28:4** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

[b] **29:2** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

[c] **29:9** Some translators close the written portion of this letter later in the chapter.

[d] **29:14** Or *restore your fortunes*

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[a] 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 Nebuchadnezzar 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."

The Message to Shemaiah

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. You said to Zephaniah:[b]
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 (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

The Restoration of Israel and Judah

(Ezekiel 28:25–26)

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 from captivity[c] 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 the yoke off their necks and tear off their bonds, and no longer will strangers enslave them.
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, 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.

[a] **29:19** Literally *I sent to them, rising up early and sending (to them)*

[b] **29:25** Hebrew *You said*; the addressee *Zephaniah* is added for clarity.

[c] **30:3** Or *restore the fortunes of*

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 for-
tunes of[a] 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.
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

Mourning Turned to Joy

(Matthew 2:16–18)

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 us in the past, saying:[b] "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 Vir-
gin 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!
9 They will come with weeping, and by their supplica-
tion 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 weep-
ing for her children and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."[c]
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[d] moaning: 'You dis-
ciplined me severely, 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 in-
structed, 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 re-
member him. Therefore My heart yearns for him;[e] 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[f] a man."
23 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel,
says: "When I restore them from captivity,[g] they
will once again speak this word in the land of Judah
and in its cities: 'May the LORD bless you, O right-
eous dwelling place, O holy mountain.'

[a] **30:18** Or *restore from captivity*

[b] **31:3** Or *The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying*

[c] **31:15** Cited in Matthew 2:18

[d] **31:18** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 20

[e] **31:20** Hebrew *My bowels yearn for him*

[f] **31:22** Or *will surround* or *will return to*

[g] **31:23** Or *restore their fortunes*

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."

The New Covenant

(Hebrews 8:6–13)

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.
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,[a] " 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."[b]
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,"[c] 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

Jeremiah Buys Hanamel's Field

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 Nebuchadnezzar.
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.
4 Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape from the hands of the Chaldeans,[d] 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.[e]
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."

[a] **31:32** Hebrew; LXX *for they did not abide in My covenant, and I disregarded them*; see also Syriac.
[b] **31:34** Cited in Hebrews 8:8–12 and Hebrews 10:16–17
[c] **31:38** Literally *Behold, the days*; alternate MT reading *Behold, the days are coming*
[d] **32:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 5, 24, 25, 28, 29, and 43
[e] **32:9** *17 shekels* is approximately 6.8 ounces or 193.8 grams of silver.

Jeremiah Prays for Understanding

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[a] 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.
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 your-
self the field with silver and call in witnesses, even
though the city has been delivered into the hands of
the Chaldeans!'"

The LORD Answers Jeremiah

26 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is any-
thing 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 Nebuchadnezzar 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,[b] 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.

A Promise of Restoration

(Ezekiel 11:13–21)

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.[c]
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.
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 Ben-
jamin, in the areas surrounding Jerusalem, and in
the cities of Judah— the cities of the hill country, the
foothills,[d] and the Negev— because I will restore
them from captivity,[e] declares the LORD."

33

The Excellence of the Restored Nation

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 the earth,[f] the LORD
who formed it and established it, the LORD is His
name:

[a] **32:18** Hebrew *into the bosom*

[b] **32:33** Literally *I taught them, rising up early and teaching,*

[c] **32:38** Cited in 2 Corinthians 6:16

[d] **32:44** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[e] **32:44** Or *restore their fortunes*

[f] **33:2** LXX; Hebrew *who made it*

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 The Chaldeans are coming to fight[a] 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 abun-
dance of peace and truth.
7 I will restore Judah and Israel from captivity[b] 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 bring-
ing 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.'
For I will restore the land from captivity[c] 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,[d] 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.

The Covenant with David

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.[e]
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 de-
scendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore them from captiv-
ity[f] and will have compassion on them."

34

A Prophecy against Zedekiah

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD
when Nebuchadnezzar 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, de-
clares 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

[a] **33:5** Or *They are coming to fight the Chaldeans*; that is, the Babylonians

[b] **33:7** Or *restore the fortunes of Judah and Israel*

[c] **33:11** Or *restore the fortunes of the land*

[d] **33:13** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[e] **33:16** Hebrew *YHWH Tsidqenu*

[f] **33:26** Or *restore their fortunes*

— against Lachish and Azekah. For these were the only fortified cities remaining in Judah.

Freedom for Hebrew Slaves

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 menservants and maidservants and no longer hold them in bondage. They obeyed and released them,
11 but later they changed their minds and took back the menservants and maidservants 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 menservants and maidservants 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

The Obedience of the Rechabites

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[a] 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 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched into the land, we said: 'Come, let us go into Jerusalem to escape the armies of the Chaldeans[b] and the Arameans.' So we have remained in Jerusalem."

Judah Rebuked

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.
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,[c] and you have not obeyed Me!
15 Again and again I have sent you[d] 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

[a] **35:6** *Jonadab* is a variant of *Jehonadab*; here and throughout this chapter; see 2 Kings 10:15.
[b] **35:11** That is, the Babylonians
[c] **35:14** Literally *But I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,*
[d] **35:15** Literally *Rising up early and sending (you), I have sent you*

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

Jeremiah's Scroll Read in the Temple

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.
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.

Jeremiah's Scroll Read in the Palace

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."

Jehoiakim Burns the Scroll

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.

Jeremiah Rewrites the Scroll

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

Jeremiah Warns Zedekiah

1 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made Zedekiah son of Josiah the king of Judah, and he reigned in place of Coniah[a] 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[b] 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[c] 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."

Jeremiah Imprisoned

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[d] 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.
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

Jeremiah Cast into the Cistern

1 Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jucal[e] 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[f] 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.

[a] **37:1** *Coniah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*.
[b] **37:3** *Jehucal* is a variant of *Jucal*; see Jeremiah 38:1.
[c] **37:5** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 8, 9, 13, and 14
[d] **37:12** Literally *to divide from there*
[e] **38:1** *Jucal* is a variant of *Jehucal*; see Jeremiah 37:3.
[f] **38:2** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 18, 19, and 23

7 Now Ebed-melech the Cushite,[a] a court official[b] 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 Jere-
miah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies."
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 Baby-
lon, 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 peti-
tion that he not return me to the house of Jonathan
to die there.'"
27 When all the officials came to Jeremiah and ques-
tioned 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 conver-
sation.
28 And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the
guard until the day Jerusalem was captured.

39

The Fall of Jerusalem

(2 Kings 25:1–12; 2 Chronicles 36:15–21)

1 In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in
the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar 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 en-
tered and sat in the Middle Gate: Nergal-sharezer
of Samgar, Nebo-sarsekim[c] the Rabsaris,[d] Nergal-
sharezer the Rabmag,[e] and all the rest of the offi-
cials 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.[f]
5 But the army of the Chaldeans[g] pursued them and
overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. They
seized him and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar
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 re-

[a] **38:7** Probably from the upper Nile region

[b] **38:7** Or *eunuch*

[c] **39:3** Or *Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsekim*

[d] **39:3** Hebrew *Rabsaris* is the title of the chief eunuch in the Assyrian military; also in verse 13.

[e] **39:3** Hebrew *Rabmag* is the title of the chief soothsayer or chief of princes in the Assyrian military; also in verse 13.

[f] **39:4** Or *the Jordan Valley*

[g] **39:5** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 8

mained in the city, along with the deserters who had defected to him.
10 But Nebuzaradan 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.

Jeremiah Delivered

11 Now Nebuchadnezzar 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 [a] 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:
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

Jeremiah Remains in Judah

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.

Gedaliah Governs in Judah

(2 Kings 25:22–24)

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[b] 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.[c] 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,
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.

The Plot against Gedaliah

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."

[a] **39:13** *Nebushazban* is possibly a variant of *Nebo-sarsekim*; see verse 3.

[b] **40:8** *Jezaniah* is a variant of *Jaazaniah*; see 2 Kings 25:23.

[c] **40:9** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 10

41

The Murder of Gedaliah

(2 Kings 25:25–26)

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 ap-
pointed to govern the land.
3 Ishmael also killed all the Jews who were with
Gedaliah at Mizpah, as well as the Chaldean[a] sol-
diers 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 offer-
ings 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 a large one that King Asa had made for
fear of Baasha king of Israel. Ishmael son of Netha-
niah 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.

Johanan Rescues the Captives

11 When Johanan son of Kareah and all the comman-
ders 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 comman-
ders 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 court officials[b] 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.[c] 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

A Warning against Going to Egypt

1 Then all the commanders of the forces, along with
Johanan son of Kareah, Jezaniah[d] 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 Jere-
miah,
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.
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,

[a] **41:3** Or *Babylonian*

[b] **41:16** Or *eunuchs*

[c] **41:18** That is, the Babylonians

[d] **42:1** Hebrew; LXX *Azariah*; see Jeremiah 43:2.

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, 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 vilifica-
tion 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

Jeremiah Taken to Egypt

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,[a] so
that they may put us to death or exile us to Babylon!"
4 So Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of
the forces disobeyed the command of the LORD to
stay in the land of Judah.
5 Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the comman-
ders 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 daugh-
ters, and everyone whom Nebuzaradan captain of
the guard had allowed to remain with 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 Tah-
panhes:
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
Nebuchadnezzar 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.[b] 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 the temple of
the sun in the land of Egypt,[c] and he will burn down
the temples of the gods of Egypt.'"

44

Judgment on the Jews in Egypt

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah concerning
all the Jews living in the land of Egypt[d] — in Migdol,
Tahpanhes, and Memphis[e] — and in the land of
Pathros:[f]
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,[g] 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

[a] **43:3** That is, the Babylonians

[b] **43:12** Literally *and he will burn them and take them captive*

[c] **43:13** LXX *He will demolish the pillars of Heliopolis in On* or *He will demolish the pillars of Heliopolis in Egypt*; Hebrew *He will demolish the pillars of Beth-shemesh in the land of Egypt*

[d] **44:1** Or *Lower Egypt* or *northern Egypt*; also in verse 15

[e] **44:1** LXX; Hebrew *Noph*

[f] **44:1** Or *Upper Egypt* or *southern Egypt*; also in verse 15

[g] **44:4** Literally *the prophets, rising up early and sending (them),*

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.
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."

The Stubbornness of the People

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,[a] 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?"

Calamity for the Jews

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.
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 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the enemy who was seeking his life."

45

Jeremiah's Message to Baruch

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.'"

[a] **44:15** That is, in Lower and Upper Egypt; possibly *in the land of Egypt at Pathros*

4 Thus Jeremiah was to say to Baruch:[a] "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

Judgment on Egypt

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 Nebuchadnezzar king of Baby-
lon 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 posi-
tions with helmets on! Polish your spears; put on
armor!
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 es-
cape! 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[b] 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 Nebuchadnezzar king
of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt:
14 "Announce it in Egypt, and proclaim it in Migdol;
proclaim it in Memphis[c] 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 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,[d] 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,[e] 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 Nebuchadnezzar 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, de-
clares the LORD, for I am with you. 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

Judgment on the Philistines

(Zephaniah 2:4–7)

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.

[a] **45:4** Literally *Thus you shall say to him:*

[b] **46:9** That is, the upper Nile region

[c] **46:14** LXX; Hebrew *Noph*; also in verse 19

[d] **46:22** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

[e] **46:25** Hebrew *Amon of No*

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.[a]
5 The people of Gaza will shave their heads in mourning; Ashkelon will be silenced. O remnant of their valley,[b] 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

Judgment on Moab

(Isaiah 15:1–9)

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.
2 There is no longer praise for Moab; in Heshbon[c] they devise evil against her: 'Come, let us cut her off from nationhood.' You too, O people of Madmen,[d] 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.[e]
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 a juniper in the desert.[f] '
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 Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste;[g] 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.
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,[h] 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.
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.[i]
32 I will weep for you, O vine of Sibmah, more than I weep for Jazer. Your tendrils have extended to the sea;[j] they reach even to Jazer.[k] 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

[a] **47:4** That is, Crete

[b] **47:5** That is, the Mediterranean coast or plain

[c] **48:2** The Hebrew for *Heshbon* sounds like the Hebrew for *plot* .

[d] **48:2** The name of the Moabite town *Madmen* sounds like the Hebrew for *silenced*.

[e] **48:4** Hebrew; LXX *her cries are heard as far away as Zoar*

[f] **48:6** Or *like a wild donkey* or *like Aroer*

[g] **48:9** Or *Give wings to Moab, for she would fly away*

[h] **48:21** *Jahzah* is a variant of *Jahaz*; see verse 34.

[i] **48:31** *Kir-heres* is a variant of *Kir-hareseth*; also in verse 36; see Isaiah 16:7.

[j] **48:32** Probably the Dead Sea

[k] **48:32** Two Hebrew manuscripts and LXX; most Hebrew manuscripts *to the Sea of Jazer*

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! 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 Moab from captivity,[a] " declares the LORD. Here ends the judgment on Moab.

49

Judgment on the Ammonites

1 Concerning the Ammonites, this is what the LORD says: "Has Israel no sons? Is he without heir? Why then has Milcom[b] 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.
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 Milcom will go into exile together with his priests and officials.
4 Why do you boast of your valleys— your valleys so fruitful,[c] 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 Ammonites from captivity,[d] " declares the LORD.

Judgment on Edom

(Obadiah 1:1–14)

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; 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,[e] 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?"

[a] **48:47** Or *restore the fortunes of Moab*

[b] **49:1** Or *their king*; *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; also in verse 3; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7.

[c] **49:4** Or *your valleys flowing*

[d] **49:6** Or *restore the fortunes of the Ammonites*

[e] **49:16** Or *of Sela*

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 made desolate because of them.[a]
21 At the sound of their fall the earth will quake; their cry will resound to the Red Sea.[b]
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.

Judgment on Damascus

(Isaiah 17:1–14)

23 Concerning Damascus: "Hamath and Arpad are put to shame, for they have heard a bad report; they are agitated like the sea;[c] their anxiety cannot be calmed.
24 Damascus has become feeble; she has turned to flee. Panic has gripped her; 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."

Judgment on Kedar and Hazor

28 Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadnezzar 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 Nebuchadnezzar 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,[d] a desolation forever. No one will dwell there; no man will abide there."

Judgment on Elam

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, 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 last days, I will restore Elam from captivity,[e] " declares the LORD.

50

A Prophecy against Babylon

1 This is the word that the LORD spoke through Jeremiah the prophet concerning Babylon and the land of the Chaldeans:[f]
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."

Hope for Israel and Judah

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, 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[g] will be plundered; all who plunder her will have their fill," declares the LORD.

Babylon's Fall Is Certain

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,

[a] **49:20** Or *their pasture will be appalled at their fate*
[b] **49:21** Or *the Sea of Reeds*
[c] **49:23** Hebrew *on the sea* or *by the sea*
[d] **49:33** Or *serpents* or *dragons*
[e] **49:39** Or *restore the fortunes of Elam*
[f] **50:1** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 8, 25, 35, and 45
[g] **50:10** Or *Babylonia*

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.

Redemption for God's People

17 Israel is a scattered flock, chased away by lions.
The first to devour him was the king of Assyria; the
last to crush his bones was Nebuchadnezzar 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.

The Destruction of Babylon

21 Go up against the land of Merathaim, and against
the residents of Pekod. Kill them[a] and devote them
to destruction.[b] 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 cap-
tured 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. 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.[c]
39 So the desert creatures and hyenas will live there
and ostriches[d] will dwell there. It will never again
be inhabited or lived in from generation to genera-
tion.
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 spear;[e] 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 thick-
ets 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

[a] **50:21** LXX *Avenge, O sword,*

[b] **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.

[c] **50:38** Or *go mad with fear*

[d] **50:39** Literally *daughters of an ostrich* or *daughters of an owl*

[e] **50:42** Or *javelin*

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

Judgment on Babylon

1 This is what the LORD says: "Behold, I will stir up against Babylon and against the people of Leb-kamai[a] the spirit of a destroyer.
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 Do not let the archer bend his bow or put on his armor. Do not spare her young men; devote all her army to destruction![b]
4 And they will fall slain in the land of the Chaldeans,[c] 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![d] 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 — 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."

Praise to the God of Jacob

(Isaiah 25:1–12)

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.

Babylon's Punishment

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[e] 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.

[a] **51:1** *Leb-kamai* is a code name for Chaldea, that is, Babylonia.

[b] **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.

[c] **51:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 54

[d] **51:11** LXX and some translations of the Hebrew; literally *Fill the hand with the shields!* or *Take up the shields!*

[e] **51:24** That is, Babylonia; also in verse 35

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 "Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has devoured
me; 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.[a]
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,[b] 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[c] 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![d] Save your lives, each
of you, from the fierce anger of the LORD.
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."

Jeremiah's Message to Seraiah

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

The Fall of Jerusalem Recounted

(Psalm 74:1–23; Psalm 79:1–13; 2 Kings 24:18–20; 2 Chronicles 36:11–14)

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.

[a] **51:34** Or *expelled me*

[b] **51:37** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[c] **51:41** *Sheshach* is a code name for Babylon.

[d] **51:45** See Revelation 18:4.

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, Nebuchadnezzar 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[a] 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,[b]
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.

The Temple Destroyed

(2 Kings 25:8–17)

12 On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth
year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign over Babylon, Neb-
uzaradan 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 sig-
nificant building.
14 And the whole army of the Chaldeans under the cap-
tain 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 trim-
mers, 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 it, and 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;[c] each was hollow, four
fingers thick.[d]
22 The bronze capital atop one pillar was five cubits
high,[e] 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.

Captives Carried to Babylon

(2 Kings 25:18–21)

24 The captain of the guard also took away Seraiah the
chief priest, Zephaniah the priest of second rank,
and the three doorkeepers.
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 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 Nebuchadnezzar carried away:
in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;
29 in Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year, 832 people
from Jerusalem;
30 in Nebuchadnezzar's twenty-third year, Neb-
uzaradan captain of the guard carried away 745
Jews. So in all, 4,600 people were taken away.

Jehoiachin Released from Prison

(2 Kings 25:27–30)

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[f] 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.

[a] **52:7** That is, the Babylonians; similarly in verses 8, 9, 14, and 17

[b] **52:7** Or *the Jordan Valley*

[c] **52:21** Each pillar was approximately 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference (8.2 meters high and 5.5 meters in circumference).

[d] **52:21** *4 fingers* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.

[e] **52:22** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.

[f] **52:31** Literally *he lifted up the head of*

34 And the king of Babylon provided Jehoiachin a daily portion for the rest of his life, until the day of his death.

Lamentations

Book of Lamentations

1

How Lonely Lies the City!

(2 Kings 24:10–17)

1 How[a] 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 com-
fort 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 she
received no help. Her enemies looked upon her,
laughing at her downfall.
8 Jerusalem has sinned greatly; therefore she has be-
come an object of scorn. All who honored her now
despise her, for they have seen her nakedness;[b] she
herself groans and turns away.
9 Her uncleanness stains her skirts; she did not con-
sider 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 them-
selves 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,[c] knit to-
gether by His hand; they are draped over my neck,
and the Lord has broken my strength. He has deliv-
ered me into the hands of those I cannot withstand.
15 The Lord has rejected all the mighty men in my
midst; He has summoned an army against me[d]
to crush my young warriors. Like grapes in a wine-
press, 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 suf-
fering. 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 as You have dealt with me because of all
my transgressions. For my groans are many, and my
heart is faint.

2

God's Anger over Jerusalem

1 How[e] 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 every horn[f] of Israel
and withdrawn His right hand at the approach of

[a] **1:1** This chapter is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

[b] **1:8** Or *her shame*

[c] **1:14** Most Hebrew manuscripts; other Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *He kept watch over my sins*

[d] **1:15** Or *has set a time for me*

[e] **2:1** This chapter is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

[f] **2:3** Or *all the strength*

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; 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 horn[a] of your foes.
18 The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord.[b] 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.[c] 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 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

The Prophet's Afflictions

1 I[d] 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.

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[a] **2:17** Or *the strength*

[b] **2:18** Literally *Their heart cries out to the Lord.*

[c] **2:19** That is, between six and nine at night

[d] **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.”

The Prophet’s Hope

19 Remember my affliction and wandering, the worm-
wood 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[a] of the LORD we are
not consumed, for His mercies never fail.
23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithful-
ness!
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
soul who seeks Him.
26 It is good to wait quietly for the salvation 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.

God’s Justice

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, 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 for-
given.”
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 na-
tions.
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 destruc-
tion 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; vin-
dicate my cause!
60 You have seen all their malice, all their plots against
me.
61 O LORD, You have heard their insults, 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

The Distress of Zion

1 How[b] the gold has become tarnished, the pure gold
has become dull! The gems of the temple lie scat-
tered 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[c] 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[d] 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[e] like sapphires.[f]
8 But now their appearance is blacker than soot; they
are not recognized in the streets. Their skin has

[a] **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*.

[b] **4:1** This chapter is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

[c] **4:3** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

[d] **4:6** Or *iniquity*

[e] **4:7** Or *their polishing* or *their hair*

[f] **4:7** Hebrew *lapis lazuli*

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 prolong your exile.[a] But He will punish your iniquity, O Daughter of Edom; He will expose your sins.

5

A Prayer for Restoration

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; 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.

[a] **4:22** Or *He will not exile you again*

Ezekiel

Book of Ezekiel

1

Ezekiel's Vision by the River Kebar

(Psalm 137:1–9)

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.[a]

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[b] by the River Kebar. And there the LORD's hand was upon him.

The Four Living Creatures

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,[c]

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 In the midst of the living creatures was the appearance of glowing coals of fire, or 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.

The Four Wheels

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.

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.

The Divine Glory

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,[d] 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

Ezekiel's Call

1 "Son of man,[e] " 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 a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me. To this very day they and their fathers have rebelled against Me.

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[a] **1:1** Or *from God*

[b] **1:3** That is, the Babylonians

[c] **1:4** Or *The center of the fire looked like glowing metal*; similarly in verse 27

[d] **1:24** Hebrew *Shaddai*

[e] **2:1** Or *Son of Adam*; here and throughout Ezekiel

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,
10 which He unrolled before me. And written on the front and back of it were words of lamentation, mourning, and woe.

3

Ezekiel Eats the Scroll

(Revelation 10:1–11)

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[a] lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me: “Blessed be the glory of the LORD in His dwelling place!”[b]
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.

A Watchman for Israel

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 in his iniquity,[c] 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 in his iniquity, but you will have saved yourself.
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 in his sin,[d] 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

A Sign of Jerusalem’s Siege

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.

[a] **3:12** Or *the wind* ; also in verse 14
[b] **3:12** Or *sound behind me as the glory of the LORD rose from its place!*
[c] **3:18** Or *for his iniquity*; also in verse 19
[d] **3:20** Or *for his sin*

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.

The Defiled Bread

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[a] 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
[b] to drink, and you are to drink it at set times.
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.
[c] From my youth until now I have not eaten any-
thing 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 in-
stead 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[d] of food in Jerusalem. They will anx-
iously 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

The Razor of Judgment

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[e] 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 judg-
ments against you and scatter all your remnant to
every wind.'

Famine, Sword, and Dispersion

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.
12 A third of your people will die by plague or be con-
sumed 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 you will be[f] 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 you[g] 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[h] of food.

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[a] **4:10** *20 shekels* is approximately 8 ounces or 228 grams of food.

[b] **4:11** *A sixth of a hin* is approximately 0.65 quarts or 0.61 liters of water.

[c] **4:14** Hebrew *"Ah, Lord GOD," I said, "Behold, my soul has never been made unclean.*

[d] **4:16** Hebrew *staff*

[e] **5:7** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *My ordinances; you have even conformed*

[f] **5:15** DSS, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; MT *So it will be*

[g] **5:16** Hebrew *them*

[h] **5:16** Hebrew *staff*

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

Judgment against Idolatry

(Deuteronomy 4:15–31; Deuteronomy 12:29–32)

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.

A Remnant to Be Blessed

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.
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.[a] Then they will know that I am the LORD.'"

7

The Hour of Doom

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[b] — 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 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 Their violence has grown into a rod to punish their wickedness.[c] 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.

The Desolation of Israel

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. They cannot satisfy their appetites or fill their

[a] **6:14** Most Hebrew manuscripts; Vulgate and a few Hebrew manuscripts *Riblah*

[b] **7:5** Or *A unique disaster*, as in most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *Disaster after disaster*

[c] **7:11** Literally *The violence has grown into a rod of wickedness*

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

The Vision of Idolatry in the Temple

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 that of a man. From His waist down His appearance was like fire, and from His waist up He was as bright as the gleam of amber.[a]
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 Altar Gate[b] 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.[c]
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

Execution of the Idolaters

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."
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!

[a] **8:2** Or *as glowing metal*

[b] **8:5** Or *gate of the altar*

[c] **8:14** *Tammuz*, meaning *Sprout of Life*, was a Sumerian god of fertility.

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 blood-
shed, 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 as You com-
manded."

10

God's Glory Exits the Temple

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 in-
side 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 tem-
ple. 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[a] 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.
8 (The cherubim appeared to have the form of human
hands under their wings.)
9 Then I looked and saw four wheels beside the cheru-
bim, 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 be-
side 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 cheru-
bim.
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

Evil in High Places

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,[b] 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.
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.

[a] **10:5** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

[b] **11:3** Or *cauldron*

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 ordi-
nances of the nations around you."

A Promise of Restoration

(Jeremiah 32:36–44)

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 relatives, your
fellow exiles, 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 assem-
ble 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 them; I will remove their heart of
stone and give them a heart of flesh,
20 so that they may follow My statutes, keep My ordi-
nances, 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."

God's Glory Leaves Jerusalem

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,[a] 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

Signs of the Coming Captivity

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
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 an-
other 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 it happened
here,[b] 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.

[a] **11:24** Or *Babylonia*

[b] **12:11** Literally *'I am a sign to you.' Just as I have done*; some translators close the quotation at the end of the verse.

20 The inhabited cities will be laid waste, and the land will become desolate. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

The Presumptuous Proverb

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'?
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

Reproof of False Prophets

(Micah 2:6–11)

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, I will send hailstones plunging down, and a windstorm will burst forth.
12 Surely when the wall has fallen, you will 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.
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.'

Reproof of False Prophetesses

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 souls. Will you ensnare the souls 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 souls like birds, and I will tear them from your arms. So I will free the souls 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

Idolatrous Elders Condemned

(Romans 14:13–23; 1 Corinthians 8:1–13)

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 according to 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.
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.'"

Four Dire Judgments

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[a] 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

Jerusalem the Useless Vine

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!
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

Jerusalem's Unfaithfulness

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

[a] **14:13** Hebrew *staff*

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,[a] the land of merchants — but even with this you were not satisfied!
30 How weak-willed is your heart,[b] 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!

Judgment on Jerusalem

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.
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

[a] **16:29** Or *Babylonia*

[b] **16:30** Or *How feverish is your heart,*

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 you have seen.[a]
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 Sodom and her daughters from captivity,[b] 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.
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 Edom[c] 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.

The Covenant Remembered

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

The Parable of Two Eagles and a Vine

(Matthew 13:24–30)

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,[d] 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;[e] 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, 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.'"

The Parable Explained

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[f] 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?'

[a] **16:50** A few Hebrew manuscripts and LXX; MT *as I have seen*

[b] **16:53** Or *restore the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters*

[c] **16:57** Many Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate *Aram*

[d] **17:3** *Pinions* are the outer parts of a bird's wings, including the flight feathers.

[e] **17:5** Hebrew *in a field of seed*

[f] **17:13** Hebrew *the royal seed*

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 choice troops[a] 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, 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

The Soul Who Sins Will Die

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 soul belongs to Me; both father and son are Mine. The soul 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[b] 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 soul 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?
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.

[a] **17:21** Many Hebrew manuscripts; MT *All his fleeing troops*

[b] **18:17** Hebrew; LXX *He withholds his hand from iniquity*

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. Re-
pent 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

A Lament for the Princes of Israel

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 broke down their strongholds[a] 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; 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 vineyard,[b]
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 de-
voured 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

Israel's Rebellion in Egypt

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 descen-
dants 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.'
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.

Israel's Rebellion in the Wilderness

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.[c]
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 —

[a] **19:7** Or *He knew their widows* or *He seized their widows*

[b] **19:10** Some Hebrew manuscripts; most Hebrew manuscripts *in your bloodline*

[c] **20:11** See Leviticus 18:5; also in Ezekiel 20:13 and 21.

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 be-
tween 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 ordi-
nances — 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 re-
jected 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.
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.

Israel's Rebellion in the Land

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.[a])
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, sacrificing your sons in
the fire,[b] 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.

Judgment and Restoration

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 out-
poured wrath I will bring you out from the peoples
and gather you[c] from the lands to which you have
been scattered.
35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the na-
tions, 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,[d] 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 trans-
gress 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.
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."

A Prophecy against the South

45 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
46 "Son of man, set your face toward the south,[e]
preach against it, and prophesy against the forest of
the Negev.
47 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.
48 Then all people will see that I, the LORD, have kin-
dled it; it will not be quenched."

[a] **20:29** *Bamah* means *high place*.

[b] **20:31** Literally *making your sons pass through the fire*

[c] **20:34** LXX *receive you*; see also 2 Corinthians 6:17.

[d] **20:36** Or *in the wilderness after bringing them out of Egypt*

[e] **20:46** Hebrew *toward Teman*

49 Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD, they are saying of me, ‘Is he not just telling parables?’”

21

God’s Sword of Judgment

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 “Son of man, set your face against Jerusalem and preach against the sanctuaries. Prophesy against the land of Israel
3 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.
4 Because I will cut off both the righteous and the wicked, My sword will be unsheathed against everyone from south to north.
5 Then all flesh will know that I, the LORD, have taken My sword from its sheath, not to return it again.’
6 But you, son of man, groan! Groan before their eyes with a broken heart and bitter grief.
7 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.”
8 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
9 “Son of man, prophesy and tell them that this is what the Lord says: ‘A sword, a sword, sharpened and polished —
10 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.
11 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.
12 Cry out and wail, 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.[a]
13 Surely testing will come! And what if even the scepter, which the sword despises, does not continue?’ declares the Lord GOD.
14 ‘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!
15 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.
16 Slash to the right; set your blade to the left— wherever your blade is directed.
17 I too will strike My hands together, and I will satisfy My wrath.’ I, the LORD, have spoken.”
18 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
19 “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.
20 Mark out one road for the sword to come against Rabbah of the Ammonites, and another against Judah into fortified Jerusalem.
21 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.
22 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.
23 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.
24 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.
25 And you, O profane and wicked prince of Israel, the day has come for your final punishment.’
26 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.
27 A ruin, a ruin, I will make it a ruin! And it will not be restored until the arrival of Him to whom it belongs, to whom I have assigned the right of judgment.[b] ’
28 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—
29 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.
30 Return the sword to its sheath! In the place where you were created, in the land of your origin, I will judge you.
31 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.
32 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

The Sins of Jerusalem

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 come to the end of your years. Therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations and a mockery to all the lands.

[a] **21:12** Or *beat your breast*

[b] **21:27** Or *of Him to whom it rightfully belongs, to whom I have given it.*

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 fa-
therless 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 daugh-
ter-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 neigh-
bors. 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[a] in the eyes of
the nations, then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

The Refining Furnace

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.'"

Israel's Wicked Leaders

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 princes[b] 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.
27 Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their
prey, shedding blood, and destroying lives for dis-
honest 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

The Two Adulterous Sisters

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,[c] and her sister was
named Oholibah.[d] 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 de-
sirable 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, ca-
ressed 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 be-
came 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, horse-
men riding on steeds, all desirable young men.

[a] **22:16** Or *And when I have allotted you your inheritance*

[b] **22:25** LXX; Hebrew *prophets*

[c] **23:4** *Oholah* means *her own tent* or *she worships at a tent shrine*, a metaphor for Samaria as an adulteress with Assyria.

[d] **23:4** *Oholibah* means *the tent is in her* or *she is a tent shrine*, a metaphor for Jerusalem as an adulterous wife.

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,[a] engraved in vermilion,
15 wearing belts on their waists and flowing turbans
on their heads; all of them looked like officers of the
Babylonians in Chaldea,[b] 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 ex-
posed 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.

Oholibah to Be Plagued

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,[c]
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 prosti-
tution, 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 de-
filed 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.
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.'"

Judgment on Both Sisters

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[d] 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[e] messengers for men
who came from afar; and behold, when they ar-
rived, 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[f] 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 punish-
ment 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.

[a] **23:14** That is, the Babylonians

[b] **23:15** Or *Babylonia*; also in verse 16

[c] **23:24** LXX *They will all come against you from the north*

[d] **23:37** Literally *passed their children, whom they bore to Me, through the fire*

[e] **23:40** Hebrew *they sent*

[f] **23:42** Or *Sabeans*

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

The Parable of the Cooking Pot

1 In the ninth year, on the tenth day of the tenth month,
the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
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 fuel 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; cast no lots
for its contents.[a]
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.
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. I will judge you according to your ways and
deeds,' declares the Lord GOD."

Ezekiel's Wife Dies

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

A Prophecy against Ammon

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 ex-
claimed, "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
[b] a resting place for sheep. Then you will know that
I am the LORD.'
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.'

A Prophecy against Moab

8 This is what the Lord GOD says: 'Because Moab and
Seir[c] 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.

[a] **24:6** Or *let no lot fall upon it*

[b] **25:5** Hebrew *and the Ammonites*

[c] **25:8** LXX does not include *and Seir*.

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.'

A Prophecy against Edom

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.'

A Prophecy against the Philistines

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

A Prophecy against Tyre

(Isaiah 23:1–18)

1 In the eleventh month of the twelfth year,[a] 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.'
7 For this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar[b] 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 peoples![c]
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 or set in splendor[d] 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."

27

A Lament for Tyre

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

[a] **26:1** Likely reading of the original Hebrew text; MT *In the eleventh year*

[b] **26:7** Hebrew *Nebuchadrezzar*, a variant of *Nebuchadnezzar* (king of Babylon). The latter spelling is used throughout Ezekiel for consistency.

[c] **26:17** Or *on all her inhabitants*

[d] **26:20** LXX *or take your place*

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[a] from Senir.[b] 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[c] 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 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 Helech 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,[d] Tubal, and Meshech were your merchants. They exchanged slaves and bronze utensils for your merchandise.
14 The men of Beth-togarmah exchanged horses, war horses, and mules for your wares.
15 The men of Dedan[e] were your clients; many coastlands were your market; they paid you with ivory tusks and ebony.
16 Aram[f] 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 casks of wine from Izal for your wares.[g] Wrought iron, cassia, and sweet cane[h] were exchanged for your merchandise.[i]
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[j] 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 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

A Prophecy against the Ruler of Tyre

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.

[a] **27:5** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

[b] **27:5** That is, Mount Hermon

[c] **27:6** Hebrew *Kittim*

[d] **27:13** That is, Greece

[e] **27:15** Hebrew; LXX *Rhodes*

[f] **27:16** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *Edom*

[g] **27:19** Probable reading; MT *—and Dan and Javan from Uzal (traded) for your wares*

[h] **27:19** Or *calamus*

[i] **27:19** Or *were among your merchandise*

[j] **27:25** Or *A fleet of trading ships*

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."

A Lament for the King of Tyre

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:[a] ruby, topaz, and dia-
mond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire,[b] 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; you cor-
rupted 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 dishon-
esty of your trading you have profaned your sanctu-
aries. 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.'"

A Prophecy against Sidon

20 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
21 "Son of man, set your face against Sidon and proph-
esy 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.'

The Restoration of Israel

(Jeremiah 30:1–17)

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

A Prophecy against Pharaoh

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 you 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 their backs were
wrenched.[c]

The Desolation of Egypt

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
you said, 'The Nile is mine; I made it,'

[a] **28:13** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain.

[b] **28:13** Or *lapis lazuli*

[c] **29:7** Syriac (see also LXX and Vulgate); Hebrew *and you caused their loins to shake.*

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.[a]
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 dis-
perse 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 Egypt from captivity[b] and bring them
back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin.
There they will be a lowly kingdom.
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 iniq-
uity in turning to the Egyptians. Then they will know
that I am the Lord GOD."

Egypt the Reward of Nebuchadnezzar

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, Nebuchadnezzar 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 Nebuchadnezzar 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

A Lament for Egypt

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 of doom for the nations.[c]
4 A sword will come against Egypt, and there will be
anguish in Cush[d] when the slain fall in Egypt, its
wealth is taken away, and its foundations are torn
down.
5 Cush, Put, and Lud,[e] and all the various peoples, as
well as Libya 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[f] they will fall by the sword within
her, declares the Lord GOD.
7 They will be desolate among desolate lands, 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.[g] 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 Nebuchadnezzar
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.[h]
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.[i]
15 I will pour out My wrath on Pelusium,[j] the strong-
hold of Egypt, and cut off the crowds of Thebes.
16 I will set fire to Egypt, Pelusium will writhe in an-
guish, Thebes will be split open, and Memphis will
face daily distress.
17 The young men of On and Pi-beseth[k] will fall by the
sword, and those cities will go into captivity.
18 The day will be darkened in Tahpanhes when I
break the yoke of Egypt 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."

Pharaoh's Power Broken

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

[a] **29:10** That is, the upper Nile region

[b] **29:14** Or *restore the fortunes of Egypt*

[c] **30:3** Hebrew does not include *of doom.*

[d] **30:4** That is, the upper Nile region; also in verses 5 and 9

[e] **30:5** Or *Lydia*

[f] **30:6** That is, Aswan; see Isaiah 49:12

[g] **30:9** Hebrew *the day of Egypt*

[h] **30:13** LXX; Hebrew *Noph*; also in verse 16

[i] **30:14** Hebrew *No*; also in verses 15 and 16

[j] **30:15** Hebrew *Sin*; also in verse 16

[k] **30:17** That is, *Heliopolis and Bubastis*, as in LXX; Hebrew *Aven and Pi-beseth*

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

Egypt Will Fall like Assyria

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 clouds.
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 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[a] could not compare with its branches, nor the plane trees[b] 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 it became great[c] in height and set its top among the clouds,[d] 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 clouds, 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.'"

32

A Lament for Pharaoh King of Egypt

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.[e]
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[f] 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

[a] **31:8** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*
[b] **31:8** Possibly *chestnut* or *juniper*
[c] **31:10** Hebrew *you became great*
[d] **31:10** Or *through the thick boughs*
[e] **32:5** Or *your lofty stature*
[f] **32:9** Hebrew; LXX *when I lead you into captivity among the nations, into countries*

the day of your downfall each of them will tremble every moment for his life.'
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."

Egypt Cast into the Pit

17 In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month,[a] 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.
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 old,[b] who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war, whose swords were placed under their heads, whose shields[c] 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. 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

Ezekiel the Watchman for Israel

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.[d]

[a] **32:17** Presumably the fifteenth day of the twelfth month (see verse 1); LXX *on the fifteenth day of the first month.*

[b] **32:27** LXX; Hebrew *warriors of the uncircumcised*

[c] **32:27** Likely reading of the original Hebrew text; MT *iniquities*

[d] **33:9** See Acts 20:25–26

The Message of the Watchman

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 turns from his wickedness. Nor will the
righteous man be able to survive by his righteous-
ness 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."

Word of Jerusalem's Fall

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 commit-
ted 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 strong-
holds 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 instru-
ment. 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

A Prophecy against Israel's Shepherds

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 fat-
tened 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 shep-
herds 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.'

The Good Shepherd

(Psalm 23:1–6; John 10:1–21)

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.

The Covenant of Peace

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, My people, and I am your God,' declares the Lord GOD."

35

A Prophecy against Mount Seir

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.
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

A Prophecy to the Mountains of Israel

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.
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 nation of its 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.”

A New Heart and a New Spirit

(Romans 8:9–11; Galatians 5:16–26)

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.
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

The Valley of Dry Bones

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[a] 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.
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.'"

One Nation with One King

15 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
16 "And you, son of man, take a single stick[b] 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 apostasies by which they sinned,[c] 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[d] will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people.[e]
28 Then the nations will know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is among them forever.'"

38

A Prophecy against Gog

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.[f] 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.[g]
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.

[a] **37:5** Or *spirit*; also in verses 6, 9, and 10

[b] **37:16** Or *branch*; also in verses 17, 19, and 20

[c] **37:23** Many Hebrew manuscripts (see also LXX); most Hebrew manuscripts *all their dwelling places where they sinned*

[d] **37:27** Or *My tabernacle*

[e] **37:27** Cited in 2 Corinthians 6:16

[f] **38:2** Or *of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal*

[g] **38:3** Or *Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal*

5 Persia, Cush,[a] and Put will accompany them, all with
shields and helmets,
6 as well as Gomer with all its troops, and Beth-toga-
rmah from the far north with all its troops— the
many nations with you.
7 Get ready; prepare yourself, you and all your com-
pany 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 posses-
sions and who live at the center of the land.'
13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish
with all its villages[b] will ask, 'Have you come to cap-
ture 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?[c]
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.
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, hail-
stones, 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

The Slaughter of Gog's Armies

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.[d]
2 I will turn you around, drive you along, bring you up
from the far north, and send you against the moun-
tains 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 peo-
ple 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.[e]
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.[f]
12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying
them in order to cleanse the land.

[a] **38:5** That is, the upper Nile region

[b] **38:13** Or *young lions*

[c] **38:14** LXX *will you not rouse yourself?*

[d] **39:1** Or *Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal*

[e] **39:11** That is, the Dead Sea

[f] **39:11** *Hamon-gog* means *multitude of Gog*.

[a] **39:13** Or *and the day I display My glory will be a day of renown*

13 All the people of the land will bury them, and it will
bring them renown on the day I display My glory,[a]
declares the Lord GOD.
14 And men will be employed to continually pass
through the land to cleanse it by burying the in-
vaders 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.[b]) 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.

Israel to Be Restored

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 Jacob from captivity[c] and will have
compassion on the whole house of Israel, and I will
be jealous for My holy name.
26 They will forget[d] their disgrace and all the treach-
ery 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

The Man with a Measuring Rod

(Zechariah 2:1–5)

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.
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."

The East Gate

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[e] (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.[f]
7 Each gate chamber was one rod long and one rod
wide, and there were five cubits[g] 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;
[h]
9 it was eight cubits deep,[i] and its jambs were two
cubits thick.[j] 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 mea-
surements.
11 And he measured the width of the gateway entrance
to be ten cubits,[k] and its length was thirteen cubits.
[l]

[a] **39:13** *Hamonah* means *multitude* or *horde.*

[b] **39:16** Or *restore the fortunes of Jacob*

[c] **39:25** A few Hebrew manuscripts; MT *They will bear*

[d] **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.

[e] **40:6** Hebrew *one reed deep, even one threshold, one reed deep.*

[f] **40:7** *5 (long) cubits* is approximately 8.75 feet or 2.7 meters; also in verses 30 and 48.

[g] **40:8** Literally *the portico of the gateway inside, one rod*

[h] **40:9** *8 (long) cubits* is approximately 14 feet or 4.3 meters.

[i] **40:9** *2 (long) cubits* is approximately 3.5 feet or 1.1 meters.

[j] **40:11** *10 (long) cubits* is approximately 17.5 feet or 5.3 meters.

[k] **40:11** *13 (long) cubits* is approximately 22.75 feet or 6.9 meters.

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[a] from doorway to
doorway.
14 Next he measured the gateposts to be sixty cubits
high.[b] 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.[c]
16 The gate chambers and their side pillars[d] had
beveled windows all around the inside of the gate-
way. The porticos also had windows all around on
the inside. Each side pillar was decorated with palm
trees.

The Outer Court

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[e] on the east side as well as on
the north.

The North Gate

20 He also measured the length and width of the gate-
way 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.

The South Gate

24 Then he led me to the south side, and I saw a gate-
way 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.

The Gates of the Inner Court

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.[f])
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.
37 Its portico[g] faced the outer court, and its side pillars
were decorated with palm trees on each side. Eight
steps led up to it.

Eight Tables for Sacrifices

38 There was a chamber with a doorway by the portico
[h] 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, sin offer-
ings, 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.[i] On these were
placed the utensils used to slaughter the burnt offer-
ings and the other sacrifices.

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[a] **40:13** *25 (long) cubits* is approximately 43.75 feet or 13.3 meters; also in verses 21, 25, 29, 30, 33, and 36.

[b] **40:14** *60 (long) cubits* is approximately 105 feet or 32 meters.

[c] **40:15** *50 (long) cubits* is approximately 87.5 feet or 26.7 meters; also in verses 21, 25, 29, 33, and 36.

[d] **40:16** Or *gateposts* or *jambs* or *projecting walls*; here and throughout Ezekiel 40 and 41.

[e] **40:19** *100 (long) cubits* is approximately 175 feet or 53.3 meters; also in verses 23, 27, and 47.

[f] **40:30** The porticoes were approximately 43.75 feet long and 8.75 feet deep (13.3 meters long and 2.7 meters deep).

[g] **40:37** LXX and Vulgate (see also verses 26, 31, and 34); Hebrew *jambs* or *dividing wall*

[h] **40:38** Hebrew *at the jambs*

[i] **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).

[a] **40:43** Or *shelves*

43 The double-pronged hooks,[a] each a handbreadth long,[b] were fastened all around the inside of the room, and the flesh of the offering was to be placed on the tables.

Chambers for Ministry

44 Outside the inner gate, within the inner court, were two chambers,[c] one beside the north gate and facing south, and another beside the south gate[d] 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."

The Inner Court

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 fourteen cubits and its sidewalls were three cubits on either side.[e]
49 The portico was twenty cubits wide[f] and twelve cubits deep,[g] and ten steps led up to it.[h] There were columns by the side pillars, one on each side.

41

Inside the Temple

1 Then the man brought me into the outer sanctuary and measured the side pillars to be six cubits wide[i] on each side.[j]
2 The width of the entrance was ten cubits,[k] and the sides of the entrance were five cubits[l] on each side. He also measured the length of the outer sanctuary to be forty cubits, and the width to be twenty cubits.[m]
3 And he went into the inner sanctuary and measured the side pillars at the entrance to be two cubits wide.[n] The entrance was six cubits wide, and the walls on each side were seven cubits wide.[o]
4 Then he measured the room adjacent to the inner sanctuary[p] to be twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide.[q] And he said to me, "This is the Most Holy Place.[r] "

Outside the Temple

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.[s]
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,[t] and the wall of the building was five cubits thick all around, with a length of ninety cubits.[u]
13 Then he measured the temple to be a hundred cubits long,[v] 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.

The Interior Structures

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,

[b] **40:43** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters long.
[c] **40:44** LXX; Hebrew *within the inner court were chambers for the singers*
[d] **40:44** LXX; Hebrew *the east gateway*
[e] **40:48** LXX; the gateway was approximately 24.5 feet or 7.5 meters wide, with sidewalls approximately 5.25 feet or 1.6 meters wide on either side. Hebrew *The width of the gateway was three cubits on either side.*
[f] **40:49** *20 (long) cubits* is approximately 35 feet or 10.7 meters.
[g] **40:49** LXX; *12 (long) cubits* is approximately 21 feet or 6.4 meters; Hebrew *eleven cubits deep*; that is, approximately 19.25 feet or 5.9 meters.
[h] **40:49** LXX; Hebrew *and steps led up to it*
[i] **41:1** *6 (long) cubits* is approximately 10.5 feet or 3.2 meters; also in verses 3, 5, and 8.
[j] **41:1** One Hebrew manuscript and LXX; most Hebrew manuscripts *on each side—the width of the tent*
[k] **41:2** *10 (long) cubits* is approximately 17.5 feet or 5.3 meters.
[l] **41:2** *5 (long) cubits* is approximately 8.75 feet or 2.7 meters; also in verses 9, 11, and 12.
[m] **41:2** The outer sanctuary was approximately 70 feet long and 35 feet wide (21.3 meters long and 10.7 meters wide).
[n] **41:3** *2 (long) cubits* is approximately 3.5 feet or 1.1 meters.
[o] **41:3** *7 (long) cubits* is approximately 12.25 feet or 3.7 meters.
[p] **41:4** Or *the length of the inner sanctuary*
[q] **41:4** The room was approximately 35 feet long and 35 feet wide (10.7 meters long and 10.7 meters wide).
[r] **41:4** Or *the Holy of Holies*
[s] **41:5** *4 (long) cubits* is approximately 7 feet or 2.1 meters.
[t] **41:12** *70 (long) cubits* is approximately 122.5 feet or 37.3 meters.
[u] **41:12** *90 (long) cubits* is approximately 157.5 feet or 48 meters.
[v] **41:13** *100 (long) cubits* is approximately 175 feet or 53.3 meters; similarly in verses 14 and 15.

16 as well as the thresholds and the beveled windows
and the galleries all around with their three levels
opposite the threshold, were overlaid 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 square.[a] Its corners, base, and 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

Chambers for the Priests

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 hun-
dred cubits long and fifty cubits wide.[b]
3 Gallery faced gallery in three levels opposite the
twenty cubits[c] 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 a hundred cubits long.[d] 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 cham-
bers were set back further than the lower and
middle floors.
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.
10 On the south side[e] 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.
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 sin
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."

The Outer Measurements

15 Now when the man had finished measuring the in-
terior 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 cubits long.[f]
17 He measured the north side to be five hundred
cubits long.
18 He measured the south side to be five hundred
cubits long.
19 And he came around and measured the west side to
be five hundred cubits long.
20 So he measured the area on all four sides. It had a
wall all around, five hundred cubits long and five
hundred cubits wide, to separate the holy from the
common.

43

The Glory of the LORD Returns to the Temple

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.

[a] **41:22** Or *long*; the altar was approximately 5.25 feet high and 3.5 feet square (1.6 meters high and 1.1 meters square)

[b] **42:2** The building was approximately 175 feet long and 87.5 feet wide (53.3 meters long and 26.7 meters wide).

[c] **42:3** *20 (long) cubits* is approximately 35 feet or 10.7 meters.

[d] **42:4** LXX. The walkway was approximately 17.5 feet wide and 175 feet long (5.3 meters wide and 53.3 meters long). Hebrew *ten cubits wide and a cubit long.*

[e] **42:10** LXX; Hebrew *east side*

[f] **42:16** See LXX; *five hundred cubits* from verse 17 LXX and implied in verses 16, 18, 19, and 20 is approximately 875 feet or 266.7 meters in length. Hebrew *five hundred reeds, with the measuring reed round about*, that is approximately 5,250 feet or 1,600 meters; similarly in verses 17, 18, 19, and 20.

3 The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when
He came[a] 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 some-
one 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 they nor their kings — by their prostitution
and by the funeral offerings[b] for their kings at their
deaths.[c]
8 When they placed their threshold next to My thresh-
old 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[d] 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.

The Altar of Sacrifice

13 These are the measurements of the altar in long
cubits[e] (a cubit and a handbreadth): Its gutter shall
be a cubit deep and a cubit wide, with a rim of one
span[f] 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.[g] The space from the smaller ledge to the
larger ledge shall be four cubits, and the ledge one
cubit wide.[h]
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.[i]
17 The ledge shall also be square, fourteen cubits long
and fourteen cubits wide,[j] with a rim of half a cubit
[k] 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 sin
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.
21 Then you are to take away the bull for the sin offer-
ing and burn it in the appointed part of the temple
area outside the sanctuary.
22 On the second day you are to present an unblem-
ished male goat as a sin 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 unblem-
ished 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 sin 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.[l]
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

The East Gate Assigned to the Prince

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."

[a] **43:3** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate; most Hebrew manuscripts *when I came*

[b] **43:7** Or *the monuments*; also in verse 9

[c] **43:7** Or *for their kings on their high places*

[d] **43:11** Hebrew; LXX and Vulgate *and they will be ashamed*

[e] **43:13** The *long cubit*, about 21 inches or 53.3 centimeters, is the basic unit for linear measurement throughout Ezekiel 40–48.

[f] **43:13** *One span* is approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters.

[g] **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).

[h] **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).

[i] **43:16** *12 (long) cubits* is approximately 21 feet or 6.4 meters.

[j] **43:17** *14 (long) cubits* is approximately 24.5 feet or 7.5 meters.

[k] **43:17** *A half cubit* is approximately 10.5 inches or 26.7 centimeters.

[l] **43:26** Hebrew *fill its hand*

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.

Reproof of the Levites

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; you broke My covenant.
8 And you have not kept charge of My holy things, but
have appointed others to keep charge of My sanctu-
ary for you.'
9 This is what the Lord GOD says: No foreigner uncir-
cumcised in heart and flesh may enter My sanctu-
ary — 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 offerings and
other sacrifices for the people and stand before them
to minister to them.
12 Because they ministered before their idols and be-
came a stumbling block of iniquity to the house
of Israel, therefore I swore with an uplifted hand
concerning them that they would bear the conse-
quences 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 abomi-
nations 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.

The Duties of the Priests

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 any-
thing 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 sin offering, declares the Lord GOD.
28 In regard to their inheritance, I am their inheri-
tance. You are to give them no possession in Israel,
for I am their possession.
29 They shall eat the grain offerings, the sin 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 contribu-
tion 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

Consecration of the Land

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 20,000
cubits wide.[a] This entire tract of land will be holy.
2 Within this area there is to be a section for the sanc-
tuary 500 cubits square,[b] with 50 cubits[c] 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,[d]
and in it will be the sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.[e]
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

[a] **45:1** LXX; the holy portion was to be approximately 8.3 miles long and 6.6 miles wide (13.3 kilometers long and 10.7 kilometers wide). Hebrew *25,000 cubits long and 10,000 wide*. See also verses 3 and 5 and Ezekiel 48:9.

[b] **45:2** *500 (long) cubits* is approximately 875 feet or 266.7 meters.

[c] **45:2** *50 (long) cubits* is approximately 87.5 feet or 26.7 meters.

[d] **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.

[e] **45:3** Or *the Holy of Holies*

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 for towns in which to live.[a]
6 As the property of the city, you are to set aside an area 5,000 cubits wide and 25,000 cubits long,[b] adjacent to the holy district. It will belong to the whole house of Israel.

The Prince's Portion

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.'

Honest Scales

(Deuteronomy 25:13–16; Proverbs 11:1–3)

10 You must use honest scales, a just ephah,[c] and a just bath.[d]
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.[e]
12 The shekel will consist of twenty gerahs.[f] Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels will equal one mina.[g]

Offerings and Feasts

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.[h]
14 The prescribed portion of oil, measured by the bath, is a tenth of a bath from each cor[i] (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 sin offerings,[j] 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 sin 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 sin 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 sin 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.[k]
25 During the seven days of the feast that begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month,[l] he is to make the same provision for sin offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, and oil.'"

46

The Prince's Offerings

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.

[a] **45:5** LXX; Hebrew *their possession, twenty chambers*

[b] **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).

[c] **45:10** *An ephah* is a dry measure of approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters.

[d] **45:10** *A bath* was a liquid measure of approximately 5.8 gallons or 22 liters.

[e] **45:11** *A homer* was a dry measure of approximately 6.24 bushels or 220 liters; also in verses 13 and 14.

[f] **45:12** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).

[g] **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.

[h] **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.

[i] **45:14** That is, one percent of one's oil; *a tenth of a bath* was approximately 2.3 quarts or 2.2 liters.

[j] **45:17** Or *purification offerings*; also in verses 19, 22, 23, and 25

[k] **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

[l] **45:25** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering*(see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

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,[a] 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[b] with a third of a hin of oil[c] 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.
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.'"

The Courts for Boiling and Baking

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 sin 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.[d] 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

Waters from under the Temple

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[e] 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 emp-

[a] **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.
[b] **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).
[c] **46:14** Or *a third of a hin of olive oil*; that is, approximately 1.3 quarts or 1.2 liters
[d] **46:22** The enclosed courts were approximately 70 feet long and 52.5 feet wide (21.3 meters long and 16 meters wide).
[e] **47:3** *1,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 1,750 feet or 533.4 meters.

ties into the Dead Sea,[a] the water there becomes fresh.[b]
9 Wherever the river flows, 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.[c]
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."

The Borders of the Land

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.[d]
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-hamath to Zedad,
16 Berothah, and Sibraim[e] (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, to the Eastern Sea and as far as Tamar.[f] 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 of Egypt[g] 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

The Portions for the Tribes

1 "Now these are the names of the tribes: 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.

The Portions for the Priests and Levites

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,[h] 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.[i]
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[j] 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.

The Common Portion

15 The remaining area, 5,000 cubits[k] wide and 25,000 cubits long, will be for common use by the city, for

[a] **47:8** Literally *the Sea*

[b] **47:8** Hebrew *is healed*; similarly in verses 9 and 11

[c] **47:10** That is, the Mediterranean Sea; also in verses 15, 19, and 20

[d] **47:13** Since Levi had no portion, Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh received land as two tribes.

[e] **47:16** LXX; MT **15**...through Lebo to Zedad, **16**Hamath, Berothah, and Sibraim

[f] **47:18** See Syriac; that is, *of Israel, to the Dead Sea and as far as Tamar*; Hebrew *of Israel. And along the Eastern Sea you are to measure.*

[g] **47:19** Hebrew does not include *of Egypt*.

[h] **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.

[i] **48:9** *10,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 3.3 miles or 5.3 kilometers; also in verses 10, 13, and 18.

[j] **48:12** Or *a Most Holy Place*

[k] **48:15** *5,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 1.7 miles or 2.7 kilometers.

houses, and for pastureland. The city will be in the center of it
16 and will have these measurements: 4,500 cubits[a] 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[b] 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.
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.

The Portion for the Prince

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.

The Portions for the Remaining Tribes

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 of Egypt[c] and out to the Great Sea.[d]
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.

The City Gates and Dimensions

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,[e] and from that day on the name of the city will be: THE LORD IS THERE.[f] "

[a] **48:16** *4,500 (long) cubits* is approximately 1.5 miles or 2.4 kilometers; also in verses 30, 32, 33, and 34.
[b] **48:17** *250 (long) cubits* is approximately 437.5 feet or 133.4 meters.
[c] **48:28** Hebrew does not include *of Egypt*.
[d] **48:28** That is, the Mediterranean Sea
[e] **48:35** *18,000 (long) cubits* is approximately 6 miles or 9.6 kilometers.
[f] **48:35** Hebrew *YHWH Shammah*

Daniel

Book of Daniel

1

Daniel Removed to Babylon

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,[a] 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[b] 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.[c]
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.

Daniel's Faithfulness

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.

Daniel's Wisdom

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.
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

Nebuchadnezzar's Troubling Dream

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 astrologers[d] 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 astrologers answered the king in Aramaic,[e] "O king, may you live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."
5 The king replied to the astrologers, "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 astrologers 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 astrologer.
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."

[a] **1:2** That is, Babylonia

[b] **1:3** Hebrew *from the seed of the kingdom*

[c] **1:4** That is, the Babylonians

[d] **2:2** Or *Chaldeans*; also in verses 4, 5, and 10

[e] **2:4** The original text from this point of Daniel 2:4 through Daniel 7:28 is in Aramaic.

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.

The Dream Revealed to Daniel

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. 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 interpreta-
tion.
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 re-
quested, for You have made known to us the dream
of the king."

Daniel Interprets the Dream

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 Bel-
teshazzar, "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[a] ap-
peared. 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,
33 its legs were iron, and its feet were part iron and
part clay.
34 As you watched, a stone was cut out,[b] 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, in-
ferior 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[c]
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 trustwor-
thy."

[a] **2:31** Or *image*; here and through the rest of Daniel 2

[b] **2:34** LXX *cut out from a mountain*

[c] **2:43** Aramaic *the seed of men*

Nebuchadnezzar Promotes Daniel

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

Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Statue

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue[a] sixty cubits high and six cubits wide,[b] and he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.
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,[c] 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.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Accused

8 At this time some astrologers[d] 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 the God whom we serve exists, then He is able[e] 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."

The Fiery Furnace

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![f] "
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] **3:1** Or *image*; here and throughout Daniel 3

[b] **3:1** The statue was approximately 90 feet high and 9 feet wide (27.4 meters high and 2.7 meters wide).

[c] **3:5** The precise identification of some musical instruments in this chapter is uncertain.

[d] **3:8** Or *Chaldeans*

[e] **3:17** Or *If this be so, then the God whom we serve is able*

[f] **3:25** Or *like the Son of God*

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[a] 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.

4

Nebuchadnezzar Confesses God's Kingdom

1 King Nebuchadnezzar, To the people of every nation and language who dwell in all the earth: May your prosperity be multiplied.
2 I am pleased to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.
3 How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; His dominion endures from generation to generation.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Great Tree

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace.
5 I had a dream, and it frightened me; while I was in my bed, the images and visions in my mind alarmed me.
6 So I issued a decree that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me.
7 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers,[b] and diviners came in, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me.
8 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:
9 "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.
10 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.
11 The tree grew large and strong; its top reached the sky, and it was visible to the ends of the earth.
12 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.
13 As I lay on my bed, I also saw in the visions of my mind a watcher,[c] a holy one, coming down from heaven.
14 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.
15 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.
16 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.
17 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.'
18 This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because none of the wise men of my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you are able, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

Daniel Interprets the Second Dream

19 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!
20 The tree you saw that grew large and strong, whose top reached the sky and was visible to all the earth,
21 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—
22 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.
23 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.'
24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree that the Most High has issued against my lord the king:
25 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.
26 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.
27 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."

[a] **3:28** Or *Angel*

[b] **4:7** Or *Chaldeans*

[c] **4:13** Or *an angelic watcher* or *a messenger*; also in verses 17 and 23

The Second Dream Fulfilled

28 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.
29 Twelve months later, as he was walking on the roof
of the royal palace of Babylon,
30 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?"
31 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.
32 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 king-
dom of mankind and gives it to whom He wishes."
33 At that moment the sentence against Nebuchad-
nezzar 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.

Nebuchadnezzar Restored

34 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 domin-
ion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom
endures from generation to generation.
35 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?'"
36 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.
37 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

Belshazzar's Feast

1 Later,[a] King Belshazzar held a great feast for a thou-
sand 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[b] 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.

The Handwriting on the Wall

5 At that moment the fingers of a human hand ap-
peared 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, astrologers,[c]
and diviners to be brought in, and he said to these
wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this inscrip-
tion 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."
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[d] 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 Neb-
uchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians,
enchanters, astrologers, and diviners. Your own fa-
ther, the king,
12 did this because Daniel, the one he named Beltes-
hazzar, 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."

Daniel Interprets the Handwriting

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 extraor-
dinary 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. There-
fore, 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 inscrip-
tion for the king and interpret it for him.

[a] **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.

[b] **5:2** Or *predecessor* or *grandfather*; also in verses 11, 13, and 18

[c] **5:7** Or *Chaldeans*; also in verse 11

[d] **5:10** Or *queen mother*

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,[a] 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 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 inscrip-
tion.
25 Now this is the inscription that was written: MENE,
MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN.
26 And this is the interpretation of the message: MENE
[b] means that God has numbered the days of your
reign and brought it to an end.
27 TEKEL[c] means that you have been weighed on the
scales and found deficient.
28 PERES[d] 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[e]
was slain,
31 and Darius the Mede received the kingdom at the
age of sixty-two.

6

The Plot against Daniel

1 Now it pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule
throughout the kingdom,
2 and over them three administrators, including
Daniel, to whom these satraps were accountable so
that the king would not suffer loss.
3 Soon, by his extraordinary spirit, Daniel distin-
guished himself among the administrators and
satraps. So the king planned to set him over the
whole kingdom.
4 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.
5 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."
6 So the administrators and satraps went together to
the king and said, "O King Darius, may you live
forever!
7 All the royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advis-
ers, 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.
8 Therefore, O king, establish the decree and sign the
document so that it cannot be changed — in accor-
dance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which
cannot be repealed."
9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

10 Now when Daniel learned that the document had
been signed, he went into his house, where the win-
dows of his upper room opened toward 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.
11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel
petitioning and imploring his God.
12 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."
13 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."
14 As soon as the king heard this, he was deeply dis-
tressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel, and
he labored until sundown to rescue him.
15 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."
16 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!"
17 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.

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[a] **5:22** Or *descendant* or *successor* or *grandson*

[b] **5:26** *Mene* sounds like the Aramaic for *numbered* .

[c] **5:27** *Tekel* sounds like the Aramaic for *weighed* .

[d] **5:28** *Peres* (the singular of *Parsin*) sounds like the Aramaic for *divided* and for *Persia* .

[e] **5:30** That is, the Babylonians

18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night
fasting. No entertainment was brought before him,
and sleep fled from him.
19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried
to the den of lions.
20 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?”
21 Then Daniel replied, “O king, may you live forever!
22 My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the
lions. They have not hurt me, for I was found inno-
cent in His sight, and I have done no wrong against
you, O king.”
23 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.
24 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.

Darius Honors God

25 Then King Darius wrote to the people of every na-
tion and language throughout the land: “May your
prosperity abound.
26 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.
27 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.”
28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and
the reign of Cyrus[a] the Persian.

7

Daniel’s Vision of the Four Beasts

(Revelation 13:1–10)

1 In the first year of the reign of Belshazzar over Baby-
lon, 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 churn-
ing up the great sea.[b]
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, 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 terri-
fying — 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 an-
other 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.

Daniel’s Vision of the Ancient of Days

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.
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.

Daniel’s Vision of the Son of Man

13 In my vision in the night I continued to watch, and
I saw One like the Son of Man[c] coming with the
clouds of heaven.[d] 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.

Daniel’s Visions Interpreted

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 saints of the Most High will receive the king-
dom 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.

[a] **6:28** Or *prospered during the reign of Darius, that is, the reign of Cyrus*

[b] **7:2** Perhaps *the Great Sea*, that is, the Mediterranean Sea

[c] **7:13** Or *one like a son of man*

[d] **7:13** See Matthew 24:30, Matthew 26:64, Mark 13:26, Mark 14:62, Luke 21:27, Revelation 1:13, and Revelation 14:14.

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
saints and prevailing against them,
22 until the Ancient of Days arrived and pronounced
judgment in favor of the saints 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 saints of the Most High, intending to change the
appointed times and laws; and the saints 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 saints 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

Daniel's Vision of the Ram and the Goat

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; it
removed His daily sacrifice and overthrew the place
of His sanctuary.
12 And in the rebellion,[a] the host and the daily sacri-
fice 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 sanctu-
ary and of the host to be trampled?"
14 He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and morn-
ings; then the sanctuary will be properly restored."

Gabriel Interprets Daniel's Vision

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."
17 As he came near to where I stood, I was terrified and
fell facedown. "Son of man," he said to me, "under-
stand 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,[b] and
the large horn between his eyes is the first king.
22 The four horns that replaced the broken one repre-
sent 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.

[a] **8:12** Or *on account of transgression*

[b] **8:21** Hebrew *of Javan*

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

Daniel's Prayer for His People

1 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes,[a] a Mede by descent, who was made ruler over the kingdom of the Chaldeans[b] —
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.[c]
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[d] 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.
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 Law of Moses the servant of God has been poured out on us, because we have sinned against You.
12 You have carried out the words 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 Law 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 the desolation of 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."

Gabriel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks

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[e] 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 Most Holy Place.[f]
25 Know and understand this: From the issuance of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah,[g] the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of distress.
26 Then after the sixty-two weeks[h] the Messiah 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

[a] **9:1** Hebrew *Ahasuerus*

[b] **9:1** That is, the Babylonians

[c] **9:2** See Jeremiah 25:11–12 and Jeremiah 29:10.

[d] **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*.

[e] **9:24** Or *Seventy sevens*; also twice in verse 25 and once in verse 26

[f] **9:24** Or *the Holy of Holies* or *the Most Holy One*; literally *the Most Holy*

[g] **9:25** Or *the Anointed One*; also in verse 26

[h] **9:26** Hebrew *Then after sixty-two sevens*

week,[a] but in the middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of the temple will come the abomination that causes desolation,[b] until the decreed destruction is poured out upon him.[c] ”

10

Daniel’s Vision by the Tigris

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.[d] 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.
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[e] 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[f] 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

Kings of the South and North

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.[g]
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[h] endure. At that time she will be given up, along with her royal escort and her father[i] and the one who supported her.
7 But one from her family line[j] 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 sil-

[a] **9:27** Or *for one seven*; similarly again in this verse

[b] **9:27** Literally *And on the wing (will come) the abomination that causes desolation,* or *And on the wing of abominations (will come) one who causes desolation,*

[c] **9:27** Literally *until the decreed consummation is poured out upon (him who) is desolate.*

[d] **10:1** Or *true and greatly burdensome*

[e] **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*

[f] **10:20** Hebrew *of Javan*

[g] **11:2** Hebrew *of Javan*

[h] **11:6** Or *offspring*

[i] **11:6** Or *child*; see Vulgate and Syriac.

[j] **11:7** Literally *a branch from her roots*

ver 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[a] 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.[b]
18 Then he will turn his face to 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.
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[c] 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.

The King Who Exalts Himself

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.[d]
40 At the time of the end, the king of the South will engage him in battle,[e] 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.
42 He will extend his power over many countries, and not even the land of Egypt will escape.

[a] **11:13** Hebrew *at the end of the times*

[b] **11:17** Or *but she will not stand with him or support him*

[c] **11:30** Or *western coastlands* or *Mediterranean islands*

[d] **11:39** Or *for a reward*

[e] **11:40** Hebrew *will thrust at him*

43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and over all the riches of Egypt, and the Libyans and Cushites[a] 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.[b]
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

The End Times

(Revelation 1:1–3)

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.[c]
3 Then the wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens,[d] and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.[e]
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."

[a] **11:43** That is, people from the upper Nile region

[b] **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.

[c] **12:2** See John 5:29 and Revelation 11:18.

[d] **12:3** Or *expanse* or *firmament*; see also Genesis 1:6–8.

[e] **12:3** See Matthew 13:43.

Hosea

Book of Hosea

1

Hosea's Wife and Children

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,[a] 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,[b] 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,[c] 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,[d] for you are not My people, and I am not your God.[e]

10 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.'[f]

11 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."

2

Israel's Adultery Rebuked

1 "Say of your brothers, 'My people,'[g] and of your sisters, 'My loved one.'[h]

2 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.

3 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.

4 I will have no compassion on her children, because they are the children of adultery.

5 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.'

6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her path[i] with thorns; I will enclose her with a wall, so she cannot find her way.

7 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.'

8 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.

9 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.

10 And then I will expose her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one will deliver her out of My hands.

11 I will put an end to all her exultation: her feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths— all her appointed feasts.

12 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.

13 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.

God's Mercy to Israel

14 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her and lead her to the wilderness, and speak to her tenderly.

15 There I will give back her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor[j] into a gateway of hope. There she will respond as she did in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

16 In that day," declares the LORD, "you will call Me 'my Husband,'[k] and no longer call Me 'my Master.'[l]

17 For I will remove from her lips the names of the Baals; no longer will their names be invoked.

18 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.

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[a] **1:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*

[b] **1:4** *Jezreel* means *God sows*; also in verse 11.

[c] **1:6** *Lo-ruhamah* means *she has not received mercy*.

[d] **1:9** *Lo-ammi* means *not My people*.

[e] **1:9** Hebrew *I am not yours*

[f] **1:10** Cited in Romans 9:26

[g] **2:1** Hebrew *Ammi*

[h] **2:1** Or *Mercy is shown*; Hebrew *Ruhamah*, which means *she has received mercy*

[i] **2:6** Hebrew *your path*

[j] **2:15** *Achor* means *trouble*.

[k] **2:16** Hebrew *my Ishi*

[l] **2:16** Hebrew *my Baal*

19 So I will betroth you to Me forever; I will betroth you
in righteousness and justice, in loving devotion[a] and
compassion.
20 And I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will
know the LORD."
21 "On that day I will respond —" declares the LORD —
"I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond
to the earth.
22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new
wine and oil, and they will respond to Jezreel.[b]
23 And I will sow her as My own in the land, and I will
have compassion on 'No Compassion.'[c] I will say to
those called 'Not My People,'[d] 'You are My people,'[e]
and they will say, 'You are my God.'"

3

Hosea Redeems His Wife

(Zechariah 2:6–13)

1 Then the LORD said to me, "Go show love to your wife
again, though she is loved by another[f] and is an
adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites,
though they turn to other gods and love to offer
raisin cakes to idols.[g] "
2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver[h] and a
homer and a lethech of barley.[i]
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 last days.

4

God's Case against His People

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.
[j]
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. Be-
cause 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; they exchanged their Glory[k] for a thing
of disgrace.
8 They feed on the sins[l] 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; they will be
promiscuous but not multiply. For they have aban-
doned 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 di-
vining 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 offer-
ings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth,
because their shade is pleasant. And so your daugh-
ters turn to prostitution and your daughters-in-law
to adultery.
14 I will not punish your daughters when they prosti-
tute 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,[m] 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[n] is joined to idols; leave him alone!
18 When their liquor is gone, they turn to prostitution;
their rulers[o] dearly love disgrace.
19 The whirlwind has wrapped them[p] in its wings, and
their sacrifices will bring them shame."

[a] **2:19** 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* .

[b] **2:22** *Jezreel* means *God sows.*

[c] **2:23** Hebrew *Lo-ruhamah*; LXX *I will love her who was not loved*

[d] **2:23** Hebrew *Lo-ammi*

[e] **2:23** Cited in Romans 9:25 and 1 Peter 2:10

[f] **3:1** Or *Go show love to a woman who is loved by another*

[g] **3:1** Literally *and love raisin cakes*

[h] **3:2** *15 shekels* is approximately 6 ounces or 171 grams of silver.

[i] **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*

[j] **4:4** Or *for My case is against you, O priests*

[k] **4:7** Or *they exchanged their glorious God* (Syriac); MT *I will exchange their glory*

[l] **4:8** Or *the sin offerings*

[m] **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.

[n] **4:17** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel

[o] **4:18** Hebrew *her shields*

[p] **4:19** Hebrew *has wrapped her*

5

Judgment on Israel and Judah

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.
2 The rebels are deep in slaughter; but I will chastise
them all.
3 I know all about Ephraim,[a] 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 stum-
bles 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[b]
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:[c] 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;[d] I will pour out My fury upon
them like water.
11 Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, for he
is determined to follow worthless idols.[e]
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.[f] But he cannot cure you or heal your
wound.
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

The Unrepentance of Israel and Judah

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[g] ? 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 My judg-
ments go forth like lightning.
6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,[h] and the knowledge
of God rather than burnt offerings.
7 But they, like Adam, have transgressed[i] 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.
11 Also for you, O Judah, a harvest is appointed, when
I restore My people from captivity.[j]

7

Ephraim's Iniquity

1 When I heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim[k] 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 remem-
ber 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 anger smolders;[l] 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 un-
turned cake.
9 Foreigners consume his strength, but he does not
notice. Even his hair is streaked with gray, but he
does not know.

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[a] **5:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14

[b] **5:7** Or *their New Moon feast* or *the coming month*

[c] **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.

[d] **5:10** See Proverbs 22:28 and Proverbs 23:10.

[e] **5:11** Or *to follow human precepts*

[f] **5:13** Or *to King Jareb*

[g] **6:4** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 10

[h] **6:6** Cited in Matthew 9:13 and Matthew 12:7

[i] **6:7** Or *As at Adam, they have transgressed*

[j] **6:11** Or *restore the fortunes of My people*

[k] **7:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8 and 11

[l] **7:6** Literally *their baker sleeps*

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 when I hear them flocking together.[a]
13 Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! De-
struction 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 slash themselves[b]
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

Israel Will Reap the Whirlwind

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 destruc-
tion.
5 He has rejected your calf,[c] 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 whirl-
wind. There is no standing grain; what sprouts fails
to yield flour. Even if it should produce, the foreign-
ers would swallow it up.
8 Israel is swallowed up! Now they are among the na-
tions like a worthless vessel.
9 For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey
on its own. Ephraim[d] 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

Israel's Punishment

1 Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the na-
tions, 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[e] 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.
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 hostil-
ity.
8 The prophet is Ephraim's watchman, along with my
God,[f] 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 slaugh-
ter.
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

[a] **7:12** Or *I will chastise them according to what was reported against them in the assembly.*

[b] **7:14** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX; see 1 Kings 18:28 . Most Hebrew manuscripts *They gather together*

[c] **8:5** Or *calf idol*; see 1 Kings 12:29.

[d] **8:9** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 11

[e] **9:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; similarly in verses 8, 11, 13, and 16

[f] **9:8** Or *The prophet is the watchman over Ephraim, the people of my God*

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; and they shall be wanderers among the
nations.

10

Retribution for Israel's Sin

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.[a] 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.[b] Ephraim[c] will be seized with shame; Israel
will be ashamed of its wooden idols.[d]
7 Samaria will be carried off with her king like a twig
on the surface of the water.
8 The high places of Aven[e] 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!"[f]
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?[g]
10 I will chasten them when I please; nations will be
gathered against them 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 Shal-
man devastated Beth-arbel in the day of battle, when
mothers were dashed to pieces along with their chil-
dren.
15 Thus it will be done to you, O Bethel, because of your
great wickedness. When the day dawns, the king of
Israel will be utterly cut off.

11

Out of Egypt I Called My Son

(Matthew 2:13–15)

1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt
I called My son.[h]
2 But the more I called Israel, the farther they departed
from Me.[i] They sacrificed to the Baals and burned
incense to carved images.
3 It was I who taught Ephraim[j] 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 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.

God's Love for Israel

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 trem-
bling 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 Ephraim surrounds Me with lies, the house of Israel
with deceit; but Judah still walks with God and is
faithful to the Holy One.[k]

[a] **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.

[b] **10:6** Or *to King Jareb*

[c] **10:6** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 11

[d] **10:6** Or *of its own counsel*

[e] **10:8** Or *of wickedness*; *Aven* is a reference to Beth-aven (a derogatory term for Bethel); see verse 5.

[f] **10:8** Cited in Luke 23:30; see also Revelation 6:16.

[g] **10:9** Or *Did not the battle overtake the sons of iniquity in Gibeah?*

[h] **11:1** Cited in Matthew 2:15

[i] **11:2** LXX; Hebrew *The more they called them, the more they went from them.*

[j] **11:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8, 9, and 12

[k] **11:12** Or *and Judah is unruly against God, the faithful Holy One*

12

A Reproof of Ephraim, Judah, and Jacob

1 Ephraim[a] 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.
2 The LORD has a charge to bring against Judah. He will
punish Jacob[b] according to his ways and repay him
according to his deeds.
3 In the womb he grasped his brother's heel, and in his
vigor he wrestled with God.
4 Yes, he struggled with the angel[c] and prevailed; he
wept and sought His favor; he found Him at Bethel
and spoke with Him there[d] —
5 the LORD God of Hosts, the LORD is His name of
renown.
6 But you must return to your God; maintain love and
justice, and always wait on your God.
7 A merchant loves to defraud with dishonest scales in
his hands.
8 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."
9 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.
10 I spoke through the prophets and multiplied their
visions; I gave parables through the prophets.
11 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.
12 Jacob fled to the land of Aram[e] and Israel worked
for a wife — for a wife he tended sheep.
13 But by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of
Egypt, and by a prophet he was preserved.
14 Ephraim has provoked bitter anger, so his Lord will
leave his bloodguilt upon him and repay him for his
contempt.

13

God's Anger against Israel

1 When Ephraim[f] 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 them-
selves cast images, idols skillfully made from their
silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. People say
of them, "They offer human sacrifice and kiss the
calves!"[g]
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, 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.

Death and Resurrection

(1 Corinthians 15:50–58)

9 You are destroyed, O Israel, because you are against
Me — against your helper.
10 Where is your king now[h] 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.[i] Where, O Death, are
your plagues? Where, O Sheol, is your sting?[j] Com-
passion is hidden from My eyes.

Judgment on Samaria

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.
16 Samaria will bear her guilt because she has rebelled
against her God. They will fall by the sword; their
little ones will be dashed to pieces, and their preg-
nant women ripped open.

14

A Call to Repentance

(Jeremiah 3:11–25; Zechariah 1:1–6)

1 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have
stumbled by your iniquity.
2 Bring your confessions and return to the LORD. Say
to Him: "Take away all our iniquity and receive us
graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips.[k]
3 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 com-
passion."

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[a] **12:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8 and 14

[b] **12:2** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.*

[c] **12:4** Or *Angel*

[d] **12:4** LXX and Syriac; MT *and there He spoke with us*

[e] **12:12** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

[f] **13:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 12

[g] **13:2** Or *"The men who sacrifice kiss the calves!"*See 1 Kings 19:18.

[h] **13:10** Or *Shall I be your King now*

[i] **13:14** Or *Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death?*

[j] **13:14** LXX *Where, O Death, is your penalty? Where, O Hades, is your sting?* Cited in 1 Corinthians 15:55

[k] **14:2** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew *that we may present our lips as sacrificial bulls*

A Promise of God's Blessing

4 I will heal their apostasy; I will freely love them, for
My anger has turned away from them.
5 I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the
lily and take root like the cedars of Lebanon.
6 His shoots will sprout, and his splendor will be
like the olive tree, his fragrance like the cedars of
Lebanon.
7 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.
8 O Ephraim,[a] what have I to do anymore with idols?
It is I who answer and watch over him. I am like a
flourishing cypress;[b] your fruit comes from Me.
9 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.

[a] **14:8** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel

[b] **14:8** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

Joel

Book of Joel

1

The Invasion of Locusts

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.[a]
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.

A Call to Mourning

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 with-
ered; the pomegranate, palm, and apple— all the
trees of the orchard— are withered. Surely the joy of
mankind has dried up.

A Call to Repentance

(Amos 5:4–15; Zephaniah 2:1–3; Luke 13:1–5)

13 Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O min-
isters 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.[b]
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 store-
houses are in ruins; the granaries are broken down,
for the grain has withered away.
18 How the cattle groan! The herds wander in confu-
sion 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 con-
sumed the open pastures.

2

The Army of Locusts

(Amos 7:1–9)

1 Blow the ram's horn in Zion; sound the alarm on My
holy mountain! Let all who dwell in the land trem-
ble, 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 moun-
tains 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, 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.[c]
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 break-
ing 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?

Return with All Your Heart

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

[a] **1:4** The precise identification of the four kinds of locusts mentioned here is uncertain.

[b] **1:15** Hebrew *Shaddai*

[c] **2:4** Or *like charioteers* or *like cavalry*

devotion.[a] 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.
15 Blow the ram's horn in Zion, consecrate a fast, pro-
claim a sacred assembly.
16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assem-
ble 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?'"

Restoration Promised

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,[b] and its rear guard into
the Western Sea.[c] 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.[d]
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.
25 I will repay you for the years eaten by locusts — the
swarming locust, the young locust, the destroying
locust, and the devouring locust[e] — 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.

I Will Pour Out My Spirit

(Acts 2:14–36)

28 And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all peo-
ple. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old
men will dream dreams, your young men will see
visions.
29 Even on My menservants and maidservants, I will
pour out My Spirit in those days.
30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth,
blood and fire and columns[f] of smoke.
31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to
blood before the coming of the great and awesome
[g] Day of the LORD.
32 And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
will be saved;[h] for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance, as the LORD has promised,
among the remnant called by the LORD."

3

The LORD Judges the Nations

1 "Yes, in those days and at that time, when I restore
Judah and Jerusalem from captivity,[i]
2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down
to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.[j] 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 against
Me, I will swiftly and speedily return your recom-
pense upon your heads.
5 For you took My silver and gold and carried off My
finest treasures to your temples.[k]
6 You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the
Greeks,[l] 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.

[a] **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*.

[b] **2:20** That is, the Dead Sea

[c] **2:20** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

[d] **2:22** Literally *their strength*

[e] **2:25** The precise identification of the four kinds of insects mentioned here is uncertain.

[f] **2:30** LXX *clouds* or *billows*

[g] **2:31** Or *dreadful*; LXX *glorious*

[h] **2:32** Cited in Acts 2:17–21 and Romans 10:13

[i] **3:1** Or *restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem*

[j] **3:2** *Jehoshaphat* means *the LORD judges*; also in verse 12.

[k] **3:5** Or *palaces*

[l] **3:6** Or *to the peoples of Javan*

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.[a] 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 strong-
hold for the people of Israel.

Blessings for God's People

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.
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.[b]
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 avenge their blood, which I have not yet
avenged.[c] " For the LORD dwells in Zion.

[a] **3:13** LXX *the harvest has come*; see also Mark 4:29.

[b] **3:18** Or *Valley of Shittim*

[c] **3:21** Or *For I will pardon their bloodguilt, which I have not yet pardoned.*

Amos

Book of Amos

1

Judgment on Israel's Neighbors

(Jeremiah 12:14–17)

1 These are the words of Amos, who was among the sheepherders[a] of Tekoa— what he saw concerning Israel two years[b] before the earthquake, in the days when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash[c] 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,[d] 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 ruler[e] from the Valley of Aven[f] 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: "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[g] — he and his princes together," says the LORD.

2

Judgment on Moab, Judah, and Israel

1 This is what the LORD says: "For three transgressions of Moab, even four, I will not revoke My judgment,[h] 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 Law 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 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,[i] they drink wine obtained through fines.[j]

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.

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[a] **1:1** Or *sheep breeders*

[b] **1:1** Or *during the two years*

[c] **1:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*

[d] **1:3** Or *I will not revoke the punishment*; Hebrew *I will not revoke it*; also in verses 6, 9, 11, and 13

[e] **1:5** Or *the inhabitants*

[f] **1:5** *Aven* means *wickedness*.

[g] **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.

[h] **2:1** Or *I will not revoke the punishment*; Hebrew *I will not revoke it*; also in verses 4 and 6

[i] **2:8** Or *of their gods*

[j] **2:8** Or *they drink the wine of those who have been fined*

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

Witnesses against Israel

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 known[a] from all the families of the
earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniq-
uities."
3 Can two walk together without agreeing where to go?[b]
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 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 oppres-
sion 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
[c] 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.[d]
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, 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

Punishment Brings No Repentance

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,[e] " declares the LORD.
4 "Go to Bethel and transgress; rebel even more at Gil-
gal! Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes
every three days.[f]
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[g] 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 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[h] 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

A Lamentation against Israel

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."

[a] **3:2** Or *chosen*

[b] **3:3** Or *without an appointment to meet*

[c] **3:11** Or *An adversary*

[d] **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*

[e] **4:3** That is, possibly Mount Hermon

[f] **4:4** Or *years*

[g] **4:6** That is, *with empty stomachs*

[h] **4:11** That is, *a burning stick*

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.”

A Call to Repentance

(Joel 1:13–20; Zephaniah 2:1–3; Luke 13:1–5)

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.[a]
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.
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.”

Woe to Rebellious Israel

(Acts 7:39–43)

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,[b] the idols you made for yourselves.
27 Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,”[c] says the LORD, whose name is the God of Hosts.

6

Woe to Those at Ease in Zion

(Luke 6:24–26)

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.

The Pride of Israel

8 The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself— the LORD, the God of Hosts, has declared: “I abhor Jacob’s pride 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 burn the bodies[d] 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 the sea[e] with oxen? But you have turned justice into

[a] **5:5** Hebrew *to Aven*, a reference to Beth-aven, a derogatory term for Bethel; see Hosea 4:15.

[b] **5:26** LXX *You have taken along the tabernacle of Molech and the star of your god Rephan*

[c] **5:27** Cited in Acts 7:42–43

[d] **6:10** Or *to make a funeral fire to honor the dead*

[e] **6:12** Literally *Does one plow (there)*

poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—
13 you who rejoice in Lo-debar[a] and say, 'Did we not take Karnaim[b] 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

The Locusts, Fire, and Plumb Line

(Joel 2:1–11)

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.[c]
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 with My sword."

Amaziah Accuses Amos

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 was not[d] a prophet," Amos replied, "nor was I the son[e] of a prophet; rather, I was 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[f] soil. And Israel will surely go into exile, away from their homeland.'"

8

The Basket of Summer Fruit

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: I saw a basket of summer fruit.[g]
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 songs[h] of the temple[i] 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;[j] let us cheat with dishonest scales.
6 Let us buy the poor with silver 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.

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[a] **6:13** *Lo-debar* means *nothing*.

[b] **6:13** *Karnaim* means *horn*, a symbol of strength.

[c] **7:1** LXX *A swarm of locusts coming from the east; and, behold, one grasshopper, king Gog.*

[d] **7:14** Or *I am not*

[e] **7:14** Or *nor am I the son*

[f] **7:17** Hebrew *unclean*

[g] **8:1** Or *ripe fruit*; also in verse 2

[h] **8:3** Or *the singing women*

[i] **8:3** Or *palace*

[j] **8:5** Or *Let us reduce the measure and increase the price*

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[a] of Beersheba lives’— they will fall, never to rise again.”

9

The Destruction of Israel

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, 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[b] 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[c] to Me, O children of Israel?” declares the LORD. “Did I not bring Israel up from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, [d] 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.’”

A Promise of Restoration

(Acts 15:5–21)

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,”[e] declares the LORD, who will do this.
13 “Behold, the days are coming,” 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 My people Israel from captivity;[f] 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.

[a] **8:14** Or *the god*

[b] **9:3** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

[c] **9:7** That is, people from the upper Nile region

[d] **9:7** That is, Crete

[e] **9:12** Hebrew; LXX *that the remnant of men, and all the nations that bear My name, may earnestly seek Me*; cited in Acts 15:16–18

[f] **9:14** Or *restore the fortunes of My people Israel*

Obadiah

Book of Obadiah

1

The Destruction of Edom

(Jeremiah 49:7–22)

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[a] 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[b] 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.
11 On the day you stood aloof while strangers carried
off his wealth and foreigners entered his gate 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[c] 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.

The Deliverance of Israel

15 For the Day of the LORD is near for all the nations. As
you have done, it will be done to you; your recom-
pense will return upon your own head.
16 For as you drank on My holy mountain, so all the na-
tions 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[d] 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 pos-
sess 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[e] Mount Zion to rule over
the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will belong
to the LORD.

[a] **1:3** Or *in the retreats of Sela*

[b] **1:7** Hebrew does not include *Those who eat*.

[c] **1:12** Hebrew *nor enlarge your mouth*

[d] **1:19** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands* ; that is, the western foothills of Judea

[e] **1:21** Or *The deliverers will go up from*; LXX *Those being delivered will go up*

Jonah

Book of Jonah

1

Jonah Flees from the LORD

(Nahum 1:1–15)

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.

The Great Storm

(Acts 27:13–26)

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.

Jonah Cast into the Sea

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[a] 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.
17 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

Jonah's Prayer

1 From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the LORD his God,
2 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.
3 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.
4 At this, I said, 'I have been banished from Your sight; yet I will look once more toward Your holy temple.'
5 The waters engulfed me to take my life; the watery depths closed around me; the seaweed wrapped around my head.
6 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!
7 As my life was fading away, I remembered the LORD. My prayer went up to You, to Your holy temple.
8 Those who cling to worthless idols forsake His loving devotion.[b]
9 But I, with the voice of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to You. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation is from the LORD!"
10 And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3

The Ninevites Repent

(Matthew 12:38–42; Luke 11:29–32)

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,[c] requiring a three-day journey.[d]
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.

[a] **1:13** Hebrew *the men dug in*

[b] **2:8** 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*.

[c] **3:3** Or *was a great city to God*

[d] **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

Jonah’s Anger at the LORD’s Compassion

1 Jonah, however, was greatly displeased, and he be-
came angry.[a]
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,[b] and it grew up to
provide shade over Jonah’s head to ease his discom-
fort, 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?”

[a] **4:1** Or *It was exceedingly evil to Jonah, and he became angry*

[b] **4:6** Hebrew *qiqayon*; that is, possibly the castor oil plant; also in verses 7, 9, and 10

Micah

Book of Micah

1

Judgment to Come

(Isaiah 7:17–25)

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 every-
one 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 val-
leys 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 foun-
dations.
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.

Weeping and Mourning

8 Because of this I will lament and wail; I will walk
barefoot and naked. I will howl like a jackal[a] and
mourn like an ostrich.[b]
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;[c] do not weep at all. Roll in the
dust in Beth-leaphrah.[d]
11 Depart in shameful nakedness, O dwellers of
Shaphir.[e] The dwellers of Zaanan[f] will not come
out. Beth-ezel[g] is in mourning; its support is taken
from you.
12 For the dwellers of Maroth[h] 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.
[i] 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[j] to Moresheth-gath;
[k] the houses of Achzib[l] will prove deceptive to the
kings of Israel.
15 I will again bring a conqueror against you, O dweller
of Mareshah.[m] The glory of Israel will come to Adul-
lam.
16 Shave yourselves bald and cut off your hair in
mourning for your precious children; make your-
selves as bald as an eagle, for they will go from you
into exile.

2

Woe to Oppressors

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 to divide the land by lot.

Reproof of False Prophets

(Ezekiel 13:1–16)

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 pleas-
ant 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 griev-
ous destruction!
11 If a man of wind were to come and say falsely, "I will
preach to you of wine and strong drink,"[n] he would
be just the preacher for this people!

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[a] **1:8** Or *a serpent* or *a dragon*

[b] **1:8** Literally *like daughters of an ostrich* or *like daughters of an owl*

[c] **1:10** *Gath* sounds like the Hebrew for *tell*.

[d] **1:10** *Beth-leaphrah* means *house of dust*.

[e] **1:11** *Shaphir* means *pleasant*.

[f] **1:11** *Zaanan* sounds like the Hebrew for *come out*.

[g] **1:11** *Beth-ezel* means *adjoining house* .

[h] **1:12** *Maroth* sounds like the Hebrew for *bitter*.

[i] **1:13** *Lachish* sounds like the Hebrew term for *team of horses*.

[j] **1:14** Or *give dowry*

[k] **1:14** *Moresheth* sounds like the Hebrew for *gift* or *dowry*.

[l] **1:14** *Achzib* means *deception*.

[m] **1:15** *Mareshah* sounds like the Hebrew for *conqueror*.

[n] **2:11** Or *"I will prophesy to you for wine and strong drink"*

The Remnant of Israel

(Micah 5:7–15)

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

Rulers and Prophets Condemned

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 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 de-
clare 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

The Mountain of the House of the LORD

(Isaiah 2:1–4)

1 In the last days 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 arbi-
trate 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.

The Restoration of Zion

(Zechariah 8:1–23)

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
[a] 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,
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[b] their
gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the
earth.

5

A Ruler from Bethlehem

(Matthew 2:1–12)

1 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.
2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are small among
the clans[c] of Judah, out of you will come forth for
Me One to be ruler over Israel[d] — One whose origins
are of old, from the days of eternity.

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[a] **4:8** Or *hill* ; Hebrew *And you, Migdal-eder, the Ophel*

[b] **4:13** Or *devote to destruction*

[c] **5:2** Or *thousands*

[d] **5:2** Cited in Matthew 2:6

3 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.
4 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 great-
ness will extend to the ends of the earth.
5 And He will be our peace[a] when Assyria invades our
land and tramples our citadels. We will raise against
it seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men.
6 And they will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod with the blade drawn. So He
will deliver us when Assyria invades our land and
marches into our borders.

The Remnant of Jacob

(Micah 2:12–13)

7 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 or linger
for mankind.
8 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.
9 Your hand will be lifted over your foes, and all your
enemies will be cut off.
10 "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will remove your
horses from among you and wreck your chariots.
11 I will remove the cities of your land and tear down
all your strongholds.
12 I will cut the sorceries from your hand, and you will
have no fortune-tellers.
13 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.
14 I will root out the Asherah poles from your midst
and demolish your cities.
15 I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the
nations that have not obeyed Me."

6

The Case against Israel

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 en-
during 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 re-
deemed 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[b] 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, 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 the sin of my soul?
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?

The Punishment of Israel

9 The voice of the LORD calls out to the city (and it is
sound wisdom to fear Your name): "Heed the rod
and the One who ordained it.
10 Can I forget any longer, O 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 the nations.[c] "

7

Israel's Great Misery

(Matthew 10:34–39; Luke 12:49–53)

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; 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 visitation.[d]
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.[e]

[a] **5:5** Or *their peace*

[b] **6:5** Or *Acacia Grove*

[c] **6:16** LXX; Hebrew *scorn of My people*

[d] **7:4** Or *your punishment*

[e] **7:5** Hebrew *in your bosom*

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 mem-
bers of his own household.[a]

Israel's Confession and Comfort

7 But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for
the God of my salvation. 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,
[b] 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.

God's Compassion on Israel

14 Shepherd with Your staff Your people, the flock of
Your inheritance. They live alone in a woodland,
surrounded by pastures.[c] 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 slith-
ering 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?[d]
19 He will again have compassion on us; He will van-
quish our iniquities. You will cast out all our sins into
the depths of the sea.
20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob and loving devo-
tion to Abraham, as You swore to our fathers from
the days of old.

[a] **7:6** Cited in Matthew 10:35–36; see also Luke 12:53.

[b] **7:12** Hebrew *the River*

[c] **7:14** Or *in a woodland, in the midst of Carmel*

[d] **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*.

Nahum

Book of Nahum

1

The Burden against Nineveh

(Jonah 1:1–3)

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[a] 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 con-
sumed 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, 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.”
15 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

The Overthrow of Nineveh

1 One who scatters advances against you, O Nineveh.
Guard the fortress! Watch the road! Brace your-
selves![b] Summon all your strength!
2 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.
3 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.[c]
4 The chariots dash through the streets; they rush
around the plazas, appearing like torches, darting
about like lightning.
5 He summons his nobles; they stumble as they ad-
vance. They race to its wall; the protective shield is
set in place.
6 The river gates are thrown open and the palace col-
lapses.
7 It is decreed that the city be exiled and carried away;
her maidservants moan like doves, and beat upon
their breasts.
8 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.
9 “Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!” There is no
end to the treasure, an abundance of every precious
thing.
10 She is emptied! Yes, she is desolate and laid waste!
Hearts melt, knees knock, bodies tremble, and every
face grows pale!
11 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?
12 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.
13 “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

Judgment on Nineveh

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, gal-
loping horse and bounding chariot!
3 Charging horseman, flashing sword, shining spear;
heaps of slain, mounds of corpses, dead bodies with-
out end— they stumble over their dead—
4 because of the many harlotries of the harlot, the se-
ductive 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.

[a] **1:8** Literally *of her place*

[b] **2:1** Hebrew *Strengthen your loins!*

[c] **2:3** Hebrew; alternately, the spears may be of *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; LXX and Syriac *they are prepared, and the horsemen rush to and fro.*

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,[a] stationed by the Nile
with water around her, whose rampart was the sea,
whose wall was the water?
9 Cush[b] and Egypt were her boundless strength; Put
and Libya were her 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 ene-
mies; fire consumes their bars.
14 Draw your water for the siege; strengthen your
fortresses. Work the clay and tread the mortar; re-
pair 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!
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[c] are like the swarming locust, and your
scribes[d] 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?

[a] **3:8** Hebrew *No-amon*

[b] **3:9** That is, the upper Nile region

[c] **3:17** Or *princes*

[d] **3:17** Or *marshals*

Habakkuk

Book of Habakkuk

1

Habakkuk's First Complaint

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.

The LORD's Answer

5 "Look at the nations and observe— be utterly astounded![a] For I am doing a work in your days that you would never believe even if someone told you.[b]
6 For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans[c] — 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."

Habakkuk's Second Complaint

(Psalm 11:1–7)

12 Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. O LORD, You have appointed them 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[d] 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

The LORD Answers Again

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.[e]
4 Look at the proud one; his soul is not upright[f] — but the righteous will live by faith[g] —
5 and wealth[h] 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.

Woe to the Chaldeans

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! 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.[i]
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.

[a] **1:5** LXX *Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish!*

[b] **1:5** Cited in Acts 13:41

[c] **1:6** That is, the Babylonians

[d] **1:15** Literally *He pulls all of them up*

[e] **2:3** Or *Though He lingers, wait for Him, since He will surely come and will not delay*; see also LXX; cited in Hebrews 10:37.

[f] **2:4** LXX *If he should draw back, My soul has no pleasure in him*

[g] **2:4** Or *faithfulness*; cited in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38

[h] **2:5** DSS; MT *wine*

[i] **2:10** Literally *sinning against your soul*

15 Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin 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![a]

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!' 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

Habakkuk's Prayer

1 This is a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth:[b]
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[c] 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 salvation?
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 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 salvation 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.

Habakkuk Rejoices

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 salvation!
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.

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[a] **2:16** DSS, LXX, and Syriac *and stagger*

[b] **3:1** *Shigionoth* is probably a musical term indicating the setting for the prayer.

[c] **3:3** *Selah* or *Interlude* is probably a musical or literary term; also in verses 9 and 13.

Zephaniah

Book of Zephaniah

1

Zephaniah Prophesies Judgment on Judah

(Matthew 13:36–43)

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 with their wicked worshipers.[a] 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 idola-
trous 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,[b]
6 and those who turn back from following the LORD,
neither seeking the LORD nor inquiring of Him."

The Day of the LORD

(Malachi 4:1–6; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; 2 Peter 3:8–13)

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,[c] who fill the house of their master[d] 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,
[e] and a loud crashing from the hills.
11 Wail, O dwellers of the Hollow,[f] for all your mer-
chants[g] 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 settled in complacency,[h] 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 forti-
fied 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 who dwell on the earth.[i]

2

A Call to Repentance

(Joel 1:13–20; Amos 5:4–15; Luke 13:1–5)

1 Gather yourselves, gather together, O shameful na-
tion,
2 before the decree takes effect[j] 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.
Perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the
LORD's anger.

Judgment on the Philistines

(Jeremiah 47:1–7)

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[k] 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 captives.[l]

[a] **1:3** Or *and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble*

[b] **1:5** Or *by their king*; *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7.

[c] **1:9** See 1 Samuel 5:5.

[d] **1:9** Or *the temple of their gods*

[e] **1:10** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh*

[f] **1:11** Or *the market district* or *the Mortar*

[g] **1:11** Or *all the people of Canaan*

[h] **1:12** Or *thickening on the dregs*

[i] **1:18** Or *of all the people living in the land*

[j] **2:2** Hebrew *is given birth*

[k] **2:6** Or *caves* or *camps*

[l] **2:7** Or *their fortunes*

Judgment on Moab and Ammon

(Isaiah 16:1–14; Jeremiah 48:1–47)

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.

Judgment on Cush and Assyria

12 "You too, O Cushites,[a] 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 deso-
lation, as dry as a desert.
14 Herds will lie down in her midst, creatures of every
kind.[b] Both the desert owl and screech owl[c] 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

Judgment on Jerusalem

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.

Purification of the Nations

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 to testify.[d] For My decision is to gather na-
tions, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them
My indignation — all My burning anger. For all the
earth will be consumed by the fire of My jealousy.

A Faithful Remnant

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[e] 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."

Israel's Restoration

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;[f] 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 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 captives[g] before your very eyes," says the
LORD.

[a] **2:12** That is, people from the upper Nile region

[b] **2:14** Hebrew *beasts of every nation*

[c] **2:14** The precise identification of the animals rendered *desert owl* and *screech owl* is uncertain.

[d] **3:8** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew *rise up to plunder*

[e] **3:10** That is, the upper Nile region

[f] **3:17** Or *He will be silent in His love*; LXX and Syriac *He will renew you with His love*

[g] **3:20** Or *your fortunes*

Haggai

Book of Haggai

1

A Call to Rebuild the Temple

(Ezra 5:1–5)

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,[a] 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, and on all the labor of your hands."

The People Obey

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.

[a] **1:1** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; also in verses 12 and 14; see Ezra 3:2.

2

The Coming Glory of God's House

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,[b] 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,[c] 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 will be greater than the former, says the LORD of Hosts. And in this place I will provide peace, declares the LORD of Hosts."

Blessings for a Defiled People

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 forward:[d] Before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the LORD,

16 from that time, when one came expecting a heap of

[b] **2:2** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; also in verse 4; see Ezra 3:2.

[c] **2:6** Cited in Hebrews 12:26

[d] **2:15** Or *backward*; also in verse 18

twenty ephahs of grain,[a] there were but ten. When one came to the winepress to draw out fifty baths,[b] 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."

Zerubbabel the LORD's Signet Ring

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."

[a] **2:16** Literally *a heap of twenty*

[b] **2:16** Literally *to draw out fifty from the winepress*

Zechariah

Book of Zechariah

1

A Call to Repentance

(Jeremiah 3:11–25; Hosea 14:1–3)

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.’”

The Vision of the Horses

7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat,[a] 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 added to the calamity.[b] ’
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.’”

The Vision of the Horns and the Craftsmen

18 Then I looked up and saw four horns.
19 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.”
20 Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.
21 “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.”

2

The Vision of the Measuring Line

(Ezekiel 40:1–4)

1 Then I lifted up my eyes and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand.
2 “Where are you going?” I asked. “To measure Jerusalem,” he replied, “and to determine its width and length.”
3 Then the angel who was speaking with me went forth, and another angel came forward to meet him
4 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.
5 For I will be a wall of fire around it, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory within it.’”

The Redemption of Zion

(Hosea 3:1–5)

6 “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.
7 “Get up, O Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the Daughter of Babylon!”
8 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “After His Glory has sent Me[c] against the nations that have plundered you — for whoever touches you touches the apple[d] of His eye —
9 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.”
10 “Shout for joy and be glad, O Daughter of Zion, for I am coming to dwell among you,” declares the LORD.

[a] **1:7** *Shebat* is the eleventh month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of January and February.
[b] **1:15** Or *they have overdone the punishment*
[c] **2:8** Or *After the Glorious One has sent Me* or *After He has honored Me and sent Me*
[d] **2:8** Or *the pupil*

11 “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.
12 And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His
portion in the Holy Land, and He will once again
choose Jerusalem.
13 Be silent before the LORD, all people, for He has
roused Himself from His holy dwelling.”

3

The Vision of Joshua the High Priest

1 Then the angel showed me Joshua the high priest
standing before the angel[a] of the LORD, with Satan
[b] standing at his right hand to accuse him.
2 And the LORD said to Satan: “The LORD rebukes you,
Satan! Indeed, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem,
rebukes you! Is not this man a firebrand[c] snatched
from the fire?”
3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy garments as he
stood before the angel.
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 com-
panions seated before you, who are indeed a sign.
For behold, I am going to bring My servant, the
Branch.
9 See the stone I have set before Joshua; on that one
stone are seven eyes.[d] 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

The Vision of the Lampstand and Olive Trees

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 lamp-
stand,” I replied, “with a bowl at the top and seven
lamps on it, with seven spouts to 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.
“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[e] of the LORD, which scan the
whole earth, will rejoice when they see the plumb
line[f] 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[g] pours?”
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[h] who
are standing beside the Lord of all the earth.”[i]

5

The Vision of the Flying Scroll

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.[j] ”
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.”

The Vision of the Woman in a Basket

5 Then the angel who was speaking with me came
forward and told me, “Now lift up your eyes and see
what is approaching.”

[a] **3:1** Or *Angel*; also in verses 3, 4, 5, and 6; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized.
[b] **3:1** That is, *the Accuser* or *the Adversary*; also in verse 2
[c] **3:2** That is, *a burning stick*
[d] **3:9** Or *facets*
[e] **4:10** Or *facets*
[f] **4:10** Or *the chosen capstone*
[g] **4:12** Hebrew *from which the gold*
[h] **4:14** Hebrew *the two sons of new oil*
[i] **4:14** See Revelation 11:4.
[j] **5:2** The flying scroll was approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet wide (9.1 meters long and 4.6 meters wide).
[a] **5:6** Or *An ephah*

6 "What is it?" I asked. And he replied, "A measuring basket[a] is going forth." Then he continued, "This is their iniquity[b] 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,[c] " he told me. "And when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its pedestal."

6

The Vision of the Four Chariots

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 spirits[d] 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 toward the west,[e] 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.
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."

The Crown and the Temple

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.[f]
12 And you are to tell him that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'Here is a man whose name is the Branch, 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 He will be a priest on His throne,[g] 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,[h] Tobijah, Jedaiah, and the gracious[i] 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

A Call to Justice and Mercy

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.[j]
2 Now the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-melech, along with their men,[k] 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[l] 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[m] 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.'
11 But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder; they stopped up their ears from hearing.[n]

[a] **5:6** One Hebrew manuscript, LXX, and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *their appearance* or (literally) *their eye*
[b] **5:11** That is, Babylonia
[c] **6:5** Or *winds*
[d] **6:6** Or *the one with the white horses after them*
[e] **6:11** *Jehozadak* is a variant of *Jozadak*; see Ezra 3:2.
[f] **6:13** Or *And there will be a priest on His throne*
[g] **6:14** Hebrew; Syriac *Heldai*; see verse 10.
[h] **6:14** Or *and Hen*; Syriac *and Josiah*; see verse 10.
[i] **7:1** *Chislev* is the ninth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of November and December.
[j] **7:2** Or *Bethel-sharezer had sent Regem-melech, along with his men,*
[k] **7:7** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea
[l] **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*.
[m] **7:11** Hebrew *they made their ears too heavy to hear*

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 I 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

The Restoration of Jerusalem

(Micah 4:6–13)

1 Again the word of the LORD of Hosts came to me, 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[a] 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.
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

The Burden against Israel's Enemies

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[b] —
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 cast her wealth into the sea,[c] 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; they will become like a clan[d] 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.

[a] **8:6** Or *marvelous*; twice in this verse

[b] **9:1** Or *for the eye of the LORD is on all men and all the tribes of Israel*

[c] **9:4** Or *strike down her power on the sea*

[d] **9:7** Or *like a leader*

Zion's Coming King

(Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–40; John 12:12–19)

9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph,
O Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to
you, righteous and victorious,[a] humble and riding
on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.[b]
10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim[c] 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[d] to the ends of the earth.
11 As for you, because of the blood of My 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.[e] I will make you like the sword of a
mighty man.

The LORD Will Save His People

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 de-
stroy 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.

10

Judah and Israel Will Be Restored

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 leaders.[f] 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 re-
member 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 They will pass through the sea of distress 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

The Doomed Flock

1 Open your doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may con-
sume your cedars!
2 Wail, O cypress,[g] for the cedar has fallen; the majes-
tic 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 com-
passion 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, espe-
cially 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."

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[a] **9:9** Or *righteous and endowed with salvation*

[b] **9:9** Cited in Matthew 21:5 and John 12:15

[c] **9:10** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel

[d] **9:10** Hebrew *the River*

[e] **9:13** Hebrew *the sons of Javan*

[f] **10:3** Or *these male goats*

[g] **11:2** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

Thirty Pieces of Silver

(Matthew 27:3–10)

10 Next I took my staff called Favor and cut it in two, [a] 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 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

The Coming Deliverance of Jerusalem

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[b] of the LORD going before them.
9 So on that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Mourning the One They Pierced

(John 19:31–37)

10 Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the people of Jerusalem a spirit[c] of grace and prayer, and they will look on Me,[d] the One they have pierced.[e] 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."

13

An End to Idolatry

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 spirit of impurity[f] 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.[g] '
6 If someone asks him, 'What are these wounds on your chest[h] ?' he will answer, 'These are the wounds I received in the house of my friends.'

The Shepherd Struck, the Sheep Scattered

(Matthew 26:31–35; Mark 14:27–31)

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,[i] and I will turn My hand against the little ones.

[a] **11:10** Or *broke it*; similarly in verse 14

[b] **12:8** Or *Angel*

[c] **12:10** Or *the Spirit*

[d] **12:10** Or *to Me*

[e] **12:10** Cited in John 19:37

[f] **13:2** Or *the unclean spirit*

[g] **13:5** Or *I am a farmer, for the land has been my livelihood since my youth.*

[h] **13:6** Literally *between your hands*

[i] **13:7** Cited in Matthew 26:31 and Mark 14:27

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

The Destroyers of Jerusalem Destroyed

1 Behold, a day of the LORD is coming when your plun-
der 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 ravished. 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 na-
tions, 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 Him.[a]
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[b] and the
other half toward the Western Sea,[c] 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 an-
other, 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.

All Nations Will Worship the King

(Leviticus 23:33–44; Nehemiah 8:13–18)

16 Then all the survivors from the nations that came
against Jerusalem will go up year after year to wor-
ship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to celebrate
the Feast of Tabernacles.[d]
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 Tabernacles.
19 This will be the punishment of Egypt and of all the
nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of
Tabernacles.
20 On that day, HOLY TO THE LORD[e] 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 Canaanite[f] in the
house of the LORD of Hosts.

[a] **14:5** LXX; Hebrew *with You*

[b] **14:8** That is, the Dead Sea

[c] **14:8** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea

[d] **14:16** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering*(see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

[e] **14:20** That is, *the LORD*

[f] **14:21** Or *merchant*

Malachi

Book of Malachi

1

The LORD's Love for Israel

(Genesis 25:19–28; Romans 9:6–29)

1 This is the burden of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi:[a]

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,[b] and I have made his mountains a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.[c] "

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.'"

The Polluted Offerings

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[d] ?' 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."

2

A Warning to the Priests

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,[e] 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."

Judah's Unfaithfulness

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,

[a] **1:1** *Malachi* means *My messenger*.

[b] **1:3** Cited in Romans 9:13

[c] **1:3** Or *to the serpents of the wilderness* or *to the dragons of the wilderness*

[d] **1:7** LXX *defiled it*

[e] **2:3** Or *I will blight your grain*

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,"[a] 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?" 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

I Will Send My Messenger

(Matthew 11:7–19; Luke 7:24–35)

1 "Behold, I will send My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me.[b] 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.

Robbing God

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.[c]
11 I will rebuke the devourer[d] 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.

The Book of Remembrance

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 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."

4

The Day of the LORD

(Zephaniah 1:7–18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; 2 Peter 3:8–13)

1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble; the day is coming when I will set them ablaze," says the LORD of Hosts. "Not a root or branch will be left to them."
2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings,[e] and you will go out and leap like calves from the stall.
3 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.
4 "Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances I commanded him for all Israel at Horeb.[f]
5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome[g] Day of the LORD.
6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. [h] Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse."

[a] **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,"*
[b] **3:1** Cited in Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, and Luke 7:27
[c] **3:10** Literally *blessing for which there will be no room*
[d] **3:11** *The devourer* is probably a name for a crop-destroying pest.
[e] **4:2** Or *the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings*
[f] **4:4** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai
[g] **4:5** Or *dreadful*; LXX *glorious*
[h] **4:6** Cited in Luke 1:17

Matthew

The Gospel According to Matthew

1

The Genealogy of Jesus

(Ruth 4:18–22; Luke 3:23–38)

1 This is the record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the
son of David, the son of Abraham:
2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of
Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.
3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of
Ram.[a]
4 Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab
the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of
Salmon.
5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz the
father of Obed by Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,
6 and Jesse the father of David the king. Next: David the
king[b] was the father of Solomon by Uriah's wife,
7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa.[c]
8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the
father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah.
9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of
Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.
10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the
father of Amon,[d] Amon the father of Josiah,
11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at
the time of the exile to Babylon.
12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father
of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of
Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.
14 Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of
Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.
15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of
Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,
16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary,
of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.
17 In all, then, there were fourteen generations from
Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile
to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

The Birth of Jesus

(Isaiah 7:10–16; Luke 2:1–7)

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His
mother Mary was pledged in marriage to Joseph, but
before they came together, she was found to be with
child through the Holy Spirit.
19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man
and was unwilling to disgrace her publicly, he resolved to divorce her quietly.
20 But after he had pondered these things, an angel
of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to embrace
Mary as your wife, for the One conceived in her is
from the Holy Spirit.
21 She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him
the name Jesus,[e] because He will save His people
from their sins."
22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said
through the prophet:
23 "Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give
birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel"[f]
(which means, "God with us"[g]).
24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the
Lord had commanded him and embraced Mary as
his wife.
25 But he had no union with her[h] until she gave birth
to her firstborn Son.[i] And he gave Him the name
Jesus.

2

The Pilgrimage of the Magi

(Micah 5:1–6)

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during
the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived
in Jerusalem,
2 asking, "Where is the One who has been born King
of the Jews? We saw His star in the east[j] and have
come to worship Him."
3 When Herod the king[k] heard this, he was disturbed,
and all Jerusalem with him.
4 And when he had assembled all the chief priests
and scribes of the people, he asked them where the
Christ was to be born.
5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is
what the prophet has written:
6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no
means least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you
will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of My
people Israel.'[l] "
7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and learned
from them the exact time the star had appeared.
8 And sending them to Bethlehem, he said: "Go and
search carefully for the Child, and when you find
Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship
Him."
9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way,
and the star they had seen in the east went ahead
of them until it stood over the place where the Child
was.

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[a] **1:3** Greek *Aram*, a variant of *Ram*; also in verse 4; see 1 Chronicles 2:9–10.

[b] **1:6** CT *David*

[c] **1:7** CT *Asaph*, a variant of *Asa*; also in verse 8; see 1 Chronicles 3:10.

[d] **1:10** CT *Amōs*, a variant spelling of *Amon*; twice in this verse; see 1 Chronicles 3:14.

[e] **1:21** *Jesus* means *The LORD saves*.

[f] **1:23** Literally *they will call His name Immanuel*; Isaiah 7:14 (see also DSS)

[g] **1:23** See Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 8:8, and Isaiah 8:10.

[h] **1:25** Literally *he did not know her*

[i] **1:25** CT *to a Son*

[j] **2:2** Or *as it rose*

[k] **2:3** CT *King Herod*

[l] **2:6** Micah 5:2; see also 2 Samuel 5:2.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great
delight.
11 On coming to the house, they saw[a] the Child with
His mother Mary, and they fell down and worshiped
Him. Then they opened their treasures and pre-
sented Him with gifts of gold and frankincense and
myrrh.
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return
to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another
route.

The Flight to Egypt

(Hosea 11:1–7)

13 When the Magi had gone, an angel of the Lord ap-
peared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up!" he said. "Take
the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Stay
there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for
the Child to kill Him."
14 So he got up, took the Child and His mother by night,
and withdrew to Egypt,
15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. This
fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the
prophet: "Out of Egypt I called My Son."[b]

Weeping and Great Mourning

(Jeremiah 31:1–25)

16 When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the
Magi, he was filled with rage. Sending orders, he put
to death all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity
who were two years old and under, according to the
time he had learned from the Magi.
17 Then what was spoken through the prophet Jere-
miah was fulfilled:
18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and[c] weep-
ing and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her
children and refusing to be comforted, because they
are no more."[d]

The Return to Nazareth

(Luke 2:39–40)

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in
a dream to Joseph in Egypt.
20 "Get up!" he said. "Take the Child and His mother
and go to the land of Israel, for those seeking the
Child's life are now dead."
21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and
went to the land of Israel.
22 But when he learned that Archelaus was reigning in
Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to
go there. And having been warned in a dream, he
withdrew to the district of Galilee,
23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So
was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets:
"He will be called a Nazarene."

[a] **2:11** Stephanus TR *they found*

[b] **2:15** Hosea 11:1

[c] **2:18** CT does not include *lamentation and.*

[d] **2:18** Jeremiah 31:15

3

The Mission of John the Baptist

(Isaiah 40:1–5; Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20; John 1:19–28)

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the
wilderness of Judea
2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is
near."
3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet
Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths
for Him.'"[e]
4 John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather
belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild
honey.
5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea
and the whole region around the Jordan.
6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in
the Jordan.[f]
7 But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sad-
ducees coming to his place of baptism, he said to
them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee
from the coming wrath?
8 Produce fruit,[g] then, in keeping with repentance.
9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have
Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these
stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
10 The axe lies ready at the root of the trees, and every
tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut
down and thrown into the fire.
11 I baptize you with water[h] for repentance, but after
me will come One more powerful than I, whose
sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit.[i]
12 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear
His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the
barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquench-
able fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

(Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34)

13 At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to
be baptized by John.
14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be
baptized by You, and do You come to me?"
15 "Let it be so now," Jesus replied. "It is fitting for us
to fulfill all righteousness in this way." Then John
permitted Him.
16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the
water. Suddenly the heavens were opened to Him,
[j] and He saw[k] the Spirit of God descending like a
dove and resting on Him.
17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved
Son, in whom I am well pleased!"

[e] **3:3** Isaiah 40:3 (see also LXX)

[f] **3:6** CT *in the Jordan River*

[g] **3:8** TR *fruits*

[h] **3:11** Or *in water*

[i] **3:11** Or *in the Holy Spirit*; CT, GOC, and TR include *and with fire* or *and in fire.*

[j] **3:16** Or *to him*; NA, MT, and TR; SBL and WH do not include *to Him.*

[k] **3:16** Or *and he saw*; see John 1:32–33.

4

The Temptation of Jesus

(Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13)

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness
to be tempted by the devil.
2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was
hungry.
3 The tempter came to Him and said,[a] "If You are the
Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."
4 But Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live
on bread alone, but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.'[b] "
5 Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him
on the pinnacle of the temple.
6 "If You are the Son of God," he said, "throw Yourself
down. For it is written: 'He will command His angels
concerning You, and they will lift You up in their
hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against
a stone.'[c] "
7 Jesus replied, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord
your God to the test.'[d] "
8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain
and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and
their glory.
9 "All this I will give You," he said, "if You will fall down
and worship me."
10 "Get behind Me,[e] Satan!" Jesus told him. "For it is
written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him
only.'[f] "
11 Then the devil left Him, and angels came and minis-
tered to Him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

(Isaiah 9:1–7; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:14–15)

12 When Jesus heard that John had been imprisoned,
He withdrew to Galilee.
13 Leaving Nazareth, He went and lived in Capernaum,
which is by the sea in the region of Zebulun and
Naphtali,
14 to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isa-
iah:
15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of
the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles —
16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a
light has dawned."[g]
17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven is near."

The First Disciples

(Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11; John 1:35–42)

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee,
He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his
brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the
sea, for they were fishermen.
19 "Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you
fishers of men."
20 And at once they left their nets and followed Him.
21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers,
James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They
were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending
their nets. Jesus called them,
22 and immediately they left the boat and their father
and followed Him.

Jesus Heals the Multitudes

(Mark 3:7–12; Luke 6:17–19)

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their
synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom,
and healing every disease and sickness among the
people.
24 News about Him spread all over Syria, and people
brought to Him all who were ill with various
diseases, those suffering acute pain, the demon-pos-
sessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed,
and He healed them.
25 Large crowds followed Him, having come from
Galilee, the Decapolis,[h] Jerusalem, Judea, and be-
yond the Jordan.

5

The Sermon on the Mount

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the
mountain and sat down. His disciples came to Him,
2 and He began to teach them, saying:

The Beatitudes

(Psalm 1:1–6; Luke 6:20–23)

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the king-
dom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be com-
forted.
5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.[i]
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for right-
eousness, for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown
mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
sons of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute
you, and falsely say every evil thing[j] against you
because of Me.
12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward
in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets before you.

[a] **4:3** CT literal *The tempter came and said to Him*
[b] **4:4** Deuteronomy 8:3
[c] **4:6** Psalm 91:11–12
[d] **4:7** Deuteronomy 6:16
[e] **4:10** CT *Go away* or *Be gone*
[f] **4:10** Deuteronomy 6:13
[g] **4:16** Isaiah 9:1–2
[h] **4:25** That is, the Ten Cities
[i] **5:5** Or *Blessed are those who exercise strength under control, for they will inherit the land* ; see Psalm 37:11 .
[j] **5:11** CT *all kinds of evil*

Salt and Light

(Mark 9:49–50; Luke 14:34–35; Philippians 2:12–18)

13 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses
its savor, how can it be made salty again? It is no
longer good for anything, except to be thrown out
and trampled by men.
14 You are the light of the world. A city on a hill[a] cannot
be hidden.
15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a
basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives
light to everyone in the house.
16 In the same way, let your light shine before men,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your
Father in heaven.

The Fulfillment of the Law

17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or
the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to
fulfill them.
18 For I tell you truly, until heaven and earth pass away,
not a single jot, not a stroke of a pen, will disappear
from the Law until everything is accomplished.
19 So then, whoever breaks one of the least of these
commandments and teaches others to do likewise
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but
whoever practices and teaches them will be called
great in the kingdom of heaven.
20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds
that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never
enter the kingdom of heaven.

Anger and Reconciliation

(Luke 12:57–59)

21 You have heard that it was said to the ancients,
'Do not murder'[b] and 'Anyone who murders will be
subject to judgment.'
22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his
brother without cause[c] will be subject to judgment.
Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,'[d] will
be subject to the Sanhedrin.[e] But anyone who says,
'You fool!' will be subject to the fire of hell.[f]
23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there
remember that your brother has something against
you,
24 leave your gift there before the altar. First go and
be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer
your gift.
25 Reconcile quickly with your adversary, while you
are still on the way to court. Otherwise, he may hand
you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you
over to the officer,[g] and you may be thrown into
prison.
26 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have
paid the last penny.[h]

Adultery

(Leviticus 18:1–30)

27 You have heard that it was said,[i] 'Do not commit
adultery.'[j]
28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman to
lust after her has already committed adultery with
her in his heart.
29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and
throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of
your body than for your whole body to be thrown
into hell.[k]
30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off
and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part
of your body than for your whole body to be cast[l]
into hell.

Divorce

(Deuteronomy 24:1–5; Luke 16:18)

31 It has also been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife
must give her a certificate of divorce.'[m]
32 But I tell you that whoever[n] divorces his wife, ex-
cept for sexual immorality, brings adultery upon her.
[o] And he who marries a divorced woman commits
adultery.

Oaths and Vows

(Numbers 30:1–16)

33 Again, you have heard that it was said to the an-
cients, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill your vows
to the Lord.'[p]
34 But I tell you not to swear at all: either by heaven,
for it is God's throne;
35 or by the earth, for it is His footstool; or by
Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.
36 Nor should you swear by your head, for you cannot
make a single hair white or black.
37 Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'
Anything more comes from the evil one.[q]

Love Your Enemies

(Leviticus 24:17–23; Luke 6:27–36)

38 You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye and
tooth for tooth.'[r]
39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. If someone
slaps you on the[s] right cheek, turn to him the other
also;

[a] **5:14** Literally *A city lying on a hill*
[b] **5:21** Exodus 20:13 ; Deuteronomy 5:17
[c] **5:22** CT does not include *without cause*.
[d] **5:22** *Raca* is an Aramaic expression of contempt.
[e] **5:22** Or *the Council*
[f] **5:22** Or *the hell of fire*; Greek *the Gehenna of fire*
[g] **5:25** CT literal *and the judge to the officer*
[h] **5:26** Greek *kodrantēn*; that is, a Roman copper coin worth about 1/64 of a denarius
[i] **5:27** GOC and TR include *to the ancients* .
[j] **5:27** Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18
[k] **5:29** Greek *Gehenna*; also in verse 30
[l] **5:30** CT *to go*
[m] **5:31** Deuteronomy 24:1
[n] **5:32** CT *anyone who*
[o] **5:32** Or *causes her to commit adultery*
[p] **5:33** Numbers 30:2
[q] **5:37** Or *from evil*
[r] **5:38** Exodus 21:24 ; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21
[s] **5:39** ALT, HF, NA, TR, WH *your*

40 if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let
him have your cloak as well;
41 and if someone forces you to go one mile,[a] go with
him two miles.[b]
42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away
from the one who wants to borrow from you.
43 You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neigh-
bor'[c] and 'Hate your enemy.'
44 But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who
curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray
for those who mistreat you and persecute you,[d]
45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He
causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and
sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you
get? Do not even tax collectors do the same?
47 And if you greet only your friends,[e] what are you
doing more than others? Do not even the tax collec-
tors[f] do the same?
48 Be perfect, therefore, as your Father in heaven[g] is
perfect."

6

Giving to the Needy

(Deuteronomy 15:7–11)

1 "Be careful not to perform your acts of charity[h]
before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will
have no reward from your Father in heaven.
2 So when you give to the needy, do not sound a
trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the syn-
agogues and on the streets, to be honored by men.
Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward.
3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left
hand know what your right hand is doing,
4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father,
who sees what is done in secret, will Himself reward
you openly.[i]

The Lord's Prayer

(Luke 11:1–4)

5 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. For
they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on
the street corners to be seen by men. Truly I tell you,
they already have their full reward.
6 But when you pray, go into your inner room, shut
your door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen.
And your Father, who sees what is done in secret,
will reward you openly.[j]
7 And when you pray, do not babble on like pagans,
for they think that by their many words they will be
heard.
8 Do not be like them, for your Father[k] knows what
you need before you ask Him.
9 So then, this is how you should pray: 'Our Father in
heaven, hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as
it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive[l] our
debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
the evil one.[m] For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.[n] '
14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heav-
enly Father will also forgive you.
15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses,[o]
neither will your Father forgive yours.[p]

Proper Fasting

16 When you fast, do not be somber like the hypocrites,
for they disfigure their faces to show men they are
fasting. Truly I tell you, they already have their full
reward.
17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your
face,
18 so that your fasting will not be obvious to men, but
only to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father,
who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.[q]

Treasures in Heaven

(Luke 12:32–34)

19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust[r] destroy, and where thieves
break in and steal.
20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where moth and rust do not destroy, and where
thieves do not break in and steal.
21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be
also.

The Lamp of the Body

(Luke 11:33–36)

22 The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good,
[s] your whole body will be full of light.
23 But if your eyes are bad,[t] your whole body will be
full of darkness. If then the light within you is dark-
ness, how great is that darkness!
24 No one can serve two masters: Either he will hate
the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to

[a] **5:41** Greek *one milion*; that is, a Roman mile, approximately 4,855 feet or 1,480 meters
[b] **5:41** Literally *go with him two.*
[c] **5:43** Leviticus 19:18
[d] **5:44** CT *love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*; see Luke 6:27–28.
[e] **5:47** CT and TR *brothers*
[f] **5:47** CT *Gentiles*
[g] **5:48** CT *heavenly Father*
[h] **6:1** Or *alms* ; CT *righteous acts*
[i] **6:4** CT and GOC *will reward you*
[j] **6:6** CT *will reward you*
[k] **6:8** WH *God your Father*
[l] **6:12** CT *have forgiven*
[m] **6:13** Or *from evil*
[n] **6:13** CT does not include *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*
[o] **6:15** NA and SBL *if you do not forgive men*
[p] **6:15** Literally *your trespasses*
[q] **6:18** GOC and TR include *openly*.
[r] **6:19** Or *worm* ; also in verse 20
[s] **6:22** Literally *If your eye is sound* ; see Proverbs 22:9 .
[t] **6:23** Literally *if your eye is evil*; see Proverbs 23:6 and Proverbs 28:22.

the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Do Not Worry

(Luke 12:22–31)

25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat and[a] drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?
26 Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?
27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?[b]
28 And why do you worry about clothes? Consider how the lilies of the field grow: They do not labor or spin.
29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these.
30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
32 For the Gentiles strive after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.
33 But seek first the kingdom of God[c] and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.
34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about the things of itself.[d] Today has enough trouble of its own."

7

Judging Others

(Luke 6:37–42; Romans 14:1–12)

1 "Do not judge, or you will be judged.
2 For with the same judgment you pronounce, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured[e] to you.
3 Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but fail to notice the beam in your own eye?
4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while there is still a beam in your own eye?
5 You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.
6 Do not give dogs what is holy; do not throw your pearls before swine. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

Ask, Seek, Knock

(Luke 11:5–13)

7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.
8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.
9 Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
10 And[f] if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?
11 So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!
12 In everything, then, do to others as you would have them do to you. For this is the essence of the Law and the Prophets.

The Narrow Gate

(Luke 13:22–30)

13 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate [g] and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
14 But small[h] is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it.

A Tree and Its Fruit

(Luke 6:43–45)

15 Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?
17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.
19 Every tree[i] that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
20 So then, by their fruit you will recognize them.
21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'
23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!'

The House on the Rock

(Luke 6:46–49)

24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them I will liken to[j] a wise man who built his house on the rock.
25 The rain fell, the torrents raged, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because its foundation was on the rock.

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[a] **6:25** NA, TH, and WH *or*

[b] **6:27** Or *a single cubit to his height*; a cubit was approximately 18 inches or 45 centimeters.

[c] **6:33** SBL, WH, and NE *seek first His kingdom*; see also Luke 12:31.

[d] **6:34** CT *worry about itself*

[e] **7:2** TR *measured again*

[f] **7:10** CT *Or*

[g] **7:13** WH does not include *is the gate* .

[h] **7:14** Literally *How small*

[i] **7:19** F35 *Every tree, then,*

[j] **7:24** CT *is like*

26 But everyone who hears these words of Mine and
does not act on them is like a foolish man who built
his house on sand.
27 The rain fell, the torrents raged, and the winds blew
and beat against that house, and it fell— and great
was its collapse!”

The Authority of Jesus

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the
crowds were astonished at His teaching,
29 because He taught as one who had authority, and not
as the scribes.[a]

8

The Leper’s Prayer

(Leviticus 14:1–32; Mark 1:40–45; Luke 5:12–16)

1 When Jesus came down from the mountain, large
crowds followed Him.
2 Suddenly a leper[b] came and knelt before Him, say-
ing, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me
clean.”
3 Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. “I
am willing,” He said. “Be clean!” And immediately
his leprosy was cleansed.
4 Then Jesus instructed him, “See that you don’t tell
anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and
offer the gift prescribed by Moses, as a testimony to
them.”[c]

The Faith of the Centurion

(Luke 7:1–10; John 4:43–54)

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion
came and pleaded with Him,
6 “Lord, my servant[d] lies at home, paralyzed and in
terrible agony.”
7 “I will go and heal him,” Jesus replied.
8 The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to
have You come under my roof. But just say the word,
and my servant will be healed.
9 For I myself am a man under[e] authority, with sol-
diers under me. I tell one to go, and he goes, and
another to come, and he comes. I tell my servant to
do something, and he does it.”
10 When Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to
those following Him, “Truly I tell you, I have not
found even in Israel such great faith.[f]
11 I say to you that many will come from the east and
the west to share the banquet with Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.
12 But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the
outer darkness, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.”
13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! As you have
believed, so will it be done for you.” And his[g] ser-
vant was healed at that very hour.

Jesus Heals at Peter’s House

(Mark 1:29–34; Luke 4:38–41)

14 When Jesus arrived at Peter’s house, He saw Peter’s
mother-in-law sick in bed with a fever.
15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and
she got up and began to serve Him.[h]
16 When evening came, many who were demon-pos-
sessed were brought to Jesus, and He drove out the
spirits with a word and healed all the sick.
17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the
prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and car-
ried our diseases.”[i]

The Cost of Discipleship

(Luke 9:57–62; Luke 14:25–33; John 6:59–66)

18 When Jesus saw large crowds[j] around Him, He
gave orders to cross to the other side of the sea.[k]
19 And one of the scribes came to Him and said,
“Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”
20 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds of the air
have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay
His head.”
21 Another of His disciples[l] requested, “Lord, first let
me go and bury my father.”
22 But Jesus told him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury
their own dead.”

Jesus Calms the Storm

(Psalm 107:1–43; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25)

23 When He got into the boat, His disciples followed
Him.
24 Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that
the boat was engulfed by the waves. But Jesus was
sleeping.
25 Then the disciples went[m] and woke Him, saying,
“Lord, save us! We are perishing!”
26 “You of little faith,” Jesus replied, “why are you so
afraid?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and
the sea, and it was perfectly calm.
27 The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of
man is this? Even the winds and the sea obey Him!”

The Demons and the Pigs

(Mark 5:1–20; Luke 8:26–39)

28 When Jesus arrived on the other side in the region
of the Gergesenes,[n] He was met by two demon-
possessed men coming from the tombs. They were
so violent that no one could pass that way.

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[a] **7:29** CT *their scribes*

[b] **8:2** A *leper* was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13.

[c] **8:4** See Leviticus 14:1–32.

[d] **8:6** Or *child*; also in verses 8 and 13

[e] **8:9** WH *set under*

[f] **8:10** CT *I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith*

[g] **8:13** SBL, TH, WH *the*

[h] **8:15** TR *them*

[i] **8:17** Isaiah 53:4

[j] **8:18** NA and WH *a large crowd*

[k] **8:18** That is, the Sea of Galilee; Greek *to the other side*

[l] **8:21** F35, SBL, TH, WH *the disciples*

[m] **8:25** CT *they went*; GOC and TR *His disciples went*

[n] **8:28** CT *Gadarenes*; some manuscripts *Gerasenes*

29 "What do You want with us, Jesus,[a] Son of God?"
they shouted. "Have You come here to torture us
before the appointed time?"
30 In the distance a large herd of pigs was feeding.
31 So the demons begged Jesus, "If You drive us out,
permit us to go off into[b] the herd of pigs."
32 "Go!" He told them. So they came out and went
into the herd of pigs,[c] and the whole herd of pigs[d]
rushed down the steep bank into the sea and died in
the waters.
33 Those tending the pigs ran off into the town and re-
ported all this, including the account of the demon-
possessed men.
34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And
when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their
region.

9

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

(Mark 2:1–12; Luke 5:17–26)

1 Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His
own town.
2 Just then some men brought[e] to Him a paralytic lying
on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the
paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven
you.[f] "
3 On seeing this, some of the scribes said to themselves,
"This man is blaspheming!"
4 But Jesus knew[g] what they were thinking and said,
"Why do you harbor evil in your hearts?
5 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,[h] ' or
to say, 'Get up and walk'?
6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has
authority on earth to forgive sins..." Then He said
to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your mat, and go
home."
7 And the man got up and went home.
8 When the crowds saw this, they marveled[i] and glo-
rified God, who had given such authority to men.

Jesus Calls Matthew

(Mark 2:13–17; Luke 5:27–32)

9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named
Matthew sitting at the tax booth. "Follow Me," He
told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.
10 Later, as Jesus was dining at Matthew's house, many
tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him
and His disciples.
11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disci-
ples, "Why does your Teacher eat[j] with tax collec-
tors and sinners?"
12 On hearing this, Jesus said to them,[k] "It is not the
healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.
13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy,
not sacrifice.'[l] For I have not come to call the right-
eous, but sinners, to repentance.[m] "

Questions about Fasting

(Mark 2:18–20; Luke 5:33–35)

14 Then John's disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Why
is it that we and the Pharisees fast so often,[n] but
Your disciples do not fast?"
15 Jesus replied, "How can the guests of the bridegroom
mourn while He is with them? But the time will come
when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then
they will fast.

The Patches and the Wineskins

(Mark 2:21–22; Luke 5:36–39)

16 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old
garment. For the patch will pull away from the gar-
ment, and a worse tear will result.
17 Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If
they do, the skins will burst, the wine will spill, and
the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, they pour new
wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

The Healing Touch of Jesus

(Mark 5:21–43; Luke 8:40–56)

18 While Jesus was saying these things, a synagogue
leader came and knelt before Him. "My daughter has
just died," he said. "But come and place Your hand
on her, and she will live."
19 So Jesus got up and went with him, along with His
disciples.
20 Suddenly a woman who had suffered from bleeding
for twelve years came up behind Him and touched
the fringe of His cloak.
21 She said to herself, "If only I touch His cloak, I will
be healed."
22 Jesus turned around[o] and saw her. "Take courage,
daughter," He said, "your faith has healed you." And
the woman was healed from that very hour.
23 When Jesus entered the house of the synagogue
leader, He saw the flute players and the noisy crowd.
24 "Go away," He told them. "The girl is not dead, but
asleep." And they laughed at Him.
25 After the crowd had been put outside, Jesus went in
and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.
26 And the news about this spread throughout that
region.

[a] **8:29** CT does not include *Jesus*.
[b] **8:31** CT *send us into*
[c] **8:32** CT *into the pigs*
[d] **8:32** CT *the whole herd*
[e] **9:2** Literally *And behold, they brought*
[f] **9:2** CT *your sins are forgiven*
[g] **9:4** Or *saw*
[h] **9:5** ALT and TR *forgiven you*
[i] **9:8** CT *they were filled with awe* or *they were afraid*
[j] **9:11** F35 *eat and drink*
[k] **9:12** CT *On hearing this, He said*
[l] **9:13** Hosea 6:6
[m] **9:13** CT does not include *to repentance*; see Luke 5:32.
[n] **9:14** NE and WH do not include *so often*.
[o] **9:22** CT *turned*

Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute

(Mark 7:31–37)

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed
Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”
28 After Jesus had entered the house, the blind men
came to Him. “Do you believe that I am able to do
this?” He asked. “Yes, Lord,” they answered.
29 Then He touched their eyes and said, “According to
your faith will it be done to you.”
30 And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them
sternly, “See that no one finds out about this!”
31 But they went out and spread the news about Him
throughout the land.
32 As they were leaving, a demon-possessed man who
was mute was brought to Jesus.
33 And when the demon had been driven out, the man
began to speak. The crowds were amazed and said,
“Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!”
34 But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons
that He drives out demons.”

The Lord of the Harvest

(Luke 10:1–12)

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the
kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness
among the people.[a]
36 When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed[b] and
helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out
workers into His harvest.”

10

The Twelve Apostles

(Mark 3:13–19; Luke 6:12–16)

1 And calling His twelve disciples to Him, Jesus gave
them authority over unclean spirits, so that they
could drive them out and heal every disease and
sickness.
2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first
Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James
son of Zebedee, and his brother John;
3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the
tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus
called Thaddaeus;[c]
4 Simon the Zealot,[d] and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed
Jesus.[e]

The Ministry of the Twelve

(Mark 6:7–13; Luke 9:1–6)

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go onto the road of the Gentiles
or enter any town of the Samaritans.
6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.
7 As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of
heaven is near.’
8 Heal the sick,[f] cleanse the lepers,[g] drive out
demons. Freely you have received; freely give.
9 Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your
belts.
10 Take no bag for the road, or second tunic, or sandals,
or staffs;[h] for the worker is worthy of his provisions.
11 Whatever town or village you enter, find out who is
worthy there and stay at his house[i] until you move
on.
12 As you enter the home, greet its occupants.[j]
13 If the home is worthy, let your peace rest on it, but if
it is not, let your peace return to you.
14 And if anyone will not welcome you or heed your
words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave
that home or town.
15 Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom
and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that
town.

Sheep among Wolves

(2 Timothy 1:3–12)

16 Behold, I am sending you out like sheep among
wolves; therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as
innocent as doves.
17 But beware of men, for they will hand you over to
their councils and flog you in their synagogues.
18 On My account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the
Gentiles.
19 But when they hand you over, do not worry about
how to respond or what to say. In that hour you will
be given what to say.
20 For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your
Father speaking through you.
21 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father
his child; children will rise against their parents and
have them put to death.
22 You will be hated by everyone because of My name,
but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.
23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to
another.[k] Truly I tell you, you will not reach all the
towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.
24 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant
above his master.
25 It is enough for a disciple to be like his teacher, and
a servant like his master. If the head of the house
has been called Beelzebul,[l] how much more the
members of his household!

[a] **9:35** CT does not include *among the people*.
[b] **9:36** GOC and TR *faint*
[c] **10:3** CT does not include *Lebbaeus called*.
[d] **10:4** Literally *Simon the Cananite*; CT *Simon the Cananean*
[e] **10:4** Literally *the one also having betrayed Him.*
[f] **10:8** CT includes *raise the dead*; TR includes *raise the dead* after *cleanse the lepers*.
[g] **10:8** A *leper* was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13.
[h] **10:10** GOC, CT, Stephanus TR *staff*
[i] **10:11** Literally *stay there*
[j] **10:12** Literally *greet it*
[k] **10:23** CT *flee to the next*
[l] **10:25** WH *Beezeboul*; Scrivener TR *Beelzebub*

Fear God Alone

(Luke 12:4–7)

26 So do not be afraid of them. For there is nothing
concealed that will not be disclosed, and nothing
hidden that will not be made known.
27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight;
what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the
housetops.
28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but
cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can
destroy both soul and body in hell.[a]
29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?[b] Yet not one
of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of
your Father.
30 And even the very hairs of your head are all num-
bered.
31 So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many
sparrows.

Confessing Christ

(Luke 12:8–12)

32 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men,
I will also confess him before My Father in heaven.
33 But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny
him before My Father in heaven.

Not Peace but a Sword

(Micah 7:1–6; Luke 12:49–53)

34 Do not assume that I have come to bring peace to the
earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
35 For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law
against her mother-in-law.
36 A man’s enemies will be the members of his own
household.’[c]
37 Anyone who loves his father or mother more than
Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or
daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me;
38 and anyone who does not take up his cross and
follow Me is not worthy of Me.
39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses
his life for My sake will find it.

The Reward of Service

(2 Kings 4:8–17)

40 He who receives you receives Me, and he who re-
ceives Me receives the One who sent Me.
41 Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet
will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever re-
ceives a righteous man because he is a righteous
man will receive a righteous man’s reward.
42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one
of these little ones because he is My disciple, truly I
tell you, he will never lose his reward.”

[a] **10:28** Greek *Gehenna*

[b] **10:29** Greek *an assarion* ; that is, a Roman copper coin worth about 1/16 of a denarius

[c] **10:36** Micah 7:6

11

John’s Inquiry

(Luke 7:18–23)

1 After Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disci-
ples, He went on from there to teach and preach in
their cities.[d]
2 Meanwhile John heard in prison about the works of
Christ, and he sent two of his disciples[e]
3 to ask Him, “Are You the One who was to come, or
should we look for someone else?”
4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you
hear and see:
5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers[f]
are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and
the good news is preached to the poor.
6 Blessed is the one who does not fall away on account
of Me.[g] ”

Jesus Testifies about John

(Malachi 3:1–5; Luke 7:24–35)

7 As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak
to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into
the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind?
8 Otherwise, what did you go out to see? A man dressed
in fine clothes? Look, those who wear fine clothing
are found in kings’ palaces.
9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet?[h] Yes, I
tell you, and more than a prophet.
10 For this[i] is the one about whom it is written: ‘Be-
hold, I will send My messenger ahead of You, who
will prepare Your way before You.’[j]
11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there
has risen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet
even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater
than he.
12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the
kingdom of heaven has been subject to violence,[k]
and the violent lay claim to it.
13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until
John.
14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah
who was to come.[l]
15 He who has ears to hear,[m] let him hear.
16 To what can I compare this generation? They are like
children[n] sitting in the marketplaces[o] and calling
out to one another:[p]

[d] **11:1** That is, in the towns of Galilee

[e] **11:2** CT *he sent his disciples*

[f] **11:5** A *leper* was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13.

[g] **11:6** Or *who is not offended by Me*

[h] **11:9** SBL and WH *Why did you go out? To see a prophet?*

[i] **11:10** CT *This*

[j] **11:10** Malachi 3:1

[k] **11:12** Or *has been forcefully advancing*

[l] **11:14** See Malachi 4:5.

[m] **11:15** NA, SBL, WH do not include *to hear* .

[n] **11:16** TR *little children*

[o] **11:16** ALT, F35 *marketplace*

[p] **11:16** CT *to others*

17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge for you,[a] and you did not mourn.’
18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they
say, ‘He has a demon!’
19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they
say, ‘Look at this glutton and drunkard, a friend of
tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is vindicated
by her children.[b] ”

Woe to the Unrepentant

(Luke 10:13–16)

20 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which
most of His miracles had been performed, because
they did not repent.
21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For
if the miracles that were performed in you had
been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have
repented long ago in[c] sackcloth and ashes.
22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and
Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.
23 And you, Capernaum, which is lifted up to heaven,
will be brought down to Hades![d] For if the miracles
that were performed in you had been performed in
Sodom, it would have remained to this day.
24 But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom
on the day of judgment than for you.”

Rest for the Weary

(Luke 10:21–24)

25 At that time Jesus declared, “I praise You, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hid-
den these things from the wise and learned, and
revealed them to little children.
26 Yes, Father, for this was well-pleasing in Your sight.
27 All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one
knows the Father except the Son and those to whom
the Son chooses to reveal Him.
28 Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am
gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest
for your souls.
30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

12

The Lord of the Sabbath

(1 Samuel 21:1–7; Mark 2:23–28; Luke 6:1–5)

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on
the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to
pick the heads of grain and eat them.
2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, “Look,
Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the
Sabbath.”
3 Jesus replied, “Have you not read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry?
4 He entered the house of God, and he and his compan-
ions ate the consecrated bread,[e] which was not
lawful for them to eat, but only for the priests.
5 Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath
the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet
are innocent?
6 But I tell you that One greater than the temple is here.
7 If only you had known the meaning of ‘I desire mercy,
not sacrifice,’[f] you would not have condemned the
innocent.
8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the[g] Sabbath.”

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

(Mark 3:1–6; Luke 6:6–11)

9 Moving on from there, Jesus entered their synagogue,
10 and a man with a withered hand was there. In order
to accuse Jesus, they asked Him, “Is it lawful to heal
on the Sabbath?”
11 He replied, “If one of you has a sheep and it falls into
a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and
lift it out?
12 How much more valuable is a man than a sheep!
Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”
13 Then Jesus said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.”
So he stretched it out, and it was restored to full use,
just like the other.
14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they
might kill Jesus.

God’s Chosen Servant

(Isaiah 42:1–9)

15 Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Large
crowds followed[h] Him, and He healed them all,
16 warning them not to make Him known.
17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the
prophet Isaiah:
18 “Here is My Servant, whom I have chosen, My
beloved, in whom My soul delights. I will put My
Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the
nations.
19 He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear His
voice in the streets.
20 A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering
wick He will not extinguish, till He leads justice to
victory.
21 In His name the nations will put their hope.”[i]

A House Divided

(Mark 3:20–27; Luke 11:14–23)

22 Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and
mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed the man
so that the blind and mute man[j] could both speak
and see.
23 The crowds were astounded and asked, “Could this
be the Son[k] of David?”

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[a] **11:17** CT does not include *for you* .

[b] **11:19** CT *by her actions*

[c] **11:21** GOC *sitting in*

[d] **11:23** CT *And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades*

[e] **12:4** Or *the Bread of the Presence*

[f] **12:7** Hosea 6:6

[g] **12:8** GOC and TR *even of the*

[h] **12:15** SBL and WH *Many followed*

[i] **12:21** Isaiah 42:1–4 (see also LXX)

[j] **12:22** CT *so that the mute man*

[k] **12:23** GOC and F35 *the Christ, the Son*

24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "Only by Beelzebul,[a] the prince of demons, does this man drive out demons."
25 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.
26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?
27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do[b] your sons drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.
28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
29 Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his possessions, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder[c] his house.
30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

The Unpardonable Sin

(Mark 3:28–30)
31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.[d]
32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in the present[e] age or in the one to come.

Good and Bad Fruit

(Luke 6:43–45)
33 Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit.
34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
35 The good man brings good things out of his good store of treasure,[f] and the evil man brings evil things out of his evil store of treasure.
36 But I tell you that men will give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.
37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

The Sign of Jonah

(Jonah 3:1–10; Luke 11:29–32)
38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said,[g] "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."
39 Jesus replied, "A wicked and adulterous generation demands a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.
40 For as Jonah[h] was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
41 The men of Nineveh will stand at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now One greater than Jonah is here.
42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and now One greater than Solomon is here.

An Unclean Spirit Returns

(Luke 11:24–26)
43 When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.
44 Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' On its return, it finds the house vacant, swept clean, and put in order.
45 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and dwell there. And the final plight of that man is worse than the first. So will it be with this wicked generation."

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

(Mark 3:31–35; Luke 8:19–21)
46 While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, His mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to Him.
47 Someone told Him, "Look, Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to You."[i]
48 But Jesus replied, "Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?"
49 Pointing to His disciples, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers.
50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

13

The Parable of the Sower

(Mark 4:1–9; Luke 8:4–8)
1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.
2 Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into the boat[j] and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore.
3 And He told them many things in parables, saying, "A farmer went out to sow his seed.
4 And as he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.
5 Some fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow.
6 But when the sun rose, the seedlings were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.
7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the seedlings.

[a] **12:24** WH *Beezeboul*; Vulgate *Beelzebub*; also in verse 27
[b] **12:27** GOC *will*
[c] **12:29** Literally *will plunder* ; F35 *can plunder*
[d] **12:31** CT *will not be forgiven*
[e] **12:32** CT and TR *this*
[f] **12:35** TR includes *of the heart*.
[g] **12:38** CT *said to Him*
[h] **12:40** GOC *Jonah the prophet*
[i] **12:47** GOC *to see You*; WH does not include verse 47.
[j] **13:2** GOC, CT, F35 *into a boat*

8 Still other seed fell on good soil and produced a crop
— a hundredfold, sixtyfold, or thirtyfold.
9 He who has ears to hear,[a] let him hear."

The Purpose of Jesus' Parables

(Isaiah 6:1–13; Mark 4:10–12; Luke 8:9–10)

10 Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Why do
You speak to the people in parables?"
11 He replied, "The knowledge of the mysteries of the
kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not
to them.
12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have
an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what
he has will be taken away from him.
13 This is why I speak to them in parables: 'Though
seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not
hear or understand.'[b]
14 In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: 'You will
be ever hearing but never understanding; you will
be ever seeing but never perceiving.
15 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.'[c]
16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your
ears because they hear.
17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous
men longed to see what you see but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

(Mark 4:13–20; Luke 8:11–15)

18 Consider, then, the parable of the sower:
19 When anyone hears the message of the kingdom
but does not understand it, the evil one comes and
snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is
the seed sown[d] along the path.
20 The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears
the word and at once receives[e] it with joy.
21 But since he has no root, he remains for only a
season. When trouble or persecution comes because
of the word, he quickly falls away.
22 The seed sown among the thorns is the one who
hears the word, but the worries of this life and
the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it
becomes unfruitful.
23 But the seed sown on good soil is the one who hears
the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit
and produces a crop — a hundredfold, sixtyfold, or
thirtyfold."

The Parable of the Weeds

(Ezekiel 17:1–10)

24 Jesus put before them another parable: "The king-
dom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed
in his field.
25 But while everyone was asleep, his enemy came and
sowed weeds among the wheat, and slipped away.
26 When the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the
weeds also appeared.
27 The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir,
didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then
did the weeds come from?'
28 'An enemy did this,' he replied. So the servants asked
him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'
29 'No,' he said, 'if you pull the weeds now, you might
uproot the wheat with them.
30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time
I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and
tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the
wheat into my barn.'"

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

(Mark 4:30–34; Luke 13:18–19)

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom
of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and
planted in his field.
32 Although it is the smallest of all seeds, yet it grows
into the largest of garden plants[f] and becomes a
tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its
branches."

The Parable of the Leaven

(Luke 13:20–21)

33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of
heaven is like leaven that a woman took and mixed
into three measures of flour, until all of it was leav-
ened."

I Will Open My Mouth in Parables

(Psalm 78:1–72)

34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowds in para-
bles. He did not tell them anything without using a
parable.
35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the
prophet: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will
utter things hidden since the foundation of the
world."[g]

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

(Zephaniah 1:1–6)

36 Then Jesus dismissed the crowds and went into the[h]
house. His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain
to us the parable of the weeds in the field."
37 He replied, "The One who sows the good seed is the
Son of Man.
38 The field is the world, and the good seed represents
the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of
the evil one,
39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The
harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are
angels.
40 As the weeds are collected and burned in the fire, so
will it be at the end of this age.[i]

[a] **13:9** CT does not include *to hear* ; also in verse 43.

[b] **13:13** See Deuteronomy 29:4 , Isaiah 42:20, Jeremiah 5:21, and Ezekiel 12:2.

[c] **13:15** Isaiah 6:9–10 (see also LXX)

[d] **13:19** Literally *the one sown*; also in verses 20, 22, and 23

[e] **13:20** GOC *accepts and receives*

[f] **13:32** GOC and F35 *of all garden plants*

[g] **13:35** Psalm 78:2 (see also LXX); SBL, NE, and WH do not include *of the world.*

[h] **13:36** GOC *His*

[i] **13:40** CT *of the age*

41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they
will weed out of His kingdom every cause of sin and
all who practice lawlessness.
42 And they will throw them into the fiery furnace,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the
kingdom of their Father.[a] He who has ears to hear,
let him hear.

The Parables of the Treasure and the Pearl

44 Again,[b] the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hid-
den in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again,
and in his joy he went and sold all he had and bought
that field.
45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in
search of fine pearls.
46 When he found one very precious pearl, he went
away and sold all he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

47 Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that
was cast into the sea and caught all kinds of fish.
48 When it was full, the men pulled it ashore. Then they
sat down and sorted the good fish into containers,
but threw the bad away.
49 So will it be at the end of the age: The angels will
come and separate the wicked from the righteous
50 and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there
will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
51 Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked
them.[c] "Yes, Lord,[d] " they answered.
52 Then He told them, "For this reason, every scribe
who has been discipled in the kingdom of heaven is
like a homeowner who brings out of his storeroom
new treasures as well as old."

The Rejection at Nazareth

(Mark 6:1–6; Luke 4:16–30)

53 When Jesus had finished these parables, He with-
drew from that place.
54 Coming to His hometown, He taught the people in
their synagogue, and they were astonished. "Where
did this man get such wisdom and miraculous pow-
ers?" they asked.
55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother's
name Mary, and aren't His brothers James, Joses,[e]
Simon, and Judas?
56 Aren't all His sisters with us as well? Where then did
this man get all these things?"
57 And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them,
"Only in his hometown and in his own household is
a prophet without honor."
58 And He did not do many miracles there, because of
their unbelief.

14

The Beheading of John

(Mark 6:14–29; Luke 9:7–9)

1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports
about Jesus
2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he
has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous
powers are at work in him."
3 Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put
him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother
Philip's wife,
4 because John had been telling him, "It is not lawful
for you to have her."
5 Although Herod wanted to kill John, he was afraid of
the people, because they regarded John as a prophet.
6 When Herod's birthday was being celebrated,[f] how-
ever, the daughter of Herodias danced before them
and pleased Herod
7 so much that he promised with an oath to give to her
whatever she asked.
8 Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on
a platter the head of John the Baptist."
9 The king was grieved, but because of his oaths and
his guests, he ordered that her wish be granted
10 and sent to have John beheaded in the prison.
11 John's head was brought in on a platter and pre-
sented to the girl, who carried it to her mother.
12 Then John's disciples came and took his body and
buried it. And they went and informed Jesus.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

(Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15)

13 When Jesus heard about John, He withdrew by boat
privately to a solitary place. But the crowds found
out about it and followed Him on foot from the
towns.
14 When Jesus[g] stepped ashore and saw a large crowd,
He had compassion on them and healed their sick.
15 When evening came, His disciples[h] came to Him
and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is
already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the
villages and buy themselves some food."
16 "They do not need to go away," Jesus replied. "You
give them something to eat."
17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two
fish," they answered.
18 "Bring them here to Me," Jesus said.
19 And He directed the crowds to sit down on the grass.
Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking
up to heaven, He spoke a blessing. Then He broke
the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the
disciples gave them to the people.
20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples
picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that
were left over.
21 About five thousand men were fed, besides women
and children.

[a] **13:43** See Daniel 12:3.

[b] **13:44** CT does not include *Again* .

[c] **13:51** CT does not include *Jesus asked them.*

[d] **13:51** CT does not include *Lord.*

[e] **13:55** CT *Joseph*; see Mark 6:3.

[f] **14:6** CT *When Herod's birthday had come*

[g] **14:14** CT *He*

[h] **14:15** CT *the disciples*

Jesus Walks on Water

(Mark 6:45–52; John 6:16–21)

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples[a] get into the
boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while
He dismissed the crowds.
23 After He had dismissed them, He went up on the
mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came,
He was there alone,
24 but the boat was already in the middle of the sea,[b]
buffeted by the waves because the wind was against
it.
25 During the fourth watch of the night,[c] Jesus went
out to them, walking on the sea.
26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they
were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and cried out
in fear.
27 But Jesus spoke up at once: "Take courage! It is I. Do
not be afraid."
28 "Lord, if it is You," Peter replied, "command me to
come to You on the water."
29 "Come," said Jesus. Then Peter got down out of the
boat and walked on the water to go toward Jesus.[d]
30 But when he saw the strength of the wind,[e] he was
afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save
me!"
31 Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and took
hold of Peter. "You of little faith," He said, "why did
you doubt?"
32 And when they had climbed back into the boat, the
wind died down.
33 Then those who were in the boat came and wor-
shiped[f] Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God!"

Jesus Heals at Gennesaret

(Mark 6:53–56)

34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land
of Gennesaret.[g]
35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus,
they sent word to all the surrounding region. People
brought all the sick to Him
36 and begged Him just to let them touch the fringe of
His cloak. And all who touched Him were healed.

15

The Tradition of the Elders

(Mark 7:1–13)

1 Then some scribes and Pharisees[h] came to Jesus
from Jerusalem and asked,
2 "Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the
elders? They do not wash their hands before they
eat."
3 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command
of God for the sake of your tradition?
4 For God commanded, saying,[i] 'Honor your father
and mother'[j] and 'Anyone who curses his father or
mother must be put to death.'[k]
5 But you say that if anyone says to his father or mother,
'Whatever you would have received from me is a gift
devoted to God,'
6 then[l] he need not honor his father or mother with it.
[m] Thus you nullify the commandment[n] of God for
the sake of your tradition.
7 You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about
you:
8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouths, and
they[o] honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are
far from Me.
9 They worship Me in vain; they teach as doctrine the
precepts of men.'[p] "

What Defiles a Man

(Mark 7:14–23)

10 Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, "Listen and
understand.
11 A man is not defiled by what enters his mouth, but
by what comes out of it."
12 Then His disciples[q] came to Him and said, "Are You
aware that the Pharisees were offended when they
heard this?"
13 But Jesus replied, "Every plant that My heavenly
Father has not planted will be pulled up by its roots.
14 Disregard them! They are blind guides.[r] If a blind
man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."
15 Peter said to Him, "Explain this[s] parable to us."
16 "Do you still not understand?" Jesus asked.
17 "Do you not yet[t] realize that whatever enters the
mouth goes into the stomach and then is eliminated?
18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from
the heart, and these things defile a man.
19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder,
adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony,
and slander.
20 These are what defile a man, but eating with un-
washed hands does not defile him."

The Faith of the Canaanite Woman

(Mark 7:24–30)

21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the district of
Tyre and Sidon.

---

[a] **14:22** GOC, F35, TR *His disciples*

[b] **14:24** NA, SBL, WH *many stadia from land*; a stadion was about 607 feet or 185 meters

[c] **14:25** That is, between three and six in the morning

[d] **14:29** CT *boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus*

[e] **14:30** Literally *when he saw the strong wind*; NE and WH do not include *strong*.

[f] **14:33** CT *those who were in the boat worshiped*

[g] **14:34** CT *they came to land at Gennesaret* or *they landed at Gennesaret*

[h] **15:1** CT *Pharisees and scribes*

[i] **15:4** CT *For God said*

[j] **15:4** Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

[k] **15:4** Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9

[l] **15:6** CT does not include *then*.

[m] **15:6** NE, MT, and TR (see also Mark 7:12); literally *he need not honor his father or mother*; most CT do not include *or mother*.

[n] **15:6** CT *the word*

[o] **15:8** CT does not include *draw near to Me with their mouths, and they* .

[p] **15:9** Isaiah 29:13 (see also LXX)

[q] **15:12** CT *the disciples*; similarly in verses 33 and 36

[r] **15:14** Literally *blind guides of the blind*

[s] **15:15** TH and WH *the*

[t] **15:17** CT *Do you not*

22 And a Canaanite woman from that region came to Him,[a] crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is miserably possessed by a demon.”
23 But Jesus did not answer a word. So His disciples came and urged Him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”
24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
25 The woman came and knelt before Him. “Lord, help me!” she said.
26 But Jesus replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”
27 “Yes, Lord,” she said, “even the dogs[b] eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”
28 “O woman,” Jesus answered, “your faith is great! Let it be done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

The Feeding of the Four Thousand

(2 Kings 4:42–44; Mark 8:1–10)

29 Moving on from there, Jesus went along the Sea of Galilee. Then He went up on a mountain and sat down.
30 Large crowds came to Him, bringing the lame, the blind, the mute, the crippled,[c] and many others, and laid them at Jesus’ feet,[d] and He healed them.
31 The crowds were amazed[e] when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.
32 Then Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, “I have compassion for this crowd, because they have already been with Me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may faint along the way.”
33 His disciples replied, “Where in this desolate place could we find enough bread to feed such a large crowd?”
34 “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied, “and a few small fish.”
35 And He commanded[f] the crowd to sit down on the ground.
36 Taking the seven loaves and the fish, He gave thanks and broke them. Then He gave them to His disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.
37 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
38 A total of four thousand men were fed, besides women and children.
39 After Jesus had dismissed the crowds, He got into the boat and went to the region of Magdala.[g]

16

The Demand for a Sign

(Mark 8:11–13; Luke 12:54–56)

1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came and tested Jesus by asking Him to show them a sign from heaven.
2 But He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘The weather will be fair, for the sky is red,’
3 and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You hypocrites![h] You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but not the signs of the times.[i]
4 A wicked and adulterous generation demands a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of the prophet[j] Jonah.” Then He left them and went away.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

(Mark 8:14–21; Luke 12:1–3)

5 When they crossed to the other side, His disciples[k] forgot to take bread.
6 “Watch out!” Jesus told them. “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”
7 They discussed this among themselves and concluded, “It is because we did not bring any bread.”
8 Aware of their conversation, Jesus said to them,[l] “You of little faith, why are you debating among yourselves about having brought[m] no bread?
9 Do you still not understand? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?
10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?
11 How do you not understand that I was not telling you about bread, but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?[n] ”
12 Then they understood that He was not telling them to beware of the leaven used in bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Peter’s Confession of Christ

(Mark 8:27–30; Luke 9:18–20; John 6:67–71)

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He questioned His disciples: “Who do people pronounce Me, the Son of Man, to be?[o] ”
14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
15 “But what about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say I am?”
16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

[a] **15:22** CT does not include *to Him*.
[b] **15:27** Or *puppies*
[c] **15:30** NA *the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute*; other CT vary in order.
[d] **15:30** CT *His feet*
[e] **15:31** CT *crowd was amazed*
[f] **15:35** CT *instructed*
[g] **15:39** CT *Magadan*
[h] **16:3** CT does not include *You hypocrites*.
[i] **16:3** Several manuscripts do not include *When evening comes... of the times.* from verses 2 and 3.
[j] **16:4** CT does not include *the prophet*.
[k] **16:5** CT *the disciples*; similarly in verse 20
[l] **16:8** CT does not include *to them*.
[m] **16:8** CT does not include *brought*.
[n] **16:11** CT *bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*
[o] **16:13** CT *Who do people say the Son of Man is?*

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah![a] For this was not revealed to you by flesh and
blood, but by My Father in heaven.
18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I
will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not
prevail against it.
19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be
loosed in heaven."
20 Then He commanded[b] His disciples not to tell anyone that He was Jesus[c] the Christ.

Christ's Passion Foretold

(Mark 8:31–33; Luke 9:21–22)

21 From that time on Jesus[d] began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. "Far be it from You, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to You!"
23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Take Up Your Cross

(Mark 8:34–38; Luke 9:23–27)

24 Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
26 What does it profit[e] a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
27 For the Son of Man will come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will repay each one according to what he has done.
28 Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

17

The Transfiguration

(Mark 9:1–13; Luke 9:28–36; 2 Peter 1:16–21)

1 After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
2 There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
3 Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared before them, talking with Jesus.
4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, we will put up[f] three shelters[g] — one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
5 While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.[h] Listen to Him!"
6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown in terror.
7 Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," He said. "Do not be afraid."
8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.
9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Do not tell anyone about this vision until the Son of Man has risen[i] from the dead."
10 His disciples[j] asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"
11 Jesus replied, "Elijah does indeed come first,[k] and he will restore all things.
12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him whatever they wished. In the same way, the Son of Man will suffer at their hands."
13 Then the disciples understood that He was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

The Boy with a Demon

(Mark 9:14–29; Luke 9:37–42)

14 When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus and knelt before Him.
15 "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering terribly.[l] He often falls into the fire or into the water.
16 I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not heal him."
17 "O unbelieving and perverse generation!" Jesus replied. "How long must I remain with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to Me."
18 Then Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment.

The Power of Faith

(Luke 17:5–10)

19 Afterward the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"
20 "Because of your unbelief,[m]" Jesus answered.[n] "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

[a] **16:17** Greek *Simon Bar-Jonah*
[b] **16:20** CT *admonished*
[c] **16:20** CT does not include *Jesus*.
[d] **16:21** NE and WH *Jesus Christ*
[e] **16:26** CT *will it profit*
[f] **17:4** CT *I will put up*
[g] **17:4** Or *three tabernacles*
[h] **17:5** Cited in 2 Peter 1:17
[i] **17:9** NA, SBL, WH *has been raised*
[j] **17:10** CT *The disciples*
[k] **17:11** CT does not include *first*.
[l] **17:15** TH and WH *and is sick*
[m] **17:20** CT *Because you have so little faith*
[n] **17:20** CT *He answered*

21 But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."[a]

The Second Prediction of the Passion

(Mark 9:30–32; Luke 9:43–45)

22 While they were staying together[b] in Galilee, Jesus told them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.
23 They will kill Him, and on the third day He will be raised to life." And the disciples were deeply grieved.

The Temple Tax

24 After they had arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax[c] came to Peter and asked, "Does your Teacher pay the two drachmas?"
25 "Yes," he answered. When Peter entered[d] the house, Jesus preempted him. "What do you think, Simon?" He asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs and taxes: from their own sons, or from others?"
26 "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him.
27 "But so that we may not offend them, go to the sea, cast a hook, and take the first fish you catch. When you open its mouth, you will find a four-drachma coin.[e] Take it and give it to them for My tax and yours."

18

The Greatest in the Kingdom

(Mark 9:33–41; Luke 9:46–50)

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
2 Jesus invited a little child to stand among them.
3 "Truly I tell you," He said, "unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
5 And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.

Temptations and Trespasses

(Mark 9:42–48; Luke 17:1–4)

6 But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.
7 Woe to the world for the causes of sin. These stumbling blocks must come, but woe to that[f] man through whom they come!
8 If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life lame or crippled[g] than to have two hands and two feet and be thrown into the eternal fire.
9 And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.[h]

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

(Luke 15:1–7)

10 See that you do not look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven.
11 For the Son of Man came to save the lost.[i]
12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, does he not[j] leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost?
13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices more over that one sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.
14 In the same way, your[k] Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

A Brother Who Sins

(Deuteronomy 19:15–21)

15 If your brother sins against you,[l] go and confront him privately. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.
16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'[m]
17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, regard him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Ask in My Name

(John 16:23–33)

19 Again, I tell you truly[n] that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.
20 For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them."

The Unforgiving Servant

(Romans 12:14–21)

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me? Up to seven times?"
22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not just seven times, but

[a] **17:21** CT does not include verse 21; see Mark 9:29.
[b] **17:22** CT *were gathered together*
[c] **17:24** Greek *the didrachma*; twice in this verse
[d] **17:25** Literally *When he entered*; F35 *When they entered*
[e] **17:27** Greek *a stater*; that is, a silver coin worth approximately one shekel
[f] **18:7** CT *the*
[g] **18:8** NA, SBL, WH *crippled or lame*
[h] **18:9** Or *the hell of fire*; Greek *the Gehenna of fire*
[i] **18:11** CT does not include verse 11; see Luke 19:10.
[j] **18:12** CT *will he not*
[k] **18:14** WH *My*
[l] **18:15** NE and WH do not include *against you* .
[m] **18:16** Deuteronomy 19:15
[n] **18:19** TR does not include *truly* .

seventy-seven times![a]
23 Because of this, the kingdom of heaven is like a king
who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.
24 As he began the settlements, a debtor owing ten
thousand talents[b] was brought to him.
25 Since the man was unable to pay, the master ordered
that he be sold to pay his debt, along with his wife
and children and everything he owned.
26 Then the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Mas-
ter,[c] have patience with me,' he begged, 'and I will
pay back everything.'
27 His master had compassion on him, forgave his
debt, and released him.
28 But when that servant went out, he found one of his
fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.
[d] He grabbed him and began to choke him, saying,
'Pay back what you owe me![e] '
29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet[f] and
begged him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay
you back.[g] '
30 But he refused. Instead, he went and had the man
thrown into prison until he could pay his debt.
31 When his fellow servants saw what had happened,
they were greatly distressed, and they went and
recounted all of this to their master.
32 Then the master summoned him and said, 'You
wicked servant! I forgave all your debt because you
begged me.
33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow ser-
vant, just as I had on you?'
34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to
be tortured, until he should repay all that was owed
him.[h]
35 That is how My heavenly Father will treat each of
you unless you forgive your brother his trespasses[i]
from your heart."

19

Teachings about Divorce

(Mark 10:1–12)

1 When Jesus had finished saying these things, He left
Galilee and went into the region of Judea beyond the
Jordan.
2 Large crowds followed Him, and He healed them
there.
3 Then the Pharisees[j] came and tested Him by asking,
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any
reason?"
4 Jesus answered, "Have you not read that from the be-
ginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'[k]
5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father
and mother and be joined to[l] his wife, and the two
will become one flesh'[m] ?
6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore
what God has joined together, let man not separate."
7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses order a man to
give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her
away?[n] "
8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your
wives because of your hardness of heart. But it was
not this way from the beginning.
9 Now I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except
for sexual immorality, and marries another woman
commits adultery. And he who marries a divorced
woman commits adultery.[o] "
10 His disciples[p] said to Him, "If this is the case be-
tween a man and his wife, it is better not to marry."
11 "Not everyone can accept this word," He replied,
"but only those to whom it has been given.
12 For there are eunuchs who were born that way; oth-
ers were made that way by men; and still others live
like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
The one who can accept this should accept it."

Jesus Blesses the Children

(Mark 10:13–16; Luke 18:15–17)

13 Then little children were brought to Jesus for Him to
place His hands on them and pray for them. And the
disciples rebuked those who brought them.
14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me,
and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these."
15 And after He had placed His hands on them, He went
on from there.

The Rich Young Man

(Mark 10:17–31; Luke 18:18–30)

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and inquired,
"Good[q] Teacher, what good thing must I do to obtain
eternal life?"
17 "Why do you call Me good?"[r] Jesus replied. "There
is no one who is good but God.[s] If you want to enter
life, keep the commandments."
18 "Which ones?" the man asked. Jesus answered, "'Do
not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do
not bear false witness,
19 honor your father and mother, and love your neigh-

[a] **18:22** Or *seventy times seven*; see Genesis 4:24 LXX.
[b] **18:24** A talent was worth about twenty years' wages for a laborer.
[c] **18:26** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Master* .
[d] **18:28** A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2 .
[e] **18:28** CT does not include *me.*
[f] **18:29** CT does not include *at his feet* .
[g] **18:29** TR *I will pay you everything*
[h] **18:34** NA, SBL, and WH *all that he owed*
[i] **18:35** CT does not include *his trespasses* .
[j] **19:3** CT *some Pharisees*
[k] **19:4** Genesis 1:27; Genesis 5:2
[l] **19:5** CT *be united to*
[m] **19:5** Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX)
[n] **19:7** See Deuteronomy 24:1.
[o] **19:9** Some CT do not include *And he who marries a divorced woman commits adultery*; see Matthew 5:32.
[p] **19:10** SBL and WH *The disciples*
[q] **19:16** CT does not include *Good.*
[r] **19:17** CT *"Why do you ask Me about what is good?"* See Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19.
[s] **19:17** CT *"There is only One who is good.*See Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19.

bor as yourself.'[a] "

20 "All these I have kept from my youth,[b] " said the young man. "What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."

22 When the young man heard this, he went away in sorrow, because he had great wealth.

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to pass through[c] the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

25 When His disciples[d] heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

27 "Look," Peter replied, "we have left everything to follow You. What then will there be for us?"

28 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things,[e] when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife[f] or children or fields for the sake of My name will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

30 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

20

The Parable of the Workers

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

2 He agreed to pay them a denarius[g] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 About the third hour[h] he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

4 'You also go into my vineyard,' he said, 'and I will pay you whatever is right.'

5 So they went. He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour[i] and did the same thing.

6 About the eleventh hour[j] he went out and found still others standing idle.[k] 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' he asked.

7 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. So he told them, 'You also go into my vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.[l] '

8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last ones hired and moving on to the first.'

9 The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius.

10 So when the original workers came, they assumed they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarius.

11 On receiving their pay, they began to grumble against the landowner.

12 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.'

13 But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Did you not agree with me on one denarius?

14 Take your pay and go. I want to give this last man the same as I gave you.

15 Do I not have the right to do as I please with what is mine? Or are you envious[m] because I am generous?'

16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last. For many are called, but few are chosen.[n] "

The Third Prediction of the Passion

(Mark 10:32–34; Luke 18:31–34)

17 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside and said,[o]

18 "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn Him to death

19 and will deliver Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. And on the third day He will rise again.[p] "

A Mother's Request

(Mark 10:35–45)

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and knelt down to make a request of Him.

21 "What do you want?" He inquired. She answered, "Declare that in Your kingdom one of these two sons of mine may sit at Your right hand, and the other at Your left."

22 "You do not know what you are asking," Jesus replied. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?[q] " "We can," the brothers answered.

23 "You will indeed drink My cup and be baptized with

[a] **19:19** Exodus 20:12–16; Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 5:16–20

[b] **19:20** CT does not include *from my youth*.

[c] **19:24** SBL and WH *to enter*

[d] **19:25** CT *the disciples*

[e] **19:28** Or *in the regeneration*

[f] **19:29** NE, WH, and NA do not include *or wife*.

[g] **20:2** A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; similarly in verses 9, 10, and 13.

[h] **20:3** That is, about nine in the morning

[i] **20:5** That is, about noon and again about three in the afternoon

[j] **20:6** That is, about five in the afternoon; also in verse 9

[k] **20:6** CT does not include *idle*.

[l] **20:7** CT does not include *and you will receive whatever is right* .

[m] **20:15** Literally *Or is your eye evil*

[n] **20:16** CT does not include *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

[o] **20:17** Literally *He took the twelve disciples aside privately on the way and said to them*

[p] **20:19** CT *He will be raised (to life)*

[q] **20:22** CT does not include *or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.*

the baptism with which I am baptized,"[a] Jesus said. "But to sit at My right or left is not Mine to grant. These seats belong to those for whom My Father has prepared them."
24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.
25 But Jesus called them aside and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them.
26 But[b] it shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,
27 and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave —
28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

The Blind Men by the Road

(Mark 10:46–52; Luke 18:35–43)
29 As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him.
30 And there were two blind men sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Have mercy on us, Lord,[c] Son of David!"
31 The crowd admonished them to be silent, but they cried out all the louder, "Have mercy on us, Lord,[d] Son of David!"
32 Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want Me to do for you?" He asked.
33 "Lord," they answered, "let our eyes be opened."
34 Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and at once they received their sight and followed Him.[e]

21

The Triumphal Entry

(Zechariah 9:9–13; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–40; John 12:12–19)
1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Beth-sphage[f] on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent out two disciples,
2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you,[g] and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to Me.
3 If anyone questions you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."
4 All this[h] took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:
5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"[i]
6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them.
7 They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat[j] on them.
8 A massive crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
9 The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed were shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"[k] "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"[l] "Hosanna in the highest!"[m]
10 When Jesus had entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"
11 The crowds replied, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Mark 11:15–19; Luke 19:45–48; John 2:12–25)
12 Then Jesus entered the temple of God[n] and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves.
13 And He declared to them, "It is written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer.'[o] But you have made[p] it 'a den of robbers.'[q] "
14 The lame and the blind[r] came to Him at the temple, and He healed them.
15 But the chief priests and scribes were indignant when they saw the wonders He performed and the children shouting in the temple courts,[s] "Hosanna to the Son of David!"
16 "Do You hear what these children are saying?" they asked. "Yes," Jesus answered. "Have you never read: 'From the mouths of children and infants You have ordained praise'[t] ?"
17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where He spent the night.

The Barren Fig Tree

(Mark 11:12–14; Mark 11:20–25)
18 In the morning, as Jesus was returning to the city, He was hungry.
19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. "May you never

[a] **20:23** CT does not include *and be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized* .
[b] **20:26** CT does not include *But*.
[c] **20:30** SBL and WH *Lord, have mercy on us*; TH *Have mercy on us, Jesus*
[d] **20:31** SBL, TH, and WH *Lord, have mercy on us*
[e] **20:34** Literally *their eyes received sight, and they followed Him*
[f] **21:1** ALT, CT, and TR *Bethphage*
[g] **21:2** CT *ahead of you*
[h] **21:4** CT *This*
[i] **21:5** Zechariah 9:9
[j] **21:7** Scrivener TR *and they set Jesus*
[k] **21:9** *Hosanna* is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hosia-na*, meaning *Save, we pray* or *Save now*, which became a shout of praise; see Psalm 118:25; twice in this verse; also in verse 15.
[l] **21:9** Psalm 118:26
[m] **21:9** Or *"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*See Psalm 118:25 and Psalm 148:1.
[n] **21:12** CT does not include *of God*.
[o] **21:13** Isaiah 56:7
[p] **21:13** CT *are making*
[q] **21:13** Jeremiah 7:11
[r] **21:14** CT *The blind and the lame*
[s] **21:15** Literally *the temple*; also in verse 23
[t] **21:16** Psalm 8:2 (see also LXX)

bear fruit again!” He said. And immediately the tree withered.
20 When the disciples saw this, they marveled and asked, “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?”
21 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen.
22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Jesus’ Authority Challenged

(Mark 11:27–33; Luke 20:1–8)

23 When Jesus returned to the temple courts and began to teach, the chief priests and elders of the people came up to Him. “By what authority are You doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave You this authority?”
24 “I will also ask you one question,” Jesus replied, “and if you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
25 What was the source of John’s baptism? Was it from heaven or from men?” They deliberated among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’
26 But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the people, for they all regard John as a prophet.”
27 So they answered, “We do not know.” And Jesus replied, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 But what do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first one and said, ‘Son, go and work today in my vineyard.[a] ’
29 ‘I will not,’ he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.[b]
30 Then the man went to the second son[c] and told him the same thing. ‘I will, sir,’ he said. But he did not go.
31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” “The first,[d] ” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.
32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

(Mark 12:1–12; Luke 20:9–18)

33 Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it out to some tenants and went away on a journey.
34 When the harvest time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit.
35 But the tenants seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third.
36 Again, he sent other servants, more than the first group. But the tenants did the same to them.
37 Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.
38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and take his inheritance.’
39 So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.
40 Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard returns, what will he do to those tenants?”
41 “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and will rent out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his share of the fruit at harvest time.”
42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes’[e] ?
43 Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.
44 He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.[f] ”
45 When the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they knew that Jesus was speaking about them.
46 Although they wanted to arrest Him, they were afraid of the crowds, because the people regarded Him as a prophet.

22

The Parable of the Banquet

(Luke 14:15–24)

1 Once again, Jesus spoke to them in parables:
2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.
3 He sent his servants to call those he had invited to the banquet, but they refused to come.
4 Again, he sent other servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’
5 But they paid no attention and went away, one to his field, another to his business.
6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.
7 When he heard this,[g] the king was enraged, and he sent his troops to destroy those murderers and burn their city.
8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited were not worthy.
9 Go therefore to the crossroads and invite to the banquet as many as you can find.’
10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered everyone they could find, both evil and good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

[a] **21:28** CT *in the vineyard*
[b] **21:29** NE and WH *But he went.*
[c] **21:30** ALT, HF, NA, and F35 *other (son)*
[d] **21:31** NE and WH *The latter*
[e] **21:42** Psalm 118:22–23
[f] **21:44** Tischendorf and some early manuscripts do not include verse 44; see also Luke 20:18.
[g] **22:7** CT does not include *When he heard this* .

11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he spotted a man who was not dressed in wedding clothes.
12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But the man was speechless.
13 Then the king told the servants, 'Tie him hand and foot,[a] take him away,[b] and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
14 For many are called, but few are chosen."

Paying Taxes to Caesar

(Mark 12:13–17; Luke 20:19–26)

15 Then the Pharisees went out and conspired to trap Jesus in His words.
16 They sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that You are honest and that You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You seek favor from no one, because You pay no attention to external appearance.
17 So tell us what You think: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"
18 But Jesus knew their evil intent and said, "You hypocrites, why are you testing Me?
19 Show Me the coin used for the tax." And they brought Him a denarius.[c]
20 "Whose image is this," He asked, "and whose inscription?"
21 "Caesar's," they answered. So Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."
22 And when they heard this, they were amazed. So they left Him and went away.

The Sadducees and the Resurrection

(Mark 12:18–27; Luke 20:27–40)

23 That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and questioned Him.
24 "Teacher," they said, "Moses declared that if a man dies without having children, his brother is to marry the widow and raise up offspring for him.[d]
25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died without having children. So he left his wife to his brother.
26 The same thing happened to the second and third brothers, down to the seventh.
27 And last of all, the woman also[e] died.
28 In the resurrection, then, whose wife will she be of the seven? For all of them were married to her."
29 Jesus answered, "You are mistaken because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.
30 In the resurrection, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Instead, they will be like the angels of God[f] in heaven.
31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what God said to you:
32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'[g] ? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living."
33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

The Greatest Commandment

(Deuteronomy 6:1–19; Mark 12:28–34)

34 And when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they themselves gathered together.
35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with a question:
36 "Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in the Law?"
37 Jesus declared, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'[h]
38 This is the first and greatest commandment.
39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[i]
40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Whose Son Is the Christ?

(Mark 12:35–37; Luke 20:41–44)

41 While the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus questioned them:
42 "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?" "David's," they answered.
43 Jesus said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord'? For he says:
44 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."'[j]
45 So if David calls Him 'Lord,' how can He be David's son?"
46 No one was able to answer a word, and from that day on no one dared to question Him any further.

23

Woes to Scribes and Pharisees

(Luke 11:37–54)

1 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples:
2 "The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.
3 So observe and practice everything they tell you to observe.[k] But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.
4 They tie up heavy, burdensome loads[l] and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.
5 All their deeds are done for men to see. They broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.[m]

[a] **22:13** Literally *feet and hands*
[b] **22:13** CT does not include *take him away*.
[c] **22:19** A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.
[d] **22:24** Deuteronomy 25:5
[e] **22:27** CT does not include *also*.
[f] **22:30** Most CT do not include *of God*.
[g] **22:32** Exodus 3:6
[h] **22:37** Deuteronomy 6:5
[i] **22:39** Leviticus 19:18
[j] **22:44** Psalm 110:1 ; CT *until I put Your enemies under Your feet*
[k] **23:3** CT *So practice and observe everything they tell you*
[l] **23:4** SBL, NE, and WH *They tie up heavy loads*
[m] **23:5** CT *lengthen their tassels*

6 They love the places of honor at banquets, the chief
seats in the synagogues,
7 the greetings in the marketplaces, and the title of
'Rabbi, Rabbi'[a] by which they are addressed.[b]
8 But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one
Teacher, the Christ,[c] and you are all brothers.
9 And do not call anyone on earth your father, for you
have one Father, who is in heaven.
10 Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have
one Instructor, the Christ.
11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.
12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and
whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
13 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!
You defraud widows of their houses, and for a show
make lengthy prayers. Therefore you will receive
greater condemnation.[d]
14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!
You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You
yourselves do not enter, nor will you let in those who
wish to enter.[e]
15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!
You traverse land and sea to win a single convert,
and when he becomes one, you make him twice as
much a son of hell[f] as you are.
16 Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears
by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone
swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his
oath.'
17 You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the
temple that makes it sacred?
18 And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means
nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is
bound by his oath.'
19 You are foolish and blind![g] Which is greater: the
gift, or the altar that makes it sacred?
20 So then, he who swears by the altar swears by it and
by everything on it.
21 And he who swears by the temple swears by it and
by the One who dwells in it.
22 And he who swears by heaven swears by God's
throne and by the One who sits on it.
23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!
You pay tithes of mint, dill, and cumin. But you have
disregarded the weightier matters of the law: justice,
mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced
the latter, without neglecting the former.
24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow
a camel.[h]
25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!
You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside
they are full of greed and unrighteousness.[i]
26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and
dish,[j] so that the outside may become clean as well.
27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!
You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beau-
tiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead
men's bones and every kind of impurity.
28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to be
righteous, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy
and wickedness.
29 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!
You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the
monuments of the righteous.
30 And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our
fathers, we would not have been partners with them
in shedding the blood of the prophets.'
31 So you testify against yourselves that you are the
sons of those who murdered the prophets.
32 Fill up, then,[k] the measure of the sin of your fathers.
33 You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you
escape the sentence of hell?
34 Because of this, I am sending you prophets and wise
men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and
crucify, and others you will flog in your synagogues
and persecute from town to town.
35 And so upon you will come all the righteous blood
shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to
the blood of Zechariah son of Berechiah, whom you
murdered between the temple and the altar.
36 Truly I tell you, all these things will come upon this
generation.

Lament over Jerusalem

(Luke 13:31–35)

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and
stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to
gather your children together, as a hen gathers her
chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling!
38 Look, your house is left to you desolate.[l]
39 For I tell you that you will not see Me again until
you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the
Lord.'[m] "

24

Temple Destruction and Other Signs

(Mark 13:1–8; Luke 21:5–9)

1 As Jesus left the temple and was walking away, His
disciples came up to Him to point out its buildings.
2 "Do you see all these things?" Jesus replied.[n] "Truly I
tell you, not one stone here will be left on another;
every one will be thrown down."
3 While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the
disciples came to Him privately. "Tell us," they said,

[a] **23:7** CT *the title of 'Rabbi'*

[b] **23:7** Literally *and to be called 'Rabbi' by men*

[c] **23:8** CT does not include *the Christ* .

[d] **23:13** CT does not include *You defraud widows of their houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.* TR includes this statement with verse 14. See Mark 12:40 and Luke 20:47.

[e] **23:14** CT and TR include this statement with verse 13. Thus for CT there is a single woe listed, and verse 14 is not included.

[f] **23:15** Greek *Gehenna* ; also in verse 33

[g] **23:19** CT *You blind men!*

[h] **23:24** See Leviticus 11:4 and Leviticus 11:23, where camels and gnats are both forbidden as food.

[i] **23:25** CT *greed and self-indulgence*

[j] **23:26** NA does not include *and dish.*

[k] **23:32** Or *Go ahead, then, and complete*

[l] **23:38** NE and WH do not include *desolate.*

[m] **23:39** Psalm 118:26

[n] **24:2** CT *He replied*

"when will these things happen, and what will be the
sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"
4 Jesus answered, "See to it that no one deceives you.
5 For many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am the
Christ,' and will deceive many.
6 You will hear[a] of wars and rumors of wars, but see to
it that you are not alarmed. All these things[b] must
happen, but the end is still to come.
7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against
kingdom. There will be famines, pestilences,[c] and
earthquakes in various places.
8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Witnessing to All Nations

(Mark 13:9–13; Luke 21:10–19)

9 Then they will deliver you over to be persecuted and
killed, and you will be hated by all nations because
of My name.
10 At that time many will fall away and will betray and
hate one another,
11 and many false prophets will arise and deceive
many.
12 Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the
love of most will grow cold.
13 But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.
14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in
all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then
the end will come.

The Abomination of Desolation

(Mark 13:14–23; Luke 21:20–24)

15 So when you see standing in the holy place
'the abomination of desolation,'[d] spoken of by the
prophet Daniel(let the reader understand),
16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the moun-
tains.
17 Let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve
anything from his house.
18 And let no one in the field return for his garments.[e]
19 How miserable those days will be for pregnant and
nursing mothers!
20 Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or
on the Sabbath.
21 For at that time there will be great tribulation, un-
matched from the beginning of the world until now,
and never to be seen again.
22 If those days had not been cut short, nobody would
be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will
be cut short.
23 At that time, if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the
Christ!' or 'There He is!' do not believe it.
24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and
perform great signs and wonders to deceive even
the elect, if that were possible.
25 See, I have told you in advance.

The Return of the Son of Man

(Mark 13:24–27; Luke 21:25–28)

26 So if they tell you, 'There He is in the wilderness,' do
not go out, or, 'Here He is in the inner rooms,' do not
believe it.
27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and
flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the
Son of Man.
28 For wherever[f] there is a carcass, there the vultures
will gather.
29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days: 'The
sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its
light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers
of the heavens will be shaken.[g] '
30 At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in
heaven,[h] and all the tribes of the earth will mourn.
They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds
of heaven with power and great glory.[i]
31 And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet
call, and they will gather His elect from the four
winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

(Mark 13:28–31; Luke 21:29–33)

32 Now learn this lesson[j] from the fig tree: As soon as
its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you
know that summer is near.
33 So also, when you see all these things, you will know
that He is near,[k] right at the door.
34 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have happened.
35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will
never pass away.

Readiness at Any Hour

(Genesis 6:1–7; Mark 13:32–37; Luke 12:35–48)

36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the
angels in heaven,[l] but only My Father.[m]
37 As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the
coming of the Son of Man.
38 For in the[n] days before the flood, people were eating
and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up
to the day Noah entered the ark.
39 And they were oblivious until the flood came and
swept them all away. So will it be at the coming of
the Son of Man.
40 Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and
the other left.
41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be
taken and the other left.

[a] **24:6** F35 *You will be concerned when you hear*

[b] **24:6** CT *These things*

[c] **24:7** CT does not include *pestilences.*

[d] **24:15** See Daniel 9:27 , Daniel 11:31, and Daniel 12:11.

[e] **24:18** F35 and CT *garment* or *cloak*

[f] **24:28** CT *Wherever*

[g] **24:29** Or *and the celestial bodies will be shaken* ; see Isaiah 13:10 , Isaiah 34:4, and Joel 2:10.

[h] **24:30** Or *the sky* ; twice in this verse

[i] **24:30** See Daniel 7:13–14.

[j] **24:32** Or *this parable*

[k] **24:33** Or *it is near*

[l] **24:36** CT includes *nor the Son* .

[m] **24:36** CT *the Father*

[n] **24:38** NA and WH *those*

42 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the hour[a] in which your Lord will come.
43 But understand this: If the homeowner had known in which watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.
44 For this reason, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect.
45 Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master[b] has put in charge of his household, to give the others their food at the proper time?
46 Blessed is that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.
47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.
48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming.[c] '
49 And he begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.
50 The master of that servant will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not anticipate.
51 Then he will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

25

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
2 Five of them were wise, and five were foolish.[d]
3 Those who were foolish[e] took their lamps but did not take along any extra oil.
4 But the wise ones took oil in flasks along with their lamps.
5 When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
6 At midnight the cry rang out: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming![f] Come out to meet him!'
7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.
8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'
9 'No,' said the wise ones, 'or there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'
10 But while they were on their way to buy it, the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.
11 Later the other virgins arrived and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us!'
12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'
13 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man comes.[g]

The Parable of the Talents

(Luke 19:11–27)

14 For it is just like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted them with his possessions.
15 To one he gave five talents,[h] to another two talents, and to another one talent — each according to his own ability. And he went on his journey.
16 The servant who had received the five talents went at once and put them to work[i] and made five more talents.[j]
17 Likewise, the one with the two talents also[k] gained two more.
18 But the servant who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.
19 After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.
20 The servant who had received the five talents came and presented five more. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more besides them.[l] '
21 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master!'
22 The servant who had received the two talents also came and said, 'Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more besides them.'
23 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master!'
24 Finally, the servant who had received the one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.
25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what belongs to you.'
26 'You wicked, lazy servant!' replied his master. 'You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed.
27 Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received it back with interest.
28 Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.
29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has[m] will be taken away from him.

[a] **24:42** CT *the day*
[b] **24:45** CT *the master*
[c] **24:48** CT literal *will be a long time*
[d] **25:2** CT *Five of them were foolish, and five were wise*
[e] **25:3** CT *The foolish (ones)*
[f] **25:6** CT does not include *is coming* .
[g] **25:13** CT does not include *when the Son of Man comes* .
[h] **25:15** A talent was worth about twenty years' wages for a laborer.
[i] **25:16** Or **15**... And he went on his journey at once. **16**... went and put them to work; translators vary as to the placement of the Greek adverb *eutheōs* (at once) at the end of verse 15 or at the beginning of verse 16.
[j] **25:16** CT *gained five more*
[k] **25:17** CT does not include *also*.
[l] **25:20** CT does not include *besides them*; also in verse 22.
[m] **25:29** F35 *thinks he has*

30 And throw that worthless servant into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing
of teeth.'

The Sheep and the Goats

31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the
holy[a] angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious
throne.
32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and
He will separate the people one from another, as a
shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
33 He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on
His left.
34 Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come,
you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the king-
dom prepared for you from the foundation of the
world.
35 For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I
was a stranger and you took Me in,
36 I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you
looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.'
37 Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when
did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and
give You something to drink?
38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or
naked and clothe You?
39 When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?'
40 And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever
you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine,
you did for Me.'
41 Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from
Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire pre-
pared for the devil and his angels.
42 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I
was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink,
43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, I was
naked and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in
prison and you did not look after Me.'
44 And they too will reply, 'Lord, when did we see You
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in
prison, and did not minister to You?'
45 Then the King will answer, 'Truly I tell you, whatever
you did not do for one of the least of these, you did
not do for Me.'
46 And they will go away into eternal punishment, but
the righteous into eternal life."

26

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Mark 14:1–2; Luke 22:1–2; John 11:45–57)

1 When Jesus had finished saying all[b] these things, He
told His disciples,
2 "You know that the Passover is two days away, and
the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."
3 At that time the chief priests, scribes,[c] and elders of
the people assembled in the courtyard of the high
priest, whose name was Caiaphas,
4 and they conspired to arrest Jesus covertly and kill
Him.
5 "But not during the feast," they said, "or there may be
a riot among the people."

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

(Mark 14:3–9; Luke 7:36–50; John 12:1–8)

6 While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the
Leper,[d]
7 a woman came to Him with an alabaster jar of expen-
sive perfume, which she poured on His head as He
reclined at the table.
8 When His disciples[e] saw this, they were indignant
and asked, "Why this waste?
9 This perfume[f] could have been sold at a high price,
and the money given to the poor."
10 Aware of this, Jesus asked, "Why are you bothering
this woman? She has done a beautiful deed to Me.
11 The poor you will always have with you,[g] but you
will not always have Me.
12 By pouring this perfume on Me, she has prepared
My body for burial.
13 Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached in
all the world, what she has done will also be told in
memory of her."

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

(Mark 14:10–11; Luke 22:3–6)

14 Then one of the Twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot,
went to the chief priests
15 and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand
Him over to you?" And they set out for him thirty
pieces of silver.
16 So from then on Judas looked for an opportunity to
betray Jesus.

Preparing the Passover

(Mark 14:12–16; Luke 22:7–13)

17 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
[h] the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do
You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"
18 He answered, "Go into the city to a certain man and
tell him that the Teacher says, 'My time is near. I will
keep the Passover with My disciples at your house.'"
19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and
prepared the Passover.

The Last Supper

(Mark 14:17–26; Luke 22:14–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)

20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining with the
Twelve.[i]
21 And while they were eating, He said to them, "Truly
I tell you, one of you will betray Me."
22 They were deeply grieved and began to ask Him one
after another, "Surely not I, Lord?"
23 Jesus answered, "The one who has dipped his hand
into the bowl with Me will betray Me.

[a] **25:31** CT does not include *holy* .
[b] **26:1** F35 does not include *all.*
[c] **26:3** CT does not include *scribes.*
[d] **26:6** Aramaic *Simon the Potter* or *Simon the Jar Maker*
[e] **26:8** CT *the disciples*; also in verse 45
[f] **26:9** CT literal does not include *perfume.*
[g] **26:11** See Deuteronomy 15:11.
[h] **26:17** Literally *On the first of the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20.
[i] **26:20** Most CT *with the twelve disciples.*

24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about
Him, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed.
It would be better for him if he had not been born."
25 Then Judas, who would betray Him, said, "Surely
not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said it
yourself."
26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave
thanks[a] and broke it, and gave it to the disciples,
saying, "Take and eat; this is My body."
27 Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to
them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.
28 This is My blood of the new covenant,[b] which is
poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
29 I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from
now on until that day when I drink it anew with you
in My Father's kingdom."
30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to
the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

(Zechariah 13:7–9; Mark 14:27–31; Luke 22:31–38; John 13:36–38)

31 Then Jesus said to them, "This very night you will all
fall away on account of Me. For it is written: 'I will
strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will
be scattered.'[c]
32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into
Galilee."
33 Peter said to Him, "Even if all fall away on account
of You, I never will."
34 "Truly I tell you," Jesus declared, "this very night,
before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three
times."
35 Peter replied, "Even if I have to die with You, I will
never deny You." And all the other disciples said the
same thing.

Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

(Mark 14:32–42; Luke 22:39–46)

36 Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called
Gethsemane, and He told them, "Sit here while I go
over there and pray."
37 He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee
and began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.
38 Then Jesus said[d] to them, "My soul is consumed
with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep
watch with Me."
39 Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed,
"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me.
Yet not as I will, but as You will."
40 Then Jesus returned to the disciples and found them
sleeping. "Were you not able to keep watch with Me
for one hour?" He asked Peter.
41 "Watch and pray so that you will not enter into
temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is
weak."
42 A second time He went away and prayed, "My Fa-
ther, if this cup cannot pass from Me[e] unless I drink
it, may Your will be done."
43 And Jesus returned and found them sleeping again,
[f] for their eyes were heavy.
44 So He left them and went away once more and
prayed a third time, saying the same thing.[g]
45 Then He returned to His disciples and said, "Are you
still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and
the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
46 Rise, let us go! See, My betrayer is approaching![h] "

The Betrayal of Jesus

(Mark 14:43–52; Luke 22:47–53; John 18:1–14)

47 While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the
Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd
armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief
priests and elders of the people.
48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them:
"The One I kiss is the man; arrest Him."
49 Going directly to Jesus, he said, "Greetings, Rabbi!"
and kissed Him.
50 "Friend," Jesus replied, "why have you come?"[i]
Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus, and
arrested Him.
51 At this, one of Jesus' companions drew his sword
and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off
his ear.
52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him.
"For all who draw the sword will perish[j] by the
sword.
53 Are you not aware that I can call on My Father right
now,[k] and He will at once put at My disposal more
than twelve legions of angels?
54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that
say it must happen this way?"
55 At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Have you come
out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would
an outlaw? Every day I sat with you[l] teaching in the
temple courts,[m] and you did not arrest Me.
56 But this has all happened so that the writings of the
prophets would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples
deserted Him and fled.

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

(Mark 14:53–65; Luke 22:66–71; John 18:19–24)

57 Those who had arrested Jesus led Him away to the
house of Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes
and elders had gathered.
58 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right up to the
courtyard of the high priest. And he went in and sat
down with the guards to see the outcome.

[a] **26:26** F35 and CT *spoke a blessing*

[b] **26:28** CT *of the covenant*

[c] **26:31** Zechariah 13:7

[d] **26:38** CT *Then He said*

[e] **26:42** CT *if this cannot pass*

[f] **26:43** CT *again and found them sleeping*

[g] **26:44** NA, SBL, and WH literal *the same thing again*

[h] **26:46** Or *has drawn near*; F35 *is here*

[i] **26:50** CT *"Friend," Jesus replied, "do what you came for."*

[j] **26:52** CT *will die*

[k] **26:53** CT does not include *right now*.

[l] **26:55** CT does not include *with you*.

[m] **26:55** Literally *the temple*

59 Now the chief priests, the elders,[a] and the whole Sanhedrin[b] were seeking false testimony against Jesus in order to put Him to death.
60 But they did not find any. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none.[c] Finally two false witnesses came forward[d]
61 and declared, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"
62 So the high priest stood up and asked Him, "Have You no answer? What are these men testifying against You?"
63 But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to Him, "I charge You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God."
64 "You have said it yourself," Jesus answered. "But I say to all of you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power[e] and coming on the clouds of heaven."[f]
65 At this, the high priest tore his clothes and declared, "He has blasphemed! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy.[g]
66 What do you think?" "He deserves to die," they answered.
67 Then they spit in His face and struck Him. Others slapped Him
68 and said, "Prophesy to us, Christ! Who hit You?"

Peter Denies Jesus

(Mark 14:66–72; Luke 22:54–62; John 18:15–18)

69 Meanwhile, Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came up to him. "You also were with Jesus the Galilean," she said.
70 But he denied it before them all: "I do not know what you are talking about."
71 When Peter had gone out to the gateway, another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This man was also[h] with Jesus of Nazareth."
72 And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man!"
73 After a little while, those standing nearby came up to Peter. "Surely you are one of them," they said, "for your accent gives you away."
74 At that he began to curse and swear to them, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a rooster crowed.
75 Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken to him:[i] "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

[a] **26:59** CT does not include *the elders*.
[b] **26:59** Or *the whole Council*
[c] **26:60** CT *But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.*
[d] **26:60** Some sources include *Finally two false witnesses came forward* with verse 61; CT *Finally two came forward*
[e] **26:64** Or *the right hand of the Mighty One*
[f] **26:64** See Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13.
[g] **26:65** CT *the blasphemy*
[h] **26:71** CT does not include *also*.
[i] **26:75** CT does not include *to him*.

27

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

(Mark 15:1–5)

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people[j] conspired against Jesus to put Him to death.
2 They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pontius Pilate[k] the governor.

Judas Hangs Himself

(Zechariah 11:10–17)

3 When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was filled with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.
4 "I have sinned by betraying innocent[l] blood," he said. "What is that to us?" they replied. "You bear the responsibility."
5 So Judas threw the silver into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.
6 The chief priests picked up the pieces of silver and said, "It is unlawful to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money."
7 After conferring together, they used the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners.
8 That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.
9 Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on Him by the people of Israel,
10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord had commanded me."[m]

Jesus before Pilate

(Luke 23:1–5; John 18:28–40)

11 Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, who questioned Him: "Are You the King of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied.
12 And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He gave no answer.
13 Then Pilate asked Him, "Do You not hear how many charges they are bringing against You?"
14 But Jesus gave no answer, not even to a single charge, much to the governor's amazement.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

(Mark 15:6–11; Luke 23:13–25)

15 Now it was the governor's custom at the feast to release to the crowd a prisoner of their choosing.
16 At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas.[n]
17 So when the crowd had assembled, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"
18 For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

[j] **27:1** F35 does not include *of the people*.
[k] **27:2** CT *to Pilate*
[l] **27:4** WH *righteous*
[m] **27:10** See Jeremiah 19:1–15, Jeremiah 32:6–9, and Zechariah 11:12–13.
[n] **27:16** SBL and NA *Jesus Barabbas*; also in verse 17, but universally called *Barabbas* in verses 20, 21, and 26

19 While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered terribly in a dream today because of Him.”
20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death.
21 “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they replied.
22 “What then should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify Him!”
23 “Why?” asked the governor.[a] “What evil has He done?” But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify Him!”

Pilate Washes His Hands

(Mark 15:12–15)

24 When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but that instead a riot was breaking out, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd. “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood,[b] ” he said. “You bear the responsibility.”
25 All the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!”
26 So Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

(Isaiah 50:4–11; Mark 15:16–20; Luke 22:63–65; John 19:1–15)

27 Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company around Him.
28 They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.
29 And they twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand, knelt down before Him, and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”
30 Then they spit on Him and took the staff and struck Him on the head repeatedly.
31 After they had mocked Him, they removed the robe and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

The Crucifixion

(Psalm 22:1–31; Mark 15:21–32; Luke 23:26–43; John 19:16–27)

32 Along the way they found a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross of Jesus.
33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means The Place of the Skull,
34 they offered Him sour wine[c] to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it.
35 When they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments by casting lots.[d]
36 And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.
37 Above His head they posted the written charge against Him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.
38 Two robbers[e] were crucified with Him, one on His right and the other on His left.
39 And those who passed by heaped abuse on Him, shaking their heads
40 and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”
41 In the same way, the chief priests, scribes, elders, and Pharisees[f] mocked Him, saying,
42 “He saved others, but He cannot save Himself. If[g] He is the King of Israel, let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him.[h]
43 He trusts in God. Let God deliver Him now if He wants Him.[i] For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”
44 In the same way, even the robbers who were crucified with Him berated Him.

The Death of Jesus

(Psalm 22:1–31; Mark 15:33–41; Luke 23:44–49; John 19:28–30)

45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour[j] darkness came over all the land.
46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli,[k] lima[l] sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”[m]
47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He is calling Elijah.”
48 One of them quickly ran and brought a sponge. He filled it with sour wine,[n] put it on a reed, and held it up for Jesus to drink.[o]
49 But the others said, “Leave Him alone. Let us see if Elijah comes to save Him.”[p]
50 When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He yielded up His spirit.
51 At that moment the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, and the rocks were split.
52 The tombs broke open, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
53 After Jesus’ resurrection, when they had come out of the tombs, they entered the holy city and appeared to many people.
54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and said, “Truly this was the Son of God.”

[a] **27:23** CT *he asked*

[b] **27:24** Literally *this righteous blood*; most CT *this blood*

[c] **27:34** CT *offered Him wine*

[d] **27:35** See Psalm 22:18; TR includes *to fulfill what was said through the prophet: “They divided My garments among them, and cast lots for My clothing.”*

[e] **27:38** Or *insurrectionists*; also in verse 44

[f] **27:41** CT *the chief priests, scribes, and elders*

[g] **27:42** CT does not include *If.*

[h] **27:42** TR *we will believe Him.*

[i] **27:43** Psalm 22:8

[j] **27:45** That is, from noon until three in the afternoon

[k] **27:46** NE and WH *Eloi, Eloi*

[l] **27:46** CT *lema*; TR *lama*

[m] **27:46** Psalm 22:1

[n] **27:48** Or *filled it with wine vinegar*

[o] **27:48** See Psalm 69:21.

[p] **27:49** WH includes *And another took a spear and pierced His side, and water and blood flowed out*; see John 19:34.

55 And many women were[a] there, watching from a
distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to
minister to Him.
56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the
mother of James and Joses,[b] and the mother of
Zebedee's sons.

The Burial of Jesus

(Isaiah 53:9–12; Mark 15:42–47; Luke 23:50–56; John 19:38–42)

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from
Arimathea named Joseph, who himself was a disci-
ple of Jesus.
58 He went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus, and
Pilate ordered that the body be given to him.[c]
59 So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen
cloth,
60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut
into the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the
entrance to the tomb and went away.
61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting
there opposite the tomb.

The Guards at the Tomb

62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief
priests and Pharisees assembled before Pilate.
63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while He was
alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise
again.'
64 So give the order that the tomb be secured until
the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come
by night[d] and steal Him away and tell the people
He has risen from the dead. And this last deception
would be worse than the first."
65 "You have a guard," Pilate said. "Go, make the tomb
as secure as you know how."
66 So they went and secured the tomb by sealing the
stone and posting the guard.

28

The Resurrection

(Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12; John 20:1–9)

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the
week,[e] Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went
to see the tomb.
2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel
of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled away the
stone from the entrance,[f] and sat on it.
3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes
were white as snow.
4 The guards trembled in fear of him and became like
dead men.
5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid,
for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was
crucified.
6 He is not here; He has risen, just as He said! Come, see
the place where the Lord lay.[g]
7 Then go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has risen
from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.
There you will see Him.' See, I have told you."
8 So they hurried out[h] from the tomb in fear and great
joy, and ran to tell His disciples.
9 And as they were going to tell His disciples,[i] sud-
denly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" They
came to Him, grasped His feet, and worshiped Him.
10 "Do not be afraid," said Jesus. "Go and tell My broth-
ers to go to Galilee. There they will see Me."

The Report of the Guards

11 While the women were on their way, some of the
guards went into the city and reported to the chief
priests all that had happened.
12 And after the chief priests had met with the elders
and formed a plan, they gave the soldiers a large
sum of money
13 and instructed them: "You are to say, 'His disciples
came by night and stole Him away while we were
asleep.'
14 If this report reaches the governor, we will satisfy
him and keep you out of trouble."
15 So the guards took the money and did as they were
instructed. And this account has been circulated
among the Jews to this very day.

The Great Commission

(Mark 16:14–18)

16 Meanwhile, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to
the mountain Jesus had designated.
17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some
doubted.
18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in
heaven and on earth has been given to Me.
19 Therefore go and make disciples[j] of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey all that I have com-
manded you. And surely I am with you always, even
to the end of the age. Amen.[k] "

[a] **27:55** F35 and GOC *were also*

[b] **27:56** CT *Joseph*

[c] **27:58** CT *that it be given to him*

[d] **27:64** CT does not include *by night*.

[e] **28:1** Literally *Now after the Sabbaths, it being dawn toward the first of the Sabbaths,*

[f] **28:2** CT does not include *from the entrance*.

[g] **28:6** CT *the place where He lay*

[h] **28:8** CT *they hurried away*

[i] **28:9** CT does not include *And as they were going to tell His disciples*.

[j] **28:19** Literally *Having gone, make disciples*; CT and TR *Having gone, therefore, make disciples*

[k] **28:20** CT does not include *Amen*.

Mark

The Gospel According to Mark

1

The Mission of John the Baptist

(Isaiah 40:1–5; Matthew 3:1–17; Luke 3:1–22; John 1:19–34)

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

2 As it is written in the prophets:[b] "Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You."[c]

3 "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'"[d]

4 John came baptizing[e] in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 People went out to him from all of Jerusalem and the countryside of Judea. Confessing their sins, they were all baptized[f] by him in the Jordan River.

6 John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

7 And he proclaimed: "After me will come One more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

8 I indeed[g] baptize you with water,[h] but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.[i] "

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, He saw[j] the heavens breaking open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are My beloved Son, in whom[k] I am well pleased."

The Temptation and Preaching of Jesus

(Matthew 4:1–17; Luke 4:1–15)

12 At once the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

13 and He was there[l] in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to Him.

14 After the arrest of John, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom[m] of God.

15 "The time is fulfilled," He said, "and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel!"

The First Disciples

(Matthew 4:18–22; Luke 5:1–11; John 1:35–42)

16 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

17 "Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

18 And at once they left their nets and followed Him.

19 Going on a little farther from there,[n] He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat, mending their nets.

20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.

Jesus Expels an Unclean Spirit

(Luke 4:31–37)

21 Then Jesus and His companions went to Capernaum, and right away Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach.

22 The people were astonished at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

23 Now[o] a man with an unclean spirit cried out in the synagogue:

24 "Let us alone![p] What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!"

25 But Jesus rebuked the spirit. "Be silent!" He said. "Come out of him!"

26 At this, the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and came out with a loud shriek.

27 All the people were amazed and began to ask one another, "What is this? What new teaching is this that with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him?[q] "

28 And the news about Jesus spread quickly through the whole region of Galilee.

Jesus Heals at Peter's House

(Matthew 8:14–17; Luke 4:38–41)

29 As soon as Jesus and His companions had left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.

30 Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and they promptly told Jesus about her.

31 So He went to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. Immediately[r] the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, after sunset, people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed,

33 and the whole town gathered at the door.

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[a] **1:1** ECM, NE, MT, and TR; SBL and WH *the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ*

[b] **1:2** CT *in Isaiah the prophet:*

[c] **1:2** Malachi 3:1; CT does not include *before You.*

[d] **1:3** Isaiah 40:3 (see also LXX)

[e] **1:4** CT *John the Baptist appeared*

[f] **1:5** CT *they were baptized*

[g] **1:8** CT does not include *indeed.*

[h] **1:8** Or *in water*

[i] **1:8** Or *in the Holy Spirit*

[j] **1:10** Or *he saw*; see John 1:32–33.

[k] **1:11** CT *in You*

[l] **1:13** CT does not include *there.*

[m] **1:14** CT does not include *of the kingdom.*

[n] **1:19** CT does not include *from there.*

[o] **1:23** CT *Immediately* or *Suddenly*

[p] **1:24** CT does not include *Let us alone!*

[q] **1:27** CT *What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him!*

[r] **1:31** CT does not include *Immediately.*

34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases and drove out many demons. But He would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.[a]

Jesus Prays and Preaches

(Luke 4:42–44)

35 Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went out to a solitary place to pray.
36 Simon and his companions went to look for Him,
37 and when they found Him, they said, "Everyone is looking for You!"
38 But Jesus answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns so I can preach there as well, for that is why I have come."
39 So He went throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

The Leper's Prayer

(Leviticus 14:1–32; Matthew 8:1–4; Luke 5:12–16)

40 Then a leper[b] came to Jesus, begging and kneeling before Him[c] and saying to Him: "If You are willing, You can make me clean."
41 Moved with compassion,[d] Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!"
42 And when He had said this,[e] immediately the leprosy left him, and the man was cleansed.
43 Jesus promptly sent him away with a stern warning:
44 "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering Moses prescribed for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."[f]
45 But the man went out and openly began to proclaim and spread the news. Consequently, Jesus could no longer enter a town in plain view, but He stayed out in solitary places. Yet people came to Him from every quarter.

2

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

(Matthew 9:1–8; Luke 5:17–26)

1 A few days later Jesus went back to Capernaum. And when the people heard that He was home,
2 immediately[g] they gathered in such large numbers that there was no more room, not even outside the door, as Jesus spoke the word to them.
3 Then a paralytic was brought to Him, carried by four men.
4 Since they were unable to get to Jesus through the crowd, they uncovered the roof above Him, made an opening, and lowered the paralytic on his mat.
5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you.[h] "
6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking in their hearts,
7 "Why does this man speak such blasphemies?[i] Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
8 At once Jesus knew in His spirit that they were thinking this way within themselves. "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?" He asked.
9 "Which is easier: to say to a paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,[j] ' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your mat, and walk'?
10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic,
11 "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home."
12 And immediately the man got up, picked up his mat, and walked out in front of them all. As a result, they were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Jesus Calls Levi

(Matthew 9:9–13; Luke 5:27–32)

13 Once again Jesus went out beside the sea. All the people came to Him, and He taught them there.
14 As He was walking along, He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth. "Follow Me," He told him, and Levi got up and followed Him.
15 While Jesus was dining at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Him and His disciples — for there were many who followed Him.
16 When the scribes and Pharisees[k] saw Jesus eating with these people,[l] they asked His disciples, "Why does He eat and drink[m] with tax collectors and sinners?"
17 On hearing this, Jesus told them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.[n] "

Questions about Fasting

(Matthew 9:14–15; Luke 5:33–35)

18 Now the disciples of John and of the Pharisees[o] were often fasting. So people came to Jesus and asked, "Why don't Your disciples fast like John's disciples and those of the Pharisees?"
19 Jesus replied, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while He is with them? As long as He is with them, they cannot fast.
20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then[p] they will fast.

[a] **1:34** GOC, ALT, F35, WH *they knew that He was the Christ*
[b] **1:40** A *leper* was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13.
[c] **1:40** CT *begging on his knees*
[d] **1:41** SBL *Moved with indignation*
[e] **1:42** CT does not include *when He had said this.*
[f] **1:44** See Leviticus 14:1–32.
[g] **2:2** CT does not include *immediately.*
[h] **2:5** CT does not include *you.*
[i] **2:7** CT *Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming!*
[j] **2:9** TR *forgiven you*
[k] **2:16** CT *the scribes who were Pharisees* or *the scribes of the Pharisees*
[l] **2:16** Literally *with tax collectors and sinners*; CT *with sinners and tax collectors*
[m] **2:16** CT does not include *and drink.*
[n] **2:17** CT does not include *to repentance.*
[o] **2:18** CT *John's disciples and the Pharisees*
[p] **2:20** Literally *in those days*; CT *in that day*

The Patches and the Wineskins

(Matthew 9:16–17; Luke 5:36–39)

21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old
garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away
from the old, and a worse tear will result.
22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he
does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will
spill out, and the wineskins will be ruined.[a] Instead,
new wine is poured into new wineskins."[b]

The Lord of the Sabbath

(1 Samuel 21:1–7; Matthew 12:1–8; Luke 6:1–5)

23 One Sabbath Jesus was passing through the grain-
fields, and His disciples began to pick the heads of
grain as they walked along.
24 So the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why are they
doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"
25 Jesus replied, "Have you never read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry and in
need?
26 During the high priesthood of Abiathar, he entered
the house of God and ate the consecrated bread,[c]
which was lawful only for the priests. And he gave
some to his companions as well."
27 Then Jesus declared, "The Sabbath was made for
man, not man for the Sabbath.
28 Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sab-
bath."

3

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

(Matthew 12:9–14; Luke 6:6–11)

1 Once again Jesus entered the synagogue,[d] and a man
with a withered hand was there.
2 In order to accuse Jesus, they were watching to see if
He would heal on the Sabbath.
3 Then Jesus said to the man with the withered hand,
"Stand up among us."
4 And He asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath:
to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"
But they were silent.
5 Jesus looked around at them with anger and sorrow
at their hardness of heart. Then He said to the man,
"Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and
it was restored, as sound as the other.[e]
6 At this, the Pharisees went out and began plotting
with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Jesus Heals the Multitudes

(Matthew 4:23–25; Luke 6:17–19)

7 So Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea, ac-
companied by a large crowd from Galilee, Judea,
8 Jerusalem, Idumea, the region beyond the Jordan,
and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd
came to Him when they heard what great things He
was doing.
9 Jesus asked His disciples to have a boat ready for Him
so that the crowd would not crush Him.
10 For He had healed so many that all who had diseases
were pressing forward to touch Him.
11 And when the unclean spirits saw Him, they fell
down before Him and cried out, "You are the Son of
God!"
12 But He warned them sternly not to make Him
known.

The Twelve Apostles

(Matthew 10:1–4; Luke 6:12–16)

13 Then Jesus went up on the mountain and called for
those He wanted, and they came to Him.
14 He appointed twelve of them[f] to accompany Him,
to be sent out to preach,
15 and to have authority to heal sicknesses and[g] to
drive out demons:
16 Simon[h] (whom He named Peter),
17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John(whom
He named Boanerges, meaning "Sons of Thunder"),
18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas,
James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the
Zealot,[i]
19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.[j]

A House Divided

(Matthew 12:22–30; Luke 11:14–23)

20 Then they went into a house,[k] and once again a
crowd gathered, so that they could not even eat.
21 When His family heard about this, they went out to
take custody of Him, saying, "He is out of His mind."
22 And the scribes who had come down from
Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelze-
bul,[l] " and, "By the prince of the demons He drives
out demons."
23 So Jesus called them together and began to speak to
them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?
24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, it cannot stand.
25 If a house is divided against itself, it cannot stand.
26 And if Satan is divided and rises against himself, he
cannot stand; his end has come.
27 No one[m] can enter a strong man's house to steal his
possessions unless he first ties up the strong man.
Then he can plunder his house.

The Unpardonable Sin

(Matthew 12:31–32)

28 Truly I tell you, the sons of men will be forgiven all
sins and blasphemies, as many as they utter.

[a] **2:22** CT *If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined.*

[b] **2:22** Tischendorf does not include *Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins.*

[c] **2:26** Or *the Bread of the Presence*

[d] **3:1** SBL and WH *a synagogue*

[e] **3:5** CT does not include *as sound as the other.*

[f] **3:14** SBL and WH include *whom He designated as apostles.*

[g] **3:15** CT does not include *to heal sicknesses and.*

[h] **3:16** SBL, NE, and WH *These are the twelve He appointed: Simon*

[i] **3:18** Literally *Simon the Cananite*; CT *Simon the Cananean*

[j] **3:19** Literally *who also betrayed Him*

[k] **3:20** CT *Then He went into a house* or *Then He went home*

[l] **3:22** WH *Beezeboul*; Vulgate *Beelzebub*

[m] **3:27** CT *But no one* or *Indeed, no one*

29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is subject to eternal judgment.[a] ”

30 Jesus made this statement because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Jesus’ Mother and Brothers

(Matthew 12:46–50; Luke 8:19–21)

31 Then Jesus’ brothers and mother[b] came and stood outside. They sent someone in to summon Him,
32 and a crowd was sitting around Him. “Look,” He was told, “Your mother and brothers and sisters[c] are outside, asking for You.”
33 But Jesus replied, “Who is My mother, or who are My brothers?[d] ”
34 Looking at those seated in a circle around Him, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!
35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and sister[e] and mother.[f] ”

4

The Parable of the Sower

(Matthew 13:1–9; Luke 8:4–8)

1 Once again Jesus began to teach beside the sea, and such a large crowd gathered around Him that He got into the boat[g] and sat in it, while all the people crowded along the shore.
2 And He taught them many things in parables, and in His teaching He said,
3 “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.
4 And as he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds[h] came and devoured it.
5 Some fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow.
6 But when the sun rose, the seedlings were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.
7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the seedlings, and they yielded no crop.
8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it sprouted, grew up, and produced a crop — one bearing thirtyfold, another sixtyfold, and another a hundredfold.”
9 Then Jesus said,[i] “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Purpose of Jesus’ Parables

(Isaiah 6:1–13; Matthew 13:10–17; Luke 8:9–10)

10 As soon as Jesus was alone with the Twelve and those around Him, they asked Him about the parable.[j]
11 He replied, “To know[k] the mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to those on the outside everything is expressed in parables,
12 so that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven their sins.’[l] ”

The Parable of the Sower Explained

(Matthew 13:18–23; Luke 8:11–15)

13 Then Jesus said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables?
14 The farmer sows the word.
15 Some are like the seeds[m] along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.[n]
16 Some are like the seeds sown on rocky ground. They hear the word and at once receive it with joy.
17 But they themselves have no root, and they remain for only a season. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
18 Others are like the seeds sown among the thorns. They hear the word,
19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
20 Still others are like the seeds sown on good soil. They hear the word, receive it, and produce a crop — thirtyfold, sixtyfold, or a hundredfold.”

The Lesson of the Lamp

(Luke 8:16–18)

21 Jesus also said to them, “Does anyone bring in a lamp to put it under a basket or under a bed? Doesn’t he set it on a stand?
22 For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be brought to light.
23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”
24 He went on to say, “Pay attention to what you hear. With the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and even more will be added to you who hear.[o]
25 For whoever has will be given more. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

The Seed Growing Secretly

26 Jesus also said, “The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground.
27 Night and day he sleeps and wakes, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he knows not how.
28 For[p] all by itself the earth produces a crop— first the stalk, then the head, then grain that ripens within.
29 And as soon as the grain is ripe, he swings the sickle,

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[a] **3:29** Or *he is in danger of eternal damnation*; CT *he is guilty of eternal sin*

[b] **3:31** CT *mother and brothers*

[c] **3:32** ECM, SBL, WH, and TR do not include *and sisters*.

[d] **3:33** CT *Who are My mother and My brothers?*

[e] **3:35** Literally *and My sister*

[f] **3:35** F35 *and My mother*

[g] **4:1** CT *a boat*

[h] **4:4** TR *the birds of the air*

[i] **4:9** GOC and TR *said to them*

[j] **4:10** CT literal *parables*

[k] **4:11** CT does not include *To know*.

[l] **4:12** Isaiah 6:9–10 (see also LXX); CT does not include *their sins*.

[m] **4:15** Or *the word*; similarly in verses 16, 18, and 20; literally *Now these are the ones*

[n] **4:15** CT *sown in them*

[o] **4:24** CT does not include *who hear*.

[p] **4:28** CT does not include *For*.

because the harvest has come.[a] ”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

(Matthew 13:31–32; Luke 13:18–19)

30 Then He asked, “To what can we compare the kingdom of God? With what parable shall we illustrate[b] it?

31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds sown upon the earth.

32 But after it is planted, it grows to be the largest of all garden plants and puts forth great branches, so that the birds of the air nest in its shade.”

33 With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them, to the extent that they could understand.

34 He did not tell them anything without using a parable. But privately He explained everything to His own disciples.

Jesus Calms the Storm

(Psalm 107:1–43; Matthew 8:23–27; Luke 8:22–25)

35 When that evening came, He said to His disciples, “Let us cross to the other side.”

36 After they had dismissed the crowd, they took Jesus with them, since He was already in the boat. And there were other little boats[c] with Him.

37 Soon a violent windstorm came up, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was being swamped.[d]

38 But Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke Him and said, “Teacher, don’t You care that we are perishing?”

39 Then Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the sea. “Silence!” He commanded. “Be still!” And the wind died down, and it was perfectly calm.

40 “Why are you so afraid?” He asked. “How[e] do you still have no faith?”

41 Overwhelmed with fear, they asked one another, “Who then[f] is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

5

The Demons and the Pigs

(Matthew 8:28–34; Luke 8:26–39)

1 On the other side of the sea, they arrived in the region of the Gadarenes.[g]

2 As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, He was met by a man with an unclean spirit, who was coming from the tombs.

3 This man had been living in the tombs and could not be restrained,[h] even with chains.

4 Though he was often bound with chains and shackles, he had broken the chains and shattered the shackles. Now there was no one with the strength to subdue him.

5 Night and day in the mountains and in the tombs[i] he kept crying out and cutting himself with stones.

6 When the man saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees before Him.

7 And he shouted in a loud voice, “What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God not to torture me!”

8 For Jesus had already declared, “Come out of this man, you unclean spirit!”

9 “What is your name?” Jesus asked. “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”

10 And he begged Jesus repeatedly not to send them out of that region.

11 There on the nearby hillside a large herd of pigs was feeding.

12 So all the demons begged[j] Jesus, “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.”

13 So Jesus immediately gave them permission,[k] and the unclean spirits came out and went into the pigs, and the herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the water.[l]

14 Those tending the pigs[m] ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons sitting there, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

16 Those who had seen it described what had happened to the demon-possessed man and also to the pigs.

17 And the people began to beg Jesus to leave their region.

18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by the demons begged to go with Him.

19 But Jesus would not allow him. “Go home to your own people,” He said, “and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy He has shown you.”

20 So the man went away and began to proclaim throughout the Decapolis[n] how much Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

The Healing Touch of Jesus

(Matthew 9:18–26; Luke 8:40–56)

21 When Jesus had again crossed by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him beside the sea.

22 And behold,[o] a synagogue leader named Jairus arrived, and seeing Jesus, he fell at His feet

[a] **4:29** See Joel 3:13, including LXX.

[b] **4:30** CT *shall we present*

[c] **4:36** CT and GOC *other boats*

[d] **4:37** GOC *it was already beginning to sink*

[e] **4:40** CT does not include *How*.

[f] **4:41** CT does not include *then*.

[g] **5:1** CT *Gerasenes*; GOC *Gergesenes*

[h] **5:3** CT *could no longer be restrained*

[i] **5:5** CT *in the tombs and in the mountains*

[j] **5:12** CT *they begged*

[k] **5:13** CT *So He gave them permission*

[l] **5:13** Literally *and were drowned in the sea*

[m] **5:14** CT *Those tending them*

[n] **5:20** That is, the Ten Cities

[o] **5:22** CT does not include *behold*.

23 and pleaded with Him urgently, “My little daughter
is near death. Please come and place Your hands on
her so that she will be healed, and she will live.[a] ”
24 So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd followed
and pressed around Him.
25 And a woman was there who had suffered from
bleeding for twelve years.
26 She had borne much agony under the care of many
physicians and had spent all she had, but to no avail.
Instead, her condition had only grown worse.
27 When the woman heard about Jesus, she came up
through the crowd behind Him and touched His
cloak.
28 For she kept saying, “If only I touch His garments, I
will be healed.”
29 Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she sensed
in her body that she was healed of her affliction.
30 At once Jesus was aware that power had gone out
from Him. Turning to the crowd, He asked, “Who
touched My garments?”
31 His disciples answered, “You can see the crowd
pressing in on You, and yet You ask, ‘Who touched
Me?’”
32 But He kept looking around to see who had done
this.
33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to
her, came and fell down before Him trembling in
fear, and she told Him the whole truth.
34 “Daughter,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.
Go in peace and be free of your affliction.”
35 While He was still speaking, messengers from the
house of Jairus arrived and said, “Your daughter is
dead; why bother the Teacher anymore?”
36 But Jesus overheard[b] their conversation and im-
mediately[c] said to Jairus, “Do not be afraid; just
believe.”
37 And He did not allow anyone to accompany Him
except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.
38 When He arrived[d] at the house of the synagogue
leader, Jesus saw the commotion and the people
weeping and wailing loudly.
39 He went inside and asked, “Why all this commotion
and weeping? The child is not dead, but asleep.”
40 And they laughed at Him. After He had put them all
outside, He took the child’s father and mother and
His own companions, and went in where the child
was lying.[e]
41 Taking her by the hand, Jesus said, “Talitha koumi!
[f] ” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”
42 Immediately the girl got up and began to walk
around (she was twelve years old). And[g] they were
utterly astounded.
43 Then Jesus gave strict orders that no one should
know about this, and He told them to give her some-
thing to eat.

6

The Rejection at Nazareth

(Matthew 13:53–58; Luke 4:16–30)

1 Jesus went on from there and came to His hometown,
accompanied by His disciples.
2 When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the
synagogue, and many who heard Him were aston-
ished. “Where did this man get these ideas?” they
asked. “What is this wisdom He has been given? And
how can He perform such miracles?
3 Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary and the
brother of James, Joses,[h] Judas, and Simon? Aren’t
His sisters here with us as well?” And they took
offense at Him.
4 Then Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown,
among his relatives, and in his own household is a
prophet without honor.”
5 So He could not perform any miracles there, except
to lay His hands on a few of the sick and heal them.
6 And He was amazed at their unbelief. And He went
around from village to village, teaching the people.

The Ministry of the Twelve

(Matthew 10:5–15; Luke 9:1–6)

7 Then Jesus called the Twelve to Him and began to
send them out two by two, giving them authority
over unclean spirits.
8 He instructed them to take nothing but a staff for the
journey — no bag, no bread,[i] no money[j] in their
belts —
9 and to wear sandals, but not a second tunic.
10 And He told them, “When you enter a house, stay
there until you leave that area.
11 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to you,
shake the dust off your feet when you leave that
place, as a testimony against them. Truly I tell you, it
will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on
the day of judgment than for that town.[k] ”
12 So they set out and preached that the people should
repent.
13 They also drove out many demons and healed many
of the sick, anointing them with oil.

The Beheading of John

(Matthew 14:1–12; Luke 9:7–9)

14 Now King Herod heard about this (for Jesus’ name
had become well known) and he said,[l] “John the
Baptist has risen from the dead! That is why miracu-
lous powers are at work in him.”
15 Others were saying, “He is Elijah,” and still others,
“He is a prophet, like[m] one of the prophets of old.”

[a] **5:23** ECM, NA, SBL, TH, and WH *healed and live*
[b] **5:36** Or *ignored*
[c] **5:36** CT does not include *immediately*.
[d] **5:38** CT *they arrived*
[e] **5:40** CT does not include *lying*.
[f] **5:41** CT *Talitha koum!*
[g] **5:42** CT *And at once* or *And at this*
[h] **6:3** *Joses* is a variant of *Joseph*; see Matthew 13:55.
[i] **6:8** CT *no bread, no bag*
[j] **6:8** Or *copper coins*
[k] **6:11** CT does not include *Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town*; see Matthew 10:15.
[l] **6:14** ECM, NA, SBL, WH *they were saying*
[m] **6:15** TR *or like*

16 But when Herod heard this, he said, “This is John,
whom I beheaded; he has risen from the dead!”[a]
17 For Herod himself had ordered that John be ar-
rested and bound and imprisoned, on account of
his brother Philip’s wife Herodias, whom Herod had
married.
18 For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for
you to have your brother’s wife!”
19 So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted
to kill him. But she had been unable,
20 because Herod feared John and protected him,
knowing that he was a righteous and holy man.
When he heard John’s words, he did much of what
he said;[b] and he listened to him gladly.
21 On Herod’s birthday, her opportunity arose. Herod
held a banquet for his nobles and military comman-
ders and the leading men of Galilee.
22 When the daughter of Herodias[c] came and danced,
she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said
to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will
give it to you.”
23 And he swore[d] to her, “Whatever you ask of me, I
will give you, up to half my kingdom!”
24 Then she went out and asked her mother, “What
should I request?” And her mother answered, “The
head of John the Baptist.”
25 At once the girl hurried back to the king with her
request: “I want you to give me the head of John the
Baptist on a platter immediately.”
26 The king was consumed with sorrow, but because of
his oaths and his guests, he did not want to refuse
her.
27 So without delay, the king commanded that John’s
head be brought in. He sent an executioner, who
went and beheaded him in the prison.
28 The man brought John’s head on a platter and pre-
sented it to the girl, who gave it to her mother.
29 When John’s disciples heard about this, they came
and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

(Matthew 14:13–21; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15)

30 Meanwhile, the apostles gathered around Jesus and
brought Him news of all they had done and taught.
31 And He said to them, “Come with Me privately to a
solitary place, and let us rest for a while.” For many
people were coming and going, and they did not
even have time to eat.
32 So they went away in the boat[e] by themselves to a
solitary place.
33 But many people saw them leaving and recognized
Him.[f] They ran together on foot from all the towns
and arrived before them.
34 When Jesus stepped ashore and saw a large crowd,
He had compassion on them, because they were like
sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach
them many things.
35 By now the hour was already late. So the disciples
came to Jesus and said, “This is a desolate place, and
the hour is already late.
36 Dismiss the crowd so they can go to the surrounding
countryside and villages and buy themselves food,
for they have nothing to eat.[g] ”
37 But Jesus told them, “You give them something to
eat.” They asked Him, “Should we go out and spend
two hundred denarii[h] to give all of them bread to
eat?”
38 “Go and see how many loaves you have,” He told
them. And after checking, they said, “Five — and two
fish.”
39 Then Jesus directed them to have the people sit in
groups on the green grass.
40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.
41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking
up to heaven, Jesus spoke a blessing and broke the
loaves. Then He gave them to His disciples to set be-
fore the people. And He divided the two fish among
them all.
42 They all ate and were satisfied,
43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of
broken pieces of bread and fish.
44 And there were five thousand[i] men who had eaten
the loaves.

Jesus Walks on Water

(Matthew 14:22–33; John 6:16–21)

45 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the
boat and go on ahead of Him to Bethsaida, while He
dismissed the crowd.
46 After bidding them farewell, He went up on the
mountain to pray.
47 When evening came, the boat was in the middle of
the sea, and Jesus was alone on land.
48 He could see that the disciples were straining to
row, because the wind was against them. About the
fourth watch of the night,[j] Jesus went out to them,
walking on the sea. He intended to pass by them,
49 but when they saw Him walking on the sea, they
cried out, thinking He was a ghost —
50 for they all saw Him and were terrified. But Jesus
spoke up at once: “Take courage! It is I. Do not be
afraid.”
51 Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the
wind died down. And the disciples were utterly as-
tounded beyond measure, and were marveling.[k]
52 For they had not understood about the loaves be-
cause[l] their hearts had been hardened.

[a] **6:16** CT *“John, whom I beheaded, has risen from the dead!”*

[b] **6:20** Literally *he did many (things)*; CT *he was greatly perplexed*

[c] **6:22** Some early manuscripts *When his daughter Herodias*

[d] **6:23** NA *solemnly swore*

[e] **6:32** GOC, ECM, NA, SBL, WH *a boat*

[f] **6:33** CT *recognized them*

[g] **6:36** CT *and buy themselves something to eat*

[h] **6:37** A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.

[i] **6:44** TR *about five thousand*

[j] **6:48** That is, between three and six in the morning

[k] **6:51** CT does not include *beyond measure, and were marveling.*

[l] **6:52** CT and GOC *but*

Jesus Heals at Gennesaret

(Matthew 14:34–36)

53 When they had crossed over, they came to the land
of Gennesaret[a] and moored the boat.
54 As soon as they got out of the boat, the people recognized Jesus
55 and ran through that whole surrounding region,[b]
carrying the sick on mats to wherever they heard
He was.
56 And wherever He went — villages and towns and
countrysides — they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged Him just to let them touch the
fringe of His cloak. And all who touched Him were
healed.

7

The Tradition of the Elders

(Matthew 15:1–9)

1 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had
come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus.
2 And seeing some of His disciples eating with hands
that were defiled (that is, unwashed), they found
fault.[c]
3 Now in holding to the tradition of the elders, the
Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat until they wash
their hands ceremonially.[d]
4 And on returning from the market, they do not eat
unless they wash. And there are many other traditions for them to observe, including the washing of
cups, pitchers, kettles, and couches for dining.[e]
5 So the Pharisees and scribes questioned Jesus: "Why
do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition
of the elders? Instead, they eat with unwashed[f]
hands."
6 Jesus answered them, "Isaiah prophesied correctly
about you hypocrites, as it is written: 'These people
honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far
from Me.
7 They worship Me in vain; they teach as doctrine the
precepts of men.'[g]
8 You have disregarded the commandment of God to
keep the tradition of men— the washing of pitchers
and cups, and many other similar things you do.[h] "
9 He went on to say, "You neatly set aside the command
of God to maintain[i] your own tradition.
10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your
mother'[j] and 'Anyone who curses his father or
mother must be put to death.'[k]
11 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother,
'Whatever you would have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God),
12 he is no longer permitted to do anything for his
father or mother.
13 Thus you nullify the word of God by the tradition
you have handed down. And you do so in many such
matters."

What Defiles a Man

(Matthew 15:10–20)

14 Once again Jesus called the whole crowd[l] to Him
and said, "All of you, listen to Me and understand:
15 Nothing that enters a man from the outside can
defile him; but the things that come out of a man,
these are what defile him.
16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."[m]
17 After Jesus had left the crowd and gone into the
house, His disciples inquired about the parable.
18 "Are you still so dull?" He asked. "Do you not understand? Nothing that enters a man from the outside
can defile him,
19 because it does not enter his heart, but it goes into
the stomach and then is eliminated, thus purifying
all foods."[n]
20 He continued: "What comes out of a man, that is
what defiles him.
21 For from within the hearts of men come evil
thoughts, adultery, sexual immorality, murder, theft,[o]
22 greed, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness.
23 All these evils come from within, and these are what
defile a man."

The Faith of the Gentile Woman

(Matthew 15:21–28)

24 Jesus left that place and went to the region of Tyre
and Sidon.[p] Not wanting anyone to know He was
there, He entered a house, but was unable to escape
their notice.
25 For[q] a woman whose little daughter had an unclean
spirit heard[r] about Jesus, and she came and fell at
His feet.
26 Now she was a Greek woman of Syrophoenician
origin, and she kept asking Jesus to drive the demon
out of her daughter.

[a] **6:53** CT *they came to land at Gennesaret* or *they landed at Gennesaret*

[b] **6:55** CT *the whole region*

[c] **7:2** CT *And they saw some of His disciples eating with hands that were defiled—that is, unwashed.*

[d] **7:3** Literally *until they have washed their hands to the fist*

[e] **7:4** NE and WH *cups, pitchers, and kettles.*

[f] **7:5** CT *defiled*

[g] **7:7** Isaiah 29:13 (see also LXX)

[h] **7:8** CT does not include *—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other similar things you do .*

[i] **7:9** NA *establish*

[j] **7:10** Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

[k] **7:10** Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9

[l] **7:14** CT *the crowd*

[m] **7:16** CT does not include verse 16.

[n] **7:19** CT *and then is eliminated, thereby expelling all foods."* or *and then is eliminated." (Thus all foods are clean.)*

[o] **7:21** Some texts list these in a different order; some move *adultery* to verse 22.

[p] **7:24** Most CT do not include *and Sidon*; see Matthew 15:21.

[q] **7:25** CT *Instead*

[r] **7:25** CT *soon heard*

27 “First let the children have their fill,” Jesus said. [a] “For it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”
28 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “for[b] even the dogs[c] under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”
29 Then Jesus told her, “Because of this answer, you may go. The demon has left your daughter.”
30 And she went home and found the demon was gone, and her daughter was lying on the bed.[d]

The Deaf and Mute Man

(Matthew 9:27–34)

31 Then Jesus left the region of Tyre and Sidon and went toward the Sea of Galilee[e] and into the region of the Decapolis.[f]
32 Some people brought to Him a man who was deaf and hardly able to speak, and they begged Jesus to place His hand on him.
33 So Jesus took him aside privately, away from the crowd, and put His fingers into the man’s ears. Then He spit and touched the man’s tongue.
34 And looking up to heaven, He sighed deeply and said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means, “Be opened!”).
35 Immediately[g] the man’s ears were opened and his tongue was released, and he began to speak plainly.
36 Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more He ordered them, the more widely they proclaimed it.
37 The people were utterly astonished and said, “He has done all things well! He makes even the deaf hear and the mute speak!”

8

The Feeding of the Four Thousand

(2 Kings 4:42–44; Matthew 15:29–39)

1 In those days the crowd[h] became very large, and they had nothing to eat. Jesus called His disciples[i] to Him and said,
2 “I have compassion for this crowd, because they have already been with Me three days and have nothing to eat.
3 If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For[j] some of them have come a great distance.”
4 His disciples replied, “Where in this desolate place could anyone find enough bread to feed all these people?”
5 “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied.
6 And He instructed the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven loaves, gave thanks and broke them, and gave them to His disciples to set before the people. And they distributed them to the crowd.
7 They also had a few small fish, and Jesus blessed them and ordered that these be set before them as well.
8 The people ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
9 And about four thousand men[k] who had eaten[l] were present . And when Jesus had dismissed the crowd,
10 He immediately got into the boat with His disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

The Demand for a Sign

(Matthew 16:1–4; Luke 12:54–56)

11 Then the Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, testing Him by demanding from Him a sign from heaven.
12 Jesus sighed deeply in His spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek after[m] a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.”
13 And He left them, got back into the boat, and crossed to the other side.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod

(Matthew 16:5–12; Luke 12:1–3)

14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.
15 “Watch out!” He cautioned them. “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod.”
16 So they began to discuss this with one another, saying, “It is because we have no bread.”[n]
17 Aware of their conversation, Jesus asked them, “Why are you debating about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Do you still[o] have such hard hearts?
18 ‘Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?’[p] And do you not remember?
19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces did you collect?” “Twelve,” they answered.
20 “And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces did you collect?” “Seven,” they said.
21 Then He asked them, “How[q] do you still not understand?”

The Blind Man at Bethsaida

22 When He arrived[r] at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.

[a] **7:27** CT *He said*
[b] **7:28** CT does not include *for*.
[c] **7:28** Or *puppies*
[d] **7:30** CT *found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone*
[e] **7:31** CT *of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee*
[f] **7:31** That is, the Ten Cities
[g] **7:35** ECM, WH, TH, and SBL do not include *Immediately*.
[h] **8:1** GOC and CT include *once again*.
[i] **8:1** CT *the disciples*
[j] **8:3** CT literal *And*
[k] **8:9** *Men*is implied here, that is, in addition to women and children; see Matthew 15:38.
[l] **8:9** CT and GOC do not include *who had eaten*.
[m] **8:12** CT *demand*
[n] **8:16** CT *So they began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread.*
[o] **8:17** CT does not include *still*.
[p] **8:18** See Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 42:20, Jeremiah 5:21, and Ezekiel 12:2.
[q] **8:21** CT does not include *How*.
[r] **8:22** CT *they arrived*

23 So He took the blind man by the hand and led him
out of the village. Then He spit on the man's eyes
and placed His hands on him, asking if he could see
anything.[a]
24 The man looked up and said, "I can see the people,
but they look like trees walking around."
25 Once again Jesus placed His hands on the man's eyes
and made him look up, and his sight was restored,[b]
and he could see everything clearly.
26 Jesus sent him home and said, "Do not go back or tell
anyone in the village."[c]

Peter's Confession of Christ

(Matthew 16:13–20; Luke 9:18–20; John 6:67–71)

27 Then Jesus and His disciples went on to the villages
around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, He ques-
tioned His disciples: "Who do people say I am?"
28 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say
Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."
29 "But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say
I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ."
30 And Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about
Him.

Christ's Passion Foretold

(Matthew 16:21–23; Luke 9:21–22)

31 Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man
must suffer many things and be rejected by the
elders, chief priests, and scribes, and that He must
be killed and after three days rise again.
32 He spoke this message quite frankly, and Peter took
Him aside and began to rebuke Him.
33 But Jesus, turning and looking at His disciples, re-
buked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you
do not have in mind the things of God, but the things
of men."

Take Up Your Cross

(Matthew 16:24–28; Luke 9:23–27)

34 Then Jesus called the crowd to Him along with His
disciples, and He told them, "If anyone wants to
follow after[d] Me, he must deny himself and take up
his cross and follow Me.
35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but
whoever loses his life for My sake and for the gospel
will save it.
36 What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole
world yet forfeits his soul?[e]
37 Or[f] what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
38 If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this
adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man
will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His
Father's glory with the holy angels."

9

The Transfiguration

(Matthew 17:1–13; Luke 9:28–36; 2 Peter 1:16–21)

1 Then Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are
some standing here who will not taste death before
they see the kingdom of God arrive with power."
2 After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and
John, and led them up a high mountain by them-
selves. There He was transfigured before them.
3 His clothes became radiantly white as snow,[g]
brighter than any launderer on earth could bleach
them.
4 And Elijah and Moses appeared before them, talking
with Jesus.
5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here.
Let us put up three shelters[h] — one for You, one for
Moses, and one for Elijah."
6 For they were all so terrified that Peter did not know
what else to say.
7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a
voice came from the cloud:[i] "This is My beloved
Son. Listen to Him!"
8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one
with them except Jesus.
9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ad-
monished them not to tell anyone what they had
seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
10 So they kept this matter to themselves, discussing
what it meant to rise from the dead.
11 And they asked Jesus, "Why do the scribes say that
Elijah must come first?"
12 He replied, "Elijah does indeed come first, and he
restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son
of Man must suffer many things and be rejected?
13 But I tell you that Elijah has indeed come, and they
have done to him whatever they wished, just as it is
written about him."

The Boy with an Evil Spirit

(Matthew 17:14–18; Luke 9:37–42)

14 When Jesus returned to the other disciples, He saw
[j] a large crowd around them, and scribes arguing
with them.
15 As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were filled
with awe and ran to greet Him.
16 "What are you disputing with them?" He asked the
scribes.[k]
17 Someone in the crowd replied, "Teacher, I brought
You my son, who has a spirit that makes him mute.
18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground.
He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and be-
comes rigid.[l] I asked Your disciples to drive it out,
but they were unable."

[a] **8:23** CT *placed His hands on him. "Can you see anything?" He asked.*
[b] **8:25** CT *eyes, and when he opened them, his sight was restored*
[c] **8:26** CT *"Do not go back into the village."*
[d] **8:34** SBL, TR, and WH *come after*
[e] **8:36** CT *What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?*
[f] **8:37** CT literal *For*
[g] **9:3** CT does not include *as snow*.
[h] **9:5** Or *three tabernacles*
[i] **9:7** TR and GOC include *saying*.
[j] **9:14** CT *When they returned to the other disciples, they saw*
[k] **9:16** CT *He asked them*
[l] **9:18** Or *and is withering away*

19 "O unbelieving generation!" Jesus replied. "How
long must I remain with you? How long must I put
up with you? Bring the boy to Me."
20 So they brought him, and seeing Jesus, the spirit
immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He
fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the
mouth.
21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has this been
with him?" "From childhood," he said.
22 "It often throws him into the fire or into the water,
trying to kill him. But if You can do anything, have
compassion on us and help us."
23 "If you can believe!" said Jesus.[a] "All things are pos-
sible to him who believes!"
24 Immediately the boy's father cried out with tears,
"Lord, I do believe;[b] help my unbelief!"
25 When Jesus saw that a crowd had come running,
He rebuked the unclean spirit. "You mute and deaf
[c] spirit," He said, "I command you to come out and
never enter him again."
26 After shrieking and convulsing him violently, the
spirit came out. The boy became like a corpse, so that
many said, "He is dead."
27 But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to
his feet, and he stood up.
28 After Jesus had gone into the house, His disciples
asked Him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"
29 Jesus answered, "This kind cannot come out, except
by prayer and fasting.[d] "

The Second Prediction of the Passion

(Matthew 17:22–23; Luke 9:43–45)

30 Going on from there, they passed through Galilee.
But Jesus did not want anyone to know,
31 because He was teaching His disciples. He told them,
"The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of
men. They will kill Him, and on the third day[e] He
will rise."
32 But they did not understand this statement, and they
were afraid to ask Him about it.

The Greatest in the Kingdom

(Matthew 18:1–5; Luke 9:46–50)

33 Then Jesus came to Capernaum.[f] While He was
in the house, He asked them, "What were you dis-
cussing among yourselves[g] on the way?"
34 But they were silent, for on the way they had been
arguing about which of them was the greatest.
35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If
anyone wants to be first, he must be the last of all
and the servant of all."
36 Then He had a little child stand among them. Taking
the child in His arms, He said to them,
37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in
My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me
welcomes not only Me, but the One who sent Me."
38 John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone who
does not follow us[h] driving out demons in Your
name, and we forbade him,[i] because he does not
accompany us."
39 "Do not stop him," Jesus replied. "For no one who
performs a miracle in My name can turn around and
speak evil of Me.
40 For whoever is not against you is for you.[j]
41 Indeed, if anyone gives you even a cup of water in
My name because you are Christ's,[k] truly I tell you,
he will never lose his reward.

Temptations and Trespasses

(Matthew 18:6–9; Luke 17:1–4)

42 But if anyone causes one of these little ones who
believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him
to have a millstone[l] hung around his neck and to be
thrown into the sea.
43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better
for you to enter life crippled than to have two hands
and go into hell,[m] into the unquenchable fire,
44 where 'their worm never dies, and the fire is never
quenched.'[n]
45 If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better
for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and
be thrown into hell, into the unquenchable fire,[o]
46 where 'their worm never dies, and the fire is never
quenched.'[p]
47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is
better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one
eye than to have two eyes and be thrown[q] into the
fire of hell,[r]
48 where 'their worm[s] never dies, and the fire is never
quenched.'[t]

Good Salt

(Matthew 5:13–16; Luke 14:34–35)

49 For everyone will be salted with fire, and every sac-
rifice will be salted with salt.[u]
50 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its saltiness, with
what will you season it? Have salt among yourselves,
and be at peace with one another."

[a] **9:23** CT *"If You can?" echoed Jesus*

[b] **9:24** CT *cried out, "I do believe;*

[c] **9:25** Some translators *deaf and mute*

[d] **9:29** CT does not include *and fasting.*

[e] **9:31** CT *after three days*

[f] **9:33** Literally *Then He came to Capernaum*; CT *Then they came to Capernaum*

[g] **9:33** CT does not include *among yourselves.*

[h] **9:38** Or *does not accompany us*

[i] **9:38** CT *we tried to hinder him*

[j] **9:40** CT and Scrivener TR *not against us is for us*

[k] **9:41** CT *a cup of water because you bear the name of Christ*

[l] **9:42** CT *a large millstone*

[m] **9:43** Greek *Gehenna* ; also in verses 45 and 47

[n] **9:44** Isaiah 66:24; CT does not include verse 44.

[o] **9:45** CT does not include *into the unquenchable fire.*

[p] **9:46** Isaiah 66:24; CT does not include verse 46.

[q] **9:47** GOC *and go away*

[r] **9:47** Literally *into the hell of fire*; CT *into hell*

[s] **9:48** F35 *the worm*

[t] **9:48** Isaiah 66:24

[u] **9:49** CT does not include *and every sacrifice will be salted with salt .*

10

Teachings about Divorce

(Matthew 19:1–12)

1 Then Jesus left that place and went into the region of
Judea, beyond the Jordan. Again the crowds came to
Him and He taught them, as was His custom.
2 Some Pharisees came to test Him. “Is it lawful for a
man to divorce his wife?” they inquired.
3 “What did Moses command you?” He replied.
4 They answered, “Moses permitted a man to write his
wife a certificate of divorce and send her away.”[a]
5 But Jesus told them, “Moses wrote this command-
ment for you because of your hardness of heart.
6 However, from the beginning of creation, ‘God made
them male and female.’[b]
7 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and
mother and be united to his wife,[c]
8 and the two will become one flesh.’[d] So they are no
longer two, but one flesh.
9 Therefore what God has joined together, let man not
separate.”
10 When they were back inside the house, His disciples
[e] asked Jesus about this matter.
11 So He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and
marries another woman commits adultery against
her.
12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries
another man, she commits adultery.”

Jesus Blesses the Children

(Matthew 19:13–15; Luke 18:15–17)

13 Now people were bringing the little children to Jesus
for Him to place His hands on them, and the disciples
rebuked those who brought them.[f]
14 But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and told
them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do
not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to
such as these.
15 Truly I tell you, anyone who does not receive the
kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”
16 And He took the children in His arms, placed His
hands on them, and blessed them.

The Rich Young Man

(Matthew 19:16–30; Luke 18:18–30)

17 As Jesus started on His way, a man[g] ran up and knelt
before Him. “Good Teacher,” he asked, “what must I
do to inherit eternal life?”
18 “Why do you call Me good?” Jesus replied. “No one
is good except God alone.
19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adul-
tery, do not murder,[h] do not steal, do not bear false
witness, do not cheat others, honor your father and
mother.’[i] ”
20 “Teacher,” he replied, “all these I have kept from my
youth.”
21 Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him,
“There is one thing you lack: Go,[j] sell everything
you own and give to the poor, and you will have
treasure in heaven. Then come, take up the cross,[k]
and follow Me.”
22 But the man was saddened by these words and went
away in sorrow, because he had great wealth.
23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples,
“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of
God!”
24 And the disciples were amazed at His words. But
Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is
for those who trust in riches[l] to enter the kingdom
of God!
25 It is[m] easier for a camel to pass through the eye of
a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom
of God.”
26 They were even more astonished and said to one
another,[n] “Who then can be saved?”
27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is im-
possible, but not with God. For all things are possible
with God.”
28 Peter began to say to Him, “Look, we have left every-
thing and followed You.”
29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left
home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or
wife[o] or children or fields for My sake and for the
gospel
30 will fail to receive a hundredfold in the present age
— houses and brothers and sisters[p] and mothers
and children and fields, along with persecutions —
and in the age to come, eternal life.
31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will
be first.”

The Third Prediction of the Passion

(Matthew 20:17–19; Luke 18:31–34)

32 As they were going up the road to Jerusalem, Jesus
was walking ahead of them. The disciples were
amazed, but as they followed, they were afraid.[q]
Again Jesus took the Twelve aside and began to tell
them what was going to happen to Him:
33 “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of
Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and
scribes. They will condemn Him to death and will
deliver Him over to the Gentiles,

[a] **10:4** See Deuteronomy 24:1.
[b] **10:6** Genesis 1:27; Genesis 5:2
[c] **10:7** NE and WH do not include *and be united to his wife.*
[d] **10:8** Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX)
[e] **10:10** CT and GOC *the disciples*
[f] **10:13** CT literal *rebuked them*
[g] **10:17** F35 *someone*
[h] **10:19** CT *Do not murder, do not commit adultery*
[i] **10:19** Exodus 20:12–16; Deuteronomy 5:16–20
[j] **10:21** GOC *If you wish to be perfect, go*
[k] **10:21** CT does not include *take up the cross.*
[l] **10:24** CT does not include *for those who trust in riches.*
[m] **10:25** F35 *For it is*
[n] **10:26** WH *said to Him*
[o] **10:29** CT does not include *or wife.*
[p] **10:30** GOC and F35 include *and fathers.*
[q] **10:32** CT *those who followed were afraid*

34 who will mock Him and flog Him and spit on Him[a] and kill Him. And on the third day[b] He will rise again."

The Request of James and John

(Matthew 20:20–28)

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and declared, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."
36 "What do you want Me to do for you?" He inquired.
37 They answered, "Grant that one of us may sit at Your right hand and the other at Your left in Your glory."
38 "You do not know what you are asking," Jesus replied. "Can you drink the cup I will drink, and[c] be baptized with the baptism I will undergo?"
39 "We can," the brothers answered. "You will indeed drink[d] the cup that I drink," Jesus said, "and you will be baptized with the baptism that I undergo.
40 But to sit at My right and[e] left is not Mine to grant. These seats belong to those for whom[f] they have been prepared."
41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.
42 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them.
43 But it shall not be[g] this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,
44 and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all.
45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Jesus Heals Bartimaeus

(Matthew 20:29–34; Luke 18:35–43)

46 Next, they came to Jericho. And as Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho with a large crowd, a blind man named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road begging.[h]
47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
48 Many people admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"
49 Jesus stopped and asked for him to be called over.[i]

So they called the blind man. "Take courage!" they said. "Get up! He is calling for you."
50 Throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus rose up[j] and came to Jesus.
51 "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "Rabboni," said the blind man, "let me see again."
52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

11

The Triumphal Entry

(Zechariah 9:9–13; Matthew 21:1–11; Luke 19:28–40; John 12:12–19)

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethsphage[k] and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent out two of His disciples
2 and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has sat.[l] Untie it and bring it here.
3 If anyone asks, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it,' and he will send it here immediately.[m] "
4 So they went and found a colt[n] outside in the street, tied at a doorway. They untied it,
5 and some who were standing there asked, "Why are you untying the colt?"
6 The disciples answered as Jesus had commanded them,[o] and the people gave them permission.
7 Then they led the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, and He sat on it.
8 Many in the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.[p]
9 The ones who went ahead and those who followed were shouting: "Hosanna!"[q] "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"[r]
10 "Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming in the name of the Lord!"[s] "Hosanna in the highest!"[t]
11 Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts.[u] He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

[a] **10:34** CT *and spit on Him and flog Him*
[b] **10:34** CT *after three days*
[c] **10:38** CT *or*
[d] **10:39** CT *You will drink*
[e] **10:40** CT *or*
[f] **10:40** Literally *Mine to grant, but for whom*
[g] **10:43** CT literal *it is not*
[h] **10:46** CT *a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road*
[i] **10:49** CT *Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."*
[j] **10:50** CT *jumped up*
[k] **11:1** ALT, CT, and TR *Bethphage*
[l] **11:2** CT *has ever sat*
[m] **11:3** GOC, NA, SBL, TH, and WH *'The Lord needs it and will return it shortly.'*
[n] **11:4** GOC, ALT, F35, and TR *the colt*
[o] **11:6** CT *had instructed*
[p] **11:8** CT *while others spread branches they had cut from the fields*
[q] **11:9** *Hosanna* is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hosia-na*, meaning *Save, we pray* or *Save now*, which became a shout of praise; also in verse 10; see Psalm 118:25.
[r] **11:9** Psalm 118:26
[s] **11:10** CT does not include *in the name of the Lord.*
[t] **11:10** Or *"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*See Psalm 118:25 and Psalm 148:1.
[u] **11:11** Literally *the temple*; also in verses 15, 16, and 27

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

(Matthew 21:18–22; Mark 11:20–25)

12 The next day, when they had left Bethany, Jesus was
hungry.
13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to
see if there was any fruit on it. But when He reached
it, He found nothing on it except leaves, since it was
not the season for figs.
14 Then Jesus[a] said to the tree, "May no one ever eat
of your fruit again." And His disciples heard this
statement.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Matthew 21:12–17; Luke 19:45–48; John 2:12–25)

15 When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the
temple courts and began to drive out those who
were buying and selling there. He overturned the
tables of the money changers and the seats of those
selling doves.
16 And He would not allow anyone to carry merchan-
dise through the temple courts.
17 Then Jesus began to teach them, and He declared,
"Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of
prayer for all the nations'[b] ? But you have made it
'a den of robbers.'[c] "
18 When the scribes and chief priests[d] heard this, they
looked for a way to kill Him. For they were afraid
of Him, because the whole crowd was astonished at
His teaching.
19 And when evening came, Jesus went[e] out of the city.

The Withered Fig Tree

(Matthew 21:18–22; Mark 11:12–14)

20 As they were walking back in the morning, they saw
the fig tree withered from its roots.
21 Peter remembered it and said, "Look, Rabbi! The fig
tree You cursed has withered."
22 "Have faith in God," Jesus said to them.
23 "For truly[f] I tell you that if anyone says to this
mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and
has no doubt in his heart but believes that it will
happen, whatever he says will be done for him.[g]
24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it,[h] and it will be
yours.
25 And when you stand to pray, if you hold anything
against another, forgive it, so that your Father in
heaven will forgive your trespasses as well.
26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in
heaven forgive your trespasses."[i]

Jesus' Authority Challenged

(Matthew 21:23–27; Luke 20:1–8)

27 After their return to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking in
the temple courts, and the chief priests, scribes, and
elders came up to Him.
28 "By what authority are You doing these things?"
they asked. "And[j] who gave You the authority to do
them?"
29 "I will also ask[k] you one question," Jesus replied,
"and if you answer Me, I will tell you by what
authority I am doing these things.
30 John's baptism — was it from heaven or from men?
Answer Me![l] "
31 They deliberated among themselves:[m] "If we say,
'From heaven,' He will ask, 'Why then did you not
believe him?'
32 But if we say, 'From men' ..." they were afraid of
the people, for they all held that John truly was a
prophet.
33 So they answered, "We do not know." And Jesus
replied, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I
am doing these things."

12

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

(Matthew 21:33–46; Luke 20:9–18)

1 Then Jesus began to speak to them in parables: "A
man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug
a wine vat, and built a watchtower. Then he rented
it out to some tenants and went away on a journey.
2 At harvest time, he sent a servant to the tenants to
collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard.
3 But they seized the servant, beat him, and sent him
away empty-handed.
4 Then he sent them another servant, and casting
stones[n] they struck him over the head and sent him
away,[o] treating him shamefully.
5 He sent still another, and this one they killed. He sent
many others; some they beat and others they killed.
6 Finally, having his[p] one beloved son, he sent him to
them last.[q] 'They will respect my son,' he said.
7 But the tenants said[r] to one another, 'This is the heir.
Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be
ours.'
8 So they seized the son, killed him, and threw him out
of the vineyard.
9 What then[s] will the owner of the vineyard do? He
will come and kill those tenants, and will give the
vineyard to others.

[a] **11:14** CT *He*
[b] **11:17** Isaiah 56:7
[c] **11:17** Jeremiah 7:11
[d] **11:18** CT *chief priests and scribes*; GOC *scribes, Pharisees, and chief priests*
[e] **11:19** Literally *He went*; CT *they went*
[f] **11:23** CT *Truly*
[g] **11:23** CT *it will be done for him*
[h] **11:24** Literally *you are receiving*; CT *you have received*
[i] **11:26** CT does not include verse 26; see Matthew 6:15.
[j] **11:28** GOC *Or*
[k] **11:29** CT *I will ask*
[l] **11:30** F35 does not include *Answer Me!*
[m] **11:31** CT *They deliberated among themselves what they should answer:*
[n] **12:4** CT does not include *casting stones* .
[o] **12:4** CT does not include *and sent him away*.
[p] **12:6** CT does not include *his* .
[q] **12:6** Or *finally*
[r] **12:7** GOC *But when the tenants saw him coming, they said*
[s] **12:9** SBL and WH do not include *then* .

10 Have you never read this Scripture: ‘The stone the
builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
11 This is from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our
eyes’[a] ?”
12 At this, the leaders sought[b] to arrest Jesus, for they
knew that He had spoken this parable against them.
But fearing the crowd, they left Him and went away.

Paying Taxes to Caesar

(Matthew 22:15–22; Luke 20:19–26)

13 Later, they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians
to catch Jesus in His words.
14 “Teacher,” they said, “we know that You are honest
and seek favor from no one. Indeed, You are impar-
tial and teach the way of God in accordance with
the truth. Is it lawful[c] to pay taxes to Caesar or not?
Should we pay them or not?”
15 But Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said,
“Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius[d] to
inspect.”
16 So they brought it, and He asked them, “Whose im-
age is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they
answered.
17 In response[e] Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar what
is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” And they
marveled at Him.

The Sadducees and the Resurrection

(Matthew 22:23–33; Luke 20:27–40)

18 Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrec-
tion, came to Jesus and questioned Him:
19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother
dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man is
to marry his brother’s widow and raise up offspring
for him.[f]
20 Now there were seven brothers. The first one mar-
ried and died, leaving no children.
21 Then the second one married the widow, but he also
died and left no children. And the third did likewise.
22 In this way, none of the seven who had her[g] left any
children. And last of all, the woman died.
23 In the resurrection, then,[h] whose wife will she be?
For all seven were married to her.”
24 Jesus answered them,[i] “Aren’t you mistaken, be-
cause you do not know the Scriptures or the power
of God?
25 When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor
be given in marriage. Instead, they will be like the
angels in heaven.
26 But concerning the dead rising, have you not read
about the burning bush in the Book of Moses, how
God told him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of
Isaac, and the God of Jacob’[j] ?
27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God[k] of the
living. Therefore[l] you are badly mistaken!”

The Greatest Commandment

(Deuteronomy 6:1–19; Matthew 22:34–40)

28 Now one of the scribes had come up and heard their
debate. Noticing how well Jesus had answered them,
he asked Him, “Which commandment is the most
important of all?”
29 Jesus replied, “This is the most important of all the
commandments:[m] ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God,
the Lord is One.
30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with
all your soul and with all your mind and with all
your strength.’[n] This is the first commandment.[o]
31 The second, like it,[p] is this: ‘Love your neighbor as
yourself.’[q] No other commandment is greater than
these.”
32 “Right, Teacher,” the scribe replied. “You have stated
correctly that God is One and there is no other but
Him,
33 and to love Him with all your heart and with all your
understanding and with all your soul[r] and with all
your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself.
This is more important than all burnt offerings and
sacrifices.”
34 When Jesus saw that the man had answered wisely,
He said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”
And no one dared to question Him any further.

Whose Son Is the Christ?

(Matthew 22:41–46; Luke 20:41–44)

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts,[s] He
asked, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the
Son of David?
36 Speaking by the Holy Spirit, David himself declared:
‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until
I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”’[t]
37 Therefore[u] David himself calls Him ‘Lord.’ So how
can He be David’s son?” And the large crowd listened
to Him with delight.

[a] **12:11** Psalm 118:22–23
[b] **12:12** Literally *they sought*
[c] **12:14** GOC *Tell us then, is it lawful*
[d] **12:15** A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.
[e] **12:17** ECM, NA, SBL, and TH do not include *In response* .
[f] **12:19** Deuteronomy 25:5
[g] **12:22** CT does not include *who had her*.
[h] **12:23** Literally *In the resurrection, when they rise,*
[i] **12:24** CT *Jesus said to them*
[j] **12:26** Exodus 3:6
[k] **12:27** CT and GOC do not include *the God*.
[l] **12:27** CT does not include *Therefore*.
[m] **12:29** CT does not include *of all the commandments*.
[n] **12:30** Deuteronomy 6:4–5
[o] **12:30** CT does not include *This is the first commandment*.
[p] **12:31** CT does not include *like it*.
[q] **12:31** Leviticus 19:18
[r] **12:33** CT does not include *and with all your soul*.
[s] **12:35** Literally *the temple*
[t] **12:36** Psalm 110:1 ; CT *until I put Your enemies under Your feet*
[u] **12:37** CT does not include *Therefore* .

Beware of the Scribes

(Luke 20:45–47)

38 In His teaching Jesus also said to them,[a] "Watch out
for the scribes. They like to walk around in long
robes, to receive greetings in the marketplaces,
39 and to have the chief seats in the synagogues and the
places of honor at banquets.
40 They defraud widows of their houses,[b] and for a
show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive
greater condemnation."

The Widow's Offering

(Luke 21:1–4)

41 As Jesus was sitting opposite the treasury, He
watched the crowd putting money into it. And many
rich people put in large amounts.
42 Then one poor widow came and put in two small
copper coins, which amounted to a small fraction of
a denarius.[c]
43 Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, "Truly I
tell you, this poor widow has put more than all the
others into the treasury.
44 For they all contributed out of their surplus, but she
out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

13

Temple Destruction and Other Signs

(Matthew 24:1–8; Luke 21:5–9)

1 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of His disciples
said to Him, "Teacher, look at the magnificent stones
and buildings!"
2 "Do you see all these great buildings?" Jesus replied.
"Not one stone[d] will be left on another; every one
will be thrown down."
3 While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives oppo-
site the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew
asked Him privately,
4 "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what
will be the sign that they are about to be fulfilled?"
5 In response,[e] Jesus began by telling them, "See to it
that no one deceives you.
6 For[f] many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am He,'
and will deceive many.
7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not
be alarmed. For these things must happen, but the
end is still to come.
8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against
kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various
places, as well as famines and riots.[g] These are the
beginning of birth pains.

Witnessing to All Nations

(Matthew 24:9–14; Luke 21:10–19)

9 So be on your guard. For you will be delivered over
to the councils and beaten in the synagogues. On My
account you will stand before governors and kings
as witnesses to them.
10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all the
nations.
11 But when they arrest you and hand you over, do
not worry beforehand or premeditate[h] what to say.
Instead, speak whatever you are given at that time,
for it will not be you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.
12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father
his child. Children will rise against their parents and
have them put to death.
13 You will be hated by everyone because of My name,
but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.

The Abomination of Desolation

(Matthew 24:15–25; Luke 21:20–24)

14 So when you see the abomination of desolation,
spoken of by Daniel the prophet,[i] standing where it
should not be[j] (let the reader understand), then let
those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
15 Let no one on the housetop go back inside the house
[k] to retrieve anything from his house.
16 And let no one in the field return for his cloak.
17 How miserable those days will be for pregnant and
nursing mothers!
18 Pray that your flight[l] will not occur in the winter.
19 For those will be days of tribulation unmatched
from the beginning of God's creation until now, and
never to be seen again.
20 If the Lord had not cut short those days, nobody
would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom
He has chosen, He has cut them short.
21 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the
Christ!' or 'There He is!' do not believe it.
22 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and
perform signs and wonders that would deceive even
[m] the elect, if that were possible.
23 So be on your guard; see,[n] I have told you every-
thing in advance.

The Return of the Son of Man

(Matthew 24:26–31; Luke 21:25–28)

24 But in those days, after that tribulation: 'The sun will
be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;
25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the
heavens will be shaken.'[o]

[a] **12:38** CT does not include *to them*.

[b] **12:40** Literally *They devour widows' houses*

[c] **12:42** Greek *put in two lepta, which is a kodrantēs*; a lepton was a Jewish coin of bronze or copper worth about 1/128 of a denarius.

[d] **13:2** CT *Not one stone here*

[e] **13:5** CT does not include *In response*.

[f] **13:6** CT does not include *For*; similarly in verses 7 and 9.

[g] **13:8** CT does not include *and riots*.

[h] **13:11** CT does not include *or premeditate*.

[i] **13:14** See Daniel 9:27 , Daniel 11:31, and Daniel 12:11; CT does not include *spoken of by Daniel the prophet*.

[j] **13:14** Or *where he should not be*

[k] **13:15** CT does not include *the house*.

[l] **13:18** CT *Pray that this*

[m] **13:22** CT literal does not include *even*.

[n] **13:23** CT does not include *see*.

[o] **13:25** Or *and the celestial bodies will be shaken* ; see Isaiah 13:10 , Isaiah 34:4, and Joel 2:10.

26 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in
the clouds with great power and glory.[a]
27 And He will send out His angels[b] to gather His elect
from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to
the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

(Matthew 24:32–35; Luke 21:29–33)

28 Now learn this lesson[c] from the fig tree: As soon as
its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you
know[d] that summer is near.
29 So also, when you see these things happening, know
that He is near,[e] right at the door.
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have happened.
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will
never pass away.

Readiness at Any Hour

(Matthew 24:36–51; Luke 12:35–48)

32 No one knows about that day or[f] hour, not even the
angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
33 Be on your guard, stay alert, and pray![g] For you do
not know when the appointed time will come.
34 It is like a man going on a journey who left his
house, put each servant in charge of his own task,
and instructed the doorkeeper to keep watch.
35 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know
when the master of the house will return — whether
in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows,
or in the morning.
36 Otherwise, he may arrive without notice and find
you sleeping.
37 And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep
watch!"

14

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1–5; Luke 22:1–2; John 11:45–57)

1 Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread
[h] were two days away, and the chief priests and
scribes were looking for a covert way to arrest Jesus
and kill Him.
2 "But not during the feast," they said, "or there may be
a riot among the people."

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

(Matthew 26:6–13; Luke 7:36–50; John 12:1–8)

3 While Jesus was in Bethany reclining at the table in
the home of Simon the Leper,[i] a woman came with
an alabaster jar of expensive perfume, made of pure
nard. She broke open the jar and poured it on Jesus'
head.
4 Some of those present, however, expressed their in-
dignation to one another and said,[j] "Why this waste
of perfume?
5 It could have been sold for over three hundred
denarii[k] and the money given to the poor." And they
scolded her.
6 But Jesus said, "Leave her alone; why are you both-
ering her? She has done a beautiful deed to Me.
7 The poor you will always have with you,[l] and you
can help them whenever you want. But you will not
always have Me.
8 She has done what she could to anoint My body in
advance of My burial.
9 And truly I tell you, wherever this gospel[m] is
preached in all the world, what she has done will
also be told in memory of her."

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:14–16; Luke 22:3–6)

10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the
chief priests to betray Jesus to them.
11 They were delighted to hear this, and they promised
to give him money. So Judas began to look for an
opportunity to betray Jesus.

Preparing the Passover

(Matthew 26:17–19; Luke 22:7–13)

12 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,[n]
when the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed, Jesus'
disciples asked Him, "Where do You want us to pre-
pare for You to eat the Passover?"
13 So He sent two of His disciples and told them, "Go
into the city, and a man carrying a jug of water will
meet you. Follow him,
14 and whichever house he enters, say to the owner,
'The Teacher asks: Where is the[o] guest room, where
I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'
15 And he will show you a large upper room, furnished
and ready. Make preparations for us there."
16 So His disciples[p] left and went into the city, where
they found everything as Jesus had described. And
they prepared the Passover.

The Last Supper

(Matthew 26:20–30; Luke 22:14–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)

17 When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.
18 And while they were reclining and eating, Jesus said,
"Truly I tell you, one of you who is eating with Me
will betray Me."
19 They began to be grieved and to ask Him one after
another, "Surely not I?" And another said, "Is it I?"[q]

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[a] **13:26** See Daniel 7:13–14 .
[b] **13:27** CT *the angels*
[c] **13:28** Or *this parable*
[d] **13:28** F35 *one knows*
[e] **13:29** Or *it is near*
[f] **13:32** TR *and*
[g] **13:33** CT *Be on your guard (and) stay alert!*
[h] **14:1** Literally *and the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20.
[i] **14:3** Aramaic *Simon the Potter* or *Simon the Jar Maker*
[j] **14:4** CT does not include *and said.*
[k] **14:5** A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.
[l] **14:7** See Deuteronomy 15:11.
[m] **14:9** CT *the gospel*
[n] **14:12** Literally *On the first day of the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20.
[o] **14:14** CT and GOC *My*
[p] **14:16** CT *the disciples*
[q] **14:19** CT does not include *And another said, "Is it I?"*

20 He answered, “It is one of the Twelve — the one who
is dipping his hand[a] into the bowl with Me.
21 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about
Him, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!
It would be better for him if he had not been born.”
22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, spoke a
blessing and broke it, and gave it to the disciples,
saying, “Take and eat;[b] this is My body.”
23 Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to
them, and they all drank from it.
24 He said to them, “This is My blood of the new[c]
covenant, which is poured out for many.
25 Truly I tell you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of
the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the
kingdom of God.”
26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to
the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

(Zechariah 13:7–9; Matthew 26:31–35; Luke 22:31–38; John 13:36–38)

27 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away on account of Me this night,[d] for it is written: ‘I will strike
the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’[e]
28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into
Galilee.”
29 Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I never will.”
30 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “this very night,
before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me
three times.”
31 But Peter kept insisting all the more,[f] “Even if I have
to die with You, I will never deny You.” And all the
others said the same thing.

Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:36–46; Luke 22:39–46)

32 Then they came to a place called Gethsemane, and
Jesus told His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”
33 He took with Him Peter, James, and John, and began
to be deeply troubled and distressed.
34 Then He said to them, “My soul is consumed with
sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep
watch.”
35 Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and
prayed that, if it were possible, the hour would pass
from Him.
36 “Abba, Father,” He said, “all things are possible for
You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but
what You will.”
37 Then Jesus returned and found them sleeping. “Simon, are you asleep?” He asked. “Were you not able
to keep watch for one hour?
38 Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”
39 Again He went away and prayed, saying the same
thing.
40 And again Jesus returned and found them sleeping
— for their eyes were heavy. And they did not know
what to answer Him.
41 When Jesus returned the third time, He said, “Are
you still sleeping and resting? That is enough! The
hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into
the hands of sinners.
42 Rise, let us go. See, My betrayer is approaching!”

The Betrayal of Jesus

(Matthew 26:47–56; Luke 22:47–53; John 18:1–14)

43 While Jesus was still speaking, Judas,[g] one of the
Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large[h] crowd
armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief
priests, scribes, and elders.
44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them:
“The One I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him
away securely.”
45 Going directly to Jesus, he said, “Rabbi, Rabbi!”[i] and
kissed Him.
46 Then the men seized Jesus and arrested Him.
47 And one of the bystanders drew his sword and
struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his
ear.
48 Jesus asked the crowd, “Have you come out with
swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would an
outlaw?
49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple
courts,[j] and you did not arrest Me. But this has
happened that the Scriptures would be fulfilled.”
50 Then everyone deserted Him and fled.
51 One young man who had been following Jesus was
wearing a linen cloth around his body. The young
men[k] caught hold of him,
52 but he pulled free of the linen cloth and ran away
from them[l] naked.

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

(Matthew 26:57–68; Luke 22:66–71; John 18:19–24)

53 They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the
chief priests, elders, and scribes assembled with
him.[m]
54 Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the
courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the
officers and warmed himself by the fire.
55 Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin[n]
were seeking testimony against Jesus to put Him to
death, but they did not find any.
56 For many bore false witness against Jesus, but their
testimony was inconsistent.
57 Then some men stood up and testified falsely against
Him:

[a] **14:20** Literally *the one who is dipping*
[b] **14:22** CT *Take it*
[c] **14:24** CT does not include *new*.
[d] **14:27** CT does not include *on account of Me this night*; see Matthew 26:31.
[e] **14:27** Zechariah 13:7
[f] **14:31** CT does not include *all the more*.
[g] **14:43** GOC *Judas Iscariot*
[h] **14:43** CT does not include *large*.
[i] **14:45** CT *“Rabbi!”*; GOC *“Greetings, Rabbi!”*
[j] **14:49** Literally *the temple*
[k] **14:51** CT *They*
[l] **14:52** CT does not include *from them*.
[m] **14:53** ECM, NA, SBL, and WH do not include *with him*.
[n] **14:55** Or *the whole Council*

58 “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this man-made
temple, and in three days I will build another that is
made without hands.’”
59 But even their testimony was inconsistent.
60 So the high priest stood up before them and ques-
tioned Jesus, “Have You no answer? What are these
men testifying against You?”
61 But Jesus remained silent and made no reply. Again
the high priest questioned Him, “Are You the Christ,
the Son of the Blessed One?”
62 “I am,” said Jesus, “and you will see the Son of Man
sitting at the right hand of Power[a] and coming with
the clouds of heaven.”[b]
63 At this, the high priest tore his clothes and declared,
“Why do we need any more witnesses?
64 You have heard the blasphemy. What is your ver-
dict?” And they all condemned Him as deserving of
death.
65 Then some of them began to spit on Him. They blind-
folded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said
to Him, “Prophesy!”[c] And the officers kept striking
Him with the palms of their hands.[d]

Peter Denies Jesus

(Matthew 26:69–75; Luke 22:54–62; John 18:15–18)

66 While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the
servant girls of the high priest came down
67 and saw him warming himself there. She looked
at Peter and said, “You also were with Jesus the
Nazarene.”
68 But he denied it. “I do not know or even understand
what you are talking about,” he said. Then he went
out to the gateway, and the rooster crowed.[e]
69 There the servant girl saw him again and[f] said to
those standing nearby, “This man is one of them.”
70 But he denied it again. After a little while, those
standing nearby said once more to Peter, “Surely you
are one of them, for you too are a Galilean and your
speech is similar.[g] ”
71 But he began to curse and swear, “I do not know this
man of whom you speak!”
72 And[h] the rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter
remembered the word that Jesus had spoken to him:
“Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me
three times.” And he broke down and wept.

15

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

(Matthew 27:1–2)

1 Early in the morning, the chief priests, elders, scribes,
and the whole Sanhedrin[i] devised a plan. They
bound Jesus, led Him away, and handed Him over to
Pilate.
2 So Pilate questioned Him, “Are You the King of the
Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied.
3 And the chief priests began to accuse Him of many
things.[j]
4 Then Pilate questioned Him again, “Have You no
answer? Look how many charges they are testifying
against You![k] ”
5 But to Pilate’s amazement, Jesus made no further
reply.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

(Matthew 27:15–23; Luke 23:13–25)

6 Now it was Pilate’s custom at the feast to release to
the people[l] a prisoner of their choosing.
7 And a man named Barabbas was imprisoned with his
fellow rebels[m] who had committed murder during
the insurrection.
8 So the crowd cried out[n] and began asking Pilate to
keep his custom.
9 “Do you want me to release to you the King of the
Jews?” Pilate asked.
10 For he knew it was out of envy that the chief priests
had handed Jesus over.
11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have
him release Barabbas to them instead.

Pilate Delivers Up Jesus

(Matthew 27:24–26)

12 So Pilate asked them again, “What then do you want
me to do[o] with the One you call the King of the
Jews?”
13 And they shouted back, “Crucify Him!”
14 “Why?” asked Pilate. “What evil has He done?” But
they shouted all the louder, “Crucify Him!”
15 And wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released
Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and
handed Him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

(Isaiah 50:4–11; Matthew 27:27–31; Luke 22:63–65; John 19:1–15)

16 Then the soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that
is, the Praetorium) and called the whole company
together.
17 They dressed Him in a purple robe, twisted together
a crown of thorns, and set it on His head.
18 And they began to salute Him:[p] “Hail, King of the
Jews!”
19 They kept striking His head with a staff and spitting
on Him. And they knelt down and bowed before
Him.

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[a] **14:62** Or *the right hand of the Mighty One*

[b] **14:62** See Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13.

[c] **14:65** GOC *“Prophesy to us! Who hit You?”*

[d] **14:65** CT *received Him with slaps in His face*

[e] **14:68** NE and WH do not include *and the rooster crowed.*

[f] **14:69** CT *and again*

[g] **14:70** CT does not include *and your speech is similar.*

[h] **14:72** CT *And immediately*

[i] **15:1** Or *the whole Council*

[j] **15:3** GOC and Scrivener TR include *but He gave no answer.*

[k] **15:4** CT *bringing against You*

[l] **15:6** Literally *Now at the feast he would release to them*

[m] **15:7** CT *the rebels*

[n] **15:8** CT *went up*

[o] **15:12** ECM, TH, and WH *What then should I do*

[p] **15:18** F35 includes *saying.*

20 After they had mocked Him, they removed the purple robe and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.

The Crucifixion

(Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:32–44; Luke 23:26–43; John 19:16–27)

21 Now Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry the cross of Jesus.
22 They brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means The Place of the Skull.
23 There they offered Him wine to drink[a] mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it.
24 And they crucified Him. They also divided His garments by casting lots to decide what each of them would take.[b]
25 It was the third hour[c] when they crucified Him.
26 And the charge inscribed against Him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.
27 Along with Jesus, they crucified two robbers,[d] one on His right and one on His left.
28 So the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."[e]
29 And those who passed by heaped abuse on Him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,
30 come down from the cross and save Yourself!"
31 In the same way, the chief priests and scribes mocked Him among themselves, saying, "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself!
32 Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe Him![f] " And even those who were crucified with Him berated Him.

The Death of Jesus

(Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:45–56; Luke 23:44–49; John 19:28–30)

33 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour[g] darkness came over all the land.
34 At the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lima[h] sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"[i]
35 When some of those standing nearby heard this, they said, "Behold, He is calling Elijah."
36 And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine.[j] He put it on a reed and held it up for Jesus to drink,[k] saying, "Leave Him alone. Let us see if Elijah comes to take Him down."
37 But Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed His last.
38 And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
39 When the centurion standing there in front of Jesus saw how He had cried out and[l] breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
40 And there were also women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses,[m] and Salome.
41 These women had followed Jesus and ministered to Him while He was in Galilee, and there were many other women who had come up to Jerusalem with Him.

The Burial of Jesus

(Isaiah 53:9–12; Matthew 27:57–61; Luke 23:50–56; John 19:38–42)

42 Now it was already evening. Since it was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath),
43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent Council member who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God, boldly went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus.
44 Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead,[n] so he summoned the centurion to ask if this was so.
45 When Pilate had confirmed it with the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.
46 So Joseph bought a linen cloth, took down the body of Jesus, wrapped it in the cloth, and placed it in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.
47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses[o] saw where His body was placed.

16

The Resurrection

(Matthew 28:1–10; Luke 24:1–12; John 20:1–9)

1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could go and anoint the body of Jesus.
2 Very early on the first day of the week,[p] just after sunrise, they went to the tomb.
3 They were asking one another, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?"
4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, even though it was extremely large.
5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.
6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified.

[a] **15:23** CT does not include *to drink*.
[b] **15:24** See Psalm 22:18.
[c] **15:25** That is, nine in the morning
[d] **15:27** Or *insurrectionists*
[e] **15:28** CT does not include verse 28; see Isaiah 53:12 and Luke 22:37.
[f] **15:32** ALT, CT, and TR do not include *Him*.
[g] **15:33** That is, from noon until three in the afternoon
[h] **15:34** ECM, NA, and SBL *lema*; TR, TH, and WH *lamma*
[i] **15:34** Psalm 22:1
[j] **15:36** Or *a sponge with wine vinegar*
[k] **15:36** See Psalm 69:21.
[l] **15:39** CT does not include *cried out and*.
[m] **15:40** *Joses* is a variant of *Joseph*; see Matthew 27:56.
[n] **15:44** Or *had been dead for some time*
[o] **15:47** Or *Joseph*
[p] **16:2** Literally *And very early on the first of the Sabbaths,*

He has risen! He is not here! See the place where
they put Him.
7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead
of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as
He told you.'"
8 So the women left the tomb and ran away,[a] trem-
bling and bewildered. And in their fear they did not
say a word to anyone.[b]

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

(John 20:10–18)

9 Early on the first day of the week, after Jesus had
risen,[c] He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from
whom He had driven out seven demons.
10 She went and told those who had been with Him,
who were mourning and weeping.
11 And when they heard that Jesus was alive and she
had seen Him, they did not believe it.

Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

(Luke 24:13–35)

12 After this, Jesus appeared in a different form to two
of them as they walked along in the country.
13 And they went back and reported it to the rest, but
they did not believe them either.

The Great Commission

(Matthew 28:16–20)

14 Later, as they were eating, Jesus appeared to the
Eleven and rebuked them for their unbelief and
hardness of heart, because they did not believe those
who had seen Him after He had risen.[d]
15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and
preach the gospel to every creature.
16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but
whoever does not believe will be condemned.
17 And these signs will accompany[e] those who believe:
In My name they will drive out demons; they will
speak in new tongues;[f]
18 they will pick up snakes,[g] and if they drink any
deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay
their hands on the sick, and they will be made well."

The Ascension

(Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:6–11)

19 After the Lord[h] had spoken to them, He was taken
up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of
God.
20 And they went out and preached everywhere, and
the Lord worked through them, confirming His
word by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.[i]

[a] **16:8** TR *ran away quickly*

[b] **16:8** Some manuscripts end the Gospel of Mark after verse 8. Other manuscripts contain only a short ending, a version of the following: **9**But they quickly reported all these instructions to Peter's companions. Afterward, Jesus Himself, through them, sent out from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.

[c] **16:9** Or *After Jesus had risen early on the first day of the week*

[d] **16:14** WH *risen from the dead*

[e] **16:17** TH and WH *will follow*

[f] **16:17** TH and WH *in tongues*

[g] **16:18** CT includes *with their hands.*

[h] **16:19** Most CT *After the Lord Jesus*

[i] **16:20** CT does not include *Amen.*

Luke

The Gospel According to Luke

1

Dedication to Theophilus

(Acts 1:1–3)

1 Many have undertaken to compose an account of the
things that have been fulfilled among us,
2 just as they were handed down to us by the initial
eyewitnesses and servants of the word.
3 Therefore, having carefully investigated everything
from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to
write an orderly account for you, most excellent
Theophilus,
4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you
have been taught.

Gabriel Foretells John's Birth

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest
named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly di-
vision of Abijah, and whose wife Elizabeth was a
descendant of Aaron.
6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God,
walking blamelessly in all the commandments and
decrees of the Lord.
7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was bar-
ren, and they were both well along in years.
8 One day while Zechariah's division was on duty and
he was serving as priest before God,
9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the
priesthood, to enter the temple of the Lord and burn
incense.
10 And at the hour of the incense offering, the whole
congregation was praying outside.
11 Just then an angel of the Lord appeared to
Zechariah, standing at the right side of the altar of
incense.
12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and
gripped with fear.
13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid,
Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are
to give him the name John.
14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will
rejoice at his birth,
15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He shall
never take wine or strong drink, and he will be filled
with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb.
16 Many of the sons of Israel he will turn back to the
Lord their God.
17 And he will go on before the Lord in the spirit and
power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to
their children[a] and the disobedient to the wisdom
of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared
for the Lord."
18 "How can I be sure of this?" Zechariah asked the
angel. "I am an old man, and my wife is well along
in years."
19 "I am Gabriel," replied the angel. "I stand in the
presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to
you and to bring you this good news.
20 And now you will be silent and unable to speak
until the day this comes to pass, because you did
not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their
proper time."
21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah
and wondering why he took so long in the temple.
22 When he came out and was unable to speak to them,
they realized he had seen a vision in the temple. He
kept making signs to them but remained unable to
speak.
23 And when the days of his service were complete, he
returned home.
24 After these days, his wife Elizabeth became preg-
nant and for five months remained in seclusion. She
declared,
25 "The Lord has done this for me. In these days He has
shown me favor and taken away my disgrace among
the people."

Gabriel Foretells Jesus' Birth

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to a
town in Galilee called Nazareth,
27 to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man named
Joseph, who was of the house of David. And the
virgin's name was Mary.
28 The angel appeared to her and said, "Greetings,[b]
you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women![c] "
29 When she saw this,[d] Mary was greatly troubled at
his words and wondered what kind of greeting this
might be.
30 So the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you
have found favor with God.
31 Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son,
and you are to give Him the name Jesus.
32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the
Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of
His father David,
33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.
His kingdom will never end!"
34 "How can this be,[e] " Mary asked the angel, "since I
am a virgin?"
35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon
you, and the power of the Most High will over-
shadow you. So the Holy One to be born[f] will be
called the Son of God.
36 Look, even Elizabeth your relative has conceived a
son in her old age, and she who was called barren is
in her sixth month.
37 For no word from God will ever fail.[g] "

[a] **1:17** Malachi 4:5–6

[b] **1:28** Or *Rejoice*

[c] **1:28** CT does not include *Blessed are you among women!*

[d] **1:29** CT does not include *When she saw this.*

[e] **1:34** Or *How can this happen to me*

[f] **1:35** Scrivener TR includes *of you.*

[g] **1:37** Or *For nothing will be impossible with God.*

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it
happen to me according to your word." Then the
angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 In those days Mary got ready and hurried to a town
in the hill country of Judah,
40 where she entered the home of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby
leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with
the Holy Spirit.
42 In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your
womb!
43 And why am I so honored, that the mother of my
Lord should come to me?
44 For as soon as the sound of your greeting reached
my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord's word
to her will be fulfilled."

Mary's Song

(1 Samuel 2:1–11)

46 Then Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!
48 For He has looked with favor on the humble state
of His servant. From now on all generations will call
me blessed.
49 For the Mighty One has done great things for me.
Holy is His name.
50 His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from gen-
eration to generation.
51 He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He
has scattered those who are proud in the thoughts of
their hearts.
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but
has exalted the humble.
53 He has filled the hungry with good things, but has
sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be
merciful,
55 as He promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his
descendants forever.[a] "
56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months
and then returned home.

The Birth of John the Baptist

57 When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child,
she gave birth to a son.
58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had
shown her great mercy, and they rejoiced with her.
59 On the eighth day, when they came to circumcise the
child, they were going to name him after his father
Zechariah.
60 But his mother replied, "No! He shall be called John."
61 They said to her, "There is no one among your rela-
tives who bears this name."
62 So they made signs to his father to find out what he
wanted to name the child.
63 Zechariah asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name
is[b] John." And they were all amazed.
64 Immediately Zechariah's mouth was opened and his
tongue was released, and he began to speak, praising
God.
65 All their neighbors were filled with awe, and people
throughout the hill country of Judea were talking
about these events.
66 And all who heard this wondered in their hearts and
asked, "What then will this child become?" And[c] the
Lord's hand was with him.

Zechariah's Song

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy
Spirit and prophesied:
68 "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, because He
has visited and redeemed His people.
69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the
house of His servant David,
70 as He spoke through His holy prophets, those of ages
past,
71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all
who hate us,
72 to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His
holy covenant,
73 the oath He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
74 deliverance from the hands of our[d] enemies, that
we may serve Him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness before Him all the
days of our lives.[e]
76 And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most
High; for you will go on before the presence of the
Lord[f] to prepare the way for Him,
77 to give to His people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which
the Dawn[g] has visited[h] us from on high,
79 to shine on those who live in darkness and in the
shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of
peace."
80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit;[i]
and he lived in the wilderness until the time of his
public appearance to Israel.

2

The Birth of Jesus

(Matthew 1:18–25)

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar
Augustus that a census should be taken of the whole
empire.[j]
2 This was the first census to take place while[k]
Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3 And everyone went to his own town to register.

[a] **1:55** F35 *until eternity*

[b] **1:63** F35 *shall be*

[c] **1:66** CT *For*

[d] **1:74** CT does not include *our*.

[e] **1:75** CT literal *all our days.*

[f] **1:76** CT *before the Lord*

[g] **1:78** Or *the Morning Light* or *the Sunrise*

[h] **1:78** CT *will visit*

[i] **1:80** Or *in the Spirit*

[j] **2:1** Or *of the whole land* or *of the whole world*

[k] **2:2** Or *This was the census before*

4 So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to
Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, since he
was from the house and line of David.
5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged
to him in marriage[a] and was expecting a child.
6 While they were there, the time came for her Child to
be born.
7 And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She
wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in
the manger,[b] because there was no room for them
in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 And there were shepherds residing in the fields
nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night.
9 And behold,[c] an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and
they were terrified.
10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For
behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will
be for all the people:
11 Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to
you. He is Christ the Lord!
12 And this will be the sign[d] to you: You will find a baby
wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.
[e] "
13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great
multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and
saying:
14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men![f] "
15 When the angels had left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go
to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has made known to us."
16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and
the Baby, who was lying in the manger.
17 After they had seen the Child, they spread widely[g]
the message they had received about Him.
18 And all who heard it were amazed at what the shep-
herds said to them.
19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pon-
dered them in her heart.
20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising
God for all they had heard and seen, which was just
as the angel had told them.

Jesus Presented at the Temple

21 When the eight days before His[h] circumcision had
passed, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had
given Him before He was conceived.
22 And when the time of their purification[i] according
to the Law of Moses was complete, His parents
brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord
23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord: "Every first-
born male shall be consecrated to the Lord"[j]),
24 and to offer the sacrifice specified in the Law of the
Lord: "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."[k]

The Prophecy of Simeon

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon,
who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for
the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was
upon him.
26 The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would
not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
27 Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.[l]
And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to
do for Him what was customary under the Law,
28 Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed God, say-
ing:
29 "Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now
dismiss Your servant in peace.
30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
31 which You have prepared in the sight of all people,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to
Your people Israel."
33 And Joseph[m] and the Child's mother were amazed
at what was spoken about Him.
34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother
Mary: "Behold, this Child is appointed to cause the
rise and fall of many in Israel, and to be a sign that
will be spoken against,
35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed
— and a sword will pierce your soul as well.[n] "

The Prophecy of Anna

36 There was also a prophetess named Anna, the
daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was
well along in years. She had been married for seven
years,
37 and then was a widow to the age of eighty-four.[o] She
never left the temple, but worshiped night and day,
fasting and praying.
38 Coming forward at that moment, she gave thanks to
the Lord[p] and spoke about the Child to all who were
waiting for redemption in Jerusalem.[q]

The Return to Nazareth

(Matthew 2:19–23)

39 When Jesus' parents had done everything required
by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to
their own town of Nazareth.

[a] **2:5** Literally *his betrothed wife*; CT literal *his betrothed*
[b] **2:7** CT *a manger*
[c] **2:9** CT does not include *behold.*
[d] **2:12** WH *a sign*
[e] **2:12** TR *the manger*
[f] **2:14** Or *peace, good will among men*; CT *peace to men on whom His favor rests* or *peace to men with whom He is pleased*
[g] **2:17** CT *they spread*
[h] **2:21** GOC and TR *the Child's*
[i] **2:22** Scrivener TR *her purification*
[j] **2:23** Exodus 13:2
[k] **2:24** Leviticus 12:8
[l] **2:27** Literally *the temple*; also in verse 46
[m] **2:33** CT *the father*
[n] **2:35** WH does not include *as well.*
[o] **2:37** Or *was a widow for eighty-four years*
[p] **2:38** CT *to God*
[q] **2:38** CT *for the redemption of Jerusalem*

40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit.[a]
He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.

The Boy Jesus at the Temple

41 Every year His parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.
42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem[b] according to the custom of the Feast.
43 When those days were over and they were returning home, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but Joseph and His mother[c] were unaware He had stayed.
44 Assuming He was in their company, they traveled on for a day before they began to look for Him among their relatives and friends.
45 When they could not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him.
46 Finally, after three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
47 And all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers.
48 When His parents saw Him, they were astonished. "Child, why have You done this to us?" His mother asked. "Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You."
49 "Why were you looking for Me?" He asked. "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house[d] ?"
50 But they did not understand the statement He was making to them.
51 Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.
52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

3

The Mission of John the Baptist

(Isaiah 40:1–5; Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; John 1:19–28)

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,
2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,[e]
the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.
3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.
5 Every valley shall be filled in, and every mountain and hill made low. The crooked ways shall be made straight, and the rough ways smooth.
6 And all humanity will see God's salvation.'"[f]
7 Then John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
8 Produce fruit, then, in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
9 The axe lies ready at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."
10 The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"
11 John replied, "Whoever has two tunics should share with him who has none, and whoever has food should do the same."
12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized.[g] "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"
13 "Collect no more than you are authorized," he answered.
14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" "Do not take money by force or false accusation,[h] " he said. "Be content with your wages."
15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ.
16 John answered all of them: "I baptize you with water,[i] but One more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.[j] He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.[k]
17 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear[l] His threshing floor and gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
18 With these and many other exhortations, John proclaimed the good news to the people.
19 But when he rebuked Herod the tetrarch regarding his brother's[m] wife Herodias and all the evils he had done,
20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

The Baptism of Jesus

(Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; John 1:29–34)

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened,
22 and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven,

[a] **2:40** Or *in the Spirit*; CT does not include *in spirit*.
[b] **2:42** CT does not include *to Jerusalem*.
[c] **2:43** CT *but His parents*
[d] **2:49** Or *I had to be about My Father's business*
[e] **3:2** TR *being the high priests Annas and Caiaphas*
[f] **3:6** Literally *And all flesh will see God's salvation*; Isaiah 40:3–5 (see also LXX)
[g] **3:12** F35 *baptized by him*
[h] **3:14** GOC *false accusation or force*
[i] **3:16** Or *in water*
[j] **3:16** Cited in Acts 13:25
[k] **3:16** Or *in the Holy Spirit and in fire*
[l] **3:17** CT *hand to clear*
[m] **3:19** TR *his brother Philip's*

saying,[a] "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

The Genealogy of Jesus

(Ruth 4:18–22; Matthew 1:1–17)

23 Jesus Himself was about thirty years old when He began His ministry. He was regarded as the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,[b]
24 the son of Matthat,[c] the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna,[d] the son of Joseph,
25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli,[e] the son of Naggai,
26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semei,[f] the son of Josech, the son of Judah,[g]
27 the son of Joanan,[h] the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,
28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam,[i] the son of Er,
29 the son of Jose,[j] the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,
30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan,[k] the son of Eliakim,
31 the son of Melea, the son of Mainan,[l] the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,
32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon,[m] the son of Nahshon,
33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Aram,[n] the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,
34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,
35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,
36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,
37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan,
38 the son of Enosh,[o] the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

4

The Temptation of Jesus

(Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13)

1 Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,[p]
2 where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and afterward,[q] when they had ended, He was hungry.
3 The devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."
4 But Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word of God.'[r] "
5 Then the devil led Him up to a high mountain[s] and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.
6 "I will give You authority over all these kingdoms and all their glory," he said. "For it has been relinquished to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish.
7 So if You worship me, it will all be Yours."
8 But Jesus answered, "Get behind Me, Satan![t] It is written:[u] 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'[v] "
9 Then the devil led Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple. "If You are the Son of God," he said, "throw Yourself down from here.
10 For it is written: 'He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully,
11 and they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'[w] "
12 But Jesus answered, "It also says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'[x] "
13 When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

(Isaiah 9:1–7; Matthew 4:12–17; Mark 1:14–15)

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and the news about Him spread throughout the surrounding region.
15 He taught in their synagogues and was glorified by everyone.

The Rejection at Nazareth

(Isaiah 61:1–11; Matthew 13:53–58; Mark 6:1–6)

16 Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath. And when He stood up to read,

[a] **3:22** CT *came from heaven:*
[b] **3:23** NA, F35, SBL, Stephanus TR, TH *Eli*
[c] **3:24** F35 and GOC *Matthan*; NA and SBL *Maththat*
[d] **3:24** CT *Jannai*; GOC *Joanna*
[e] **3:25** GOC *Eslim*
[f] **3:26** NA and SBL *Semein*; TH and WH *Semeein*; ALT and HF *Semeei*; GOC *Semeu*
[g] **3:26** CT *Joda*
[h] **3:27** ALT and TR *Joanna*; F35 and GOC *Joannan*
[i] **3:28** CT *Elmadam*
[j] **3:29** CT *Joshua*
[k] **3:30** CT and F35 *Jonam*; GOC *Jona*
[l] **3:31** CT *Menna*; Scrivener TR *Menam*
[m] **3:32** See Ruth 4:20–21 and Matthew 1:4–5; CT *Sala*
[n] **3:33** CT *Admin*; others *Ram*; see Ruth 4:19 and Matthew 1:3–4; most CT also include *the son of Arni*; GOC, ALT, HF, and F35 include *the son of Joram*.
[o] **3:38** Greek *Enōs*, a variant spelling of Enosh; see Genesis 5:6.
[p] **4:1** Or *in the wilderness*
[q] **4:2** CT does not include *afterward.*
[r] **4:4** Deuteronomy 8:3; CT does not include *but on every word of God*; GOC *but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*
[s] **4:5** CT *led Him up to a high place*
[t] **4:8** CT does not include *Get behind Me, Satan!*
[u] **4:8** TR and GOC *For it is written*
[v] **4:8** Deuteronomy 6:13
[w] **4:11** Psalm 91:11–12
[x] **4:12** Deuteronomy 6:16

17 the scroll of Isaiah the prophet[a] was handed to
Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it was
written:
18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has
anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He
has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,[b] to proclaim
liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the
blind, to release the oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."[c]
20 Then He rolled up the scroll, returned it to the
attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the
synagogue were fixed on Him,
21 and He began by saying, "Today this Scripture is
fulfilled in your hearing."
22 All spoke well of Him and marveled at the gracious
words that came from His lips. "Isn't this the son of
Joseph?" they asked.
23 Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this
proverb to Me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in
Your hometown what we have heard that You did in
Capernaum.'"
24 Then He added, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is
accepted in his hometown.
25 But I tell you truthfully that there were many wid-
ows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the sky was
shut for three and a half years and great famine
swept over all the land.
26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to the
widow of Zarephath in Sidon.
27 And there were many lepers[d] in Israel in the time of
Elisha the prophet. Yet not one of them was cleansed
— only Naaman the Syrian."
28 On hearing this, all the people in the synagogue
were enraged.
29 They got up, drove Him out of the town, and led Him
to the brow of the hill on which the town was built,
in order to throw Him over the cliff.
30 But Jesus passed through the crowd and went on His
way.

Jesus Expels an Unclean Spirit

(Mark 1:21–28)

31 Then He went down to Capernaum, a town in
Galilee, and on the Sabbath He began to teach the
people.
32 They were astonished at His teaching, because His
message had authority.
33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the
spirit of an unclean demon. He cried out in a loud
voice,
34 "Ha! What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are
— the Holy One of God!"
35 But Jesus rebuked the demon. "Be silent!" He said.
"Come out of him!" At this, the demon threw the
man down before them all[e] and came out without
harming him.
36 All the people were overcome with amazement and
asked one another, "What is this message? With au-
thority and power He commands the unclean spirits,
and they come out!"
37 And the news about Jesus spread throughout the
surrounding region.

Jesus Heals at Peter's House

(Matthew 8:14–17; Mark 1:29–34)

38 After Jesus had left the synagogue, He went to the
home of Simon, whose mother-in-law was suffering
from a high fever. So they appealed to Jesus on her
behalf,
39 and He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it
left her. And she got up at once and began to serve
them.
40 At sunset, all who were ill with various diseases
were brought to Jesus, and laying His hands on each
one, He healed them.
41 Demons also came out of many people, crying out,
[f] "You are the Christ,[g] the Son of God!" But He
rebuked the demons and would not allow them to
speak, because they knew He was the Christ.

Jesus Preaches in Judea

(Mark 1:35–39)

42 At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place, and
the crowds were looking for Him. They came to Him
and tried to keep Him from leaving.
43 But Jesus told them, "I must preach the good news
of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well,
because that is why I was sent."
44 And He continued to preach in the synagogues of
Galilee.[h]

5

The First Disciples

(Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; John 1:35–42)

1 On one occasion, while Jesus was standing by the
Lake of Gennesaret[i] with the crowd pressing in on
Him to hear the word of God,
2 He saw two boats at the edge of the lake. The fisher-
men had left them and were washing their nets.
3 Jesus got into the boat belonging to Simon and asked
him to put out a little from shore. And sitting down,
He taught the people from the boat.
4 When Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon,
"Put out into deep water and let down your nets for
a catch."
5 "Master," Simon replied, "we have worked hard all
night without catching anything. But because You
say so, I will let down the net.[j] "
6 When they had done so, they caught such a large

[a] **4:17** CT *the prophet Isaiah*

[b] **4:18** CT does not include *to heal the brokenhearted* .

[c] **4:19** Or *to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord* ; Isaiah 61:1–2 (see also LXX)

[d] **4:27** A *leper* was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13.

[e] **4:35** Or *in their midst*

[f] **4:41** CT *shouting*

[g] **4:41** CT does not include *the Christ*.

[h] **4:44** See Mark 1:39; CT *of Judea*

[i] **5:1** That is, the Sea of Galilee

[j] **5:5** CT *the nets*

number of fish that their net[a] began to tear.
7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to
come and help them, and they came and filled both
boats so full that they began to sink.
8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees.
"Go away from me, Lord," he said, "for I am a sinful
man."
9 For he and his companions were astonished at the
catch of fish they had taken,
10 and so were his partners James and John, the sons
of Zebedee. "Do not be afraid," Jesus said to Simon.
"From now on you will catch men."
11 And when they had brought their boats ashore, they
left everything and followed Him.

The Leper's Prayer

(Leviticus 14:1–32; Matthew 8:1–4; Mark 1:40–45)

12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came
along who was covered with leprosy.[b] When he saw
Jesus, he fell facedown and begged Him, "Lord, if You
are willing, You can make me clean."
13 Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I
am willing," He said. "Be clean!" And immediately
the leprosy left him.
14 "Do not tell anyone," Jesus instructed him. "But go,
show yourself to the priest and present the offering
Moses prescribed for your cleansing, as a testimony
to them."[c]
15 But the news about Jesus spread all the more, and
great crowds came to hear Him and to be healed by
Him[d] of their sicknesses.
16 Yet He frequently withdrew to the wilderness to
pray.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

(Matthew 9:1–8; Mark 2:1–12)

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and the Pharisees and
teachers of the law were sitting there. People had
come from Jerusalem and from every village of
Galilee and Judea, and the power of the Lord was
present for Him to heal the sick.
18 Just then some men came carrying a paralyzed man
on a mat. They tried to bring him inside to set him
before Jesus,
19 but they could not find a way through the crowd. So
they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat
through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right
in front of Jesus.
20 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the man,
[e] "Friend, your sins are forgiven."
21 But the scribes and Pharisees began thinking to
themselves, "Who is this man who speaks blas-
phemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
22 Knowing what they were thinking, Jesus replied,
"Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?
23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to
say, 'Get up and walk'?
24 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has
authority on the earth to forgive sins..." He said to
the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat,
and go home."
25 And immediately the man stood up before them,
took what he had been lying on, and went home
glorifying God.
26 Everyone was taken with amazement and glorified
God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have
seen remarkable things today."

Jesus Calls Levi

(Matthew 9:9–13; Mark 2:13–17)

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector
named Levi sitting at the tax booth. "Follow Me," He
told him,
28 and Levi got up, left everything, and followed Him.
29 Then Levi hosted a great banquet for Jesus at his
house. A large crowd of tax collectors was there,
along with others who were eating with them.
30 But their scribes and the Pharisees[f] complained to
Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax
collectors and sinners?"
31 Jesus answered, "It is not the healthy who need a
doctor, but the sick.
32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to
repentance."

Questions about Fasting

(Matthew 9:14–15; Mark 2:18–20)

33 Then they said to Him, "Why do[g] John's disciples
and those of the Pharisees frequently fast and pray,
but Yours keep on eating and drinking?"
34 Jesus replied, "Can you make the guests of the bride-
groom fast while He is with them?
35 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be
taken from them; then they will fast."

The Patches and the Wineskins

(Matthew 9:16–17; Mark 2:21–22)

36 He also told them a parable: "No one sews a piece
of cloth from a new garment[h] onto an old one. If he
does, he will tear the new garment as well, and the
patch from the new will not match the old.
37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If
he does, the new wine will burst the wineskins,[i] the
wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined.
38 Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins,
and both are preserved.[j]
39 And no one after drinking old wine immediately[k]
wants new, for he says, 'The old is better.'"

[a] **5:6** CT *their nets*
[b] **5:12** Leprosy was a term used for various skin diseases. See Leviticus 13.
[c] **5:14** See Leviticus 14:1–32.
[d] **5:15** CT does not include *by Him*.
[e] **5:20** Literally *He said to him*; CT *He said*
[f] **5:30** CT *the Pharisees and their scribes*
[g] **5:33** CT does not include *Why do*.
[h] **5:36** CT *No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and sews it*
[i] **5:37** CT *the skins*
[j] **5:38** See Matthew 9:17; CT does not include *and both are preserved.*
[k] **5:39** CT does not include *immediately*.

6

The Lord of the Sabbath

(1 Samuel 21:1–7; Matthew 12:1–8; Mark 2:23–28)

1 On the second chief Sabbath,[a] Jesus was passing
through the grainfields, and His disciples began to
pick the heads of grain, rub them in their hands, and
eat them.
2 But some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing
what is unlawful to do[b] on the Sabbath?"
3 Jesus replied, "Have you not read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry?
4 He entered the house of God, took the consecrated
bread[c] and also[d] gave it to his companions, and ate
what is lawful only for the priests to eat."
5 Then Jesus declared, "The Son of Man is Lord even[e]
of the Sabbath."

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

(Matthew 12:9–14; Mark 3:1–6)

6 On another Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and
was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand
was withered.
7 Looking for an accusation against[f] Jesus, the scribes
and Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if
He would heal on the Sabbath.
8 But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man
with the withered hand, "Get up and stand among
us." So he got up and stood there.
9 Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you one thing: Is it
lawful[g] on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to
save life or to destroy it?"
10 And after looking around at all of them, He said to
the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and it
was restored as sound as the other.[h]
11 But the scribes and Pharisees were filled with rage
and began to discuss with one another what they
might do to Jesus.

The Twelve Apostles

(Matthew 10:1–4; Mark 3:13–19)

12 In those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray,
and He spent the night in prayer to God.
13 When daylight came, He called His disciples to Him
and chose twelve of them, whom He also designated
as apostles:
14 Simon, whom He named Peter, and his brother An-
drew; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew;
15 Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alphaeus and
Simon called the Zealot;
16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became
a traitor.

Jesus Heals the Multitudes

(Matthew 4:23–25; Mark 3:7–12)

17 Then Jesus came down with them and stood on a
level place. A crowd[i] of His disciples was there,
along with a great number of people from all over
Judea, Jerusalem, and the seacoast of Tyre and
Sidon.
18 They had come to hear Him and to be healed of
their diseases, along with those troubled by unclean
spirits. And they were healed.[j]
19 The entire crowd was trying to touch Him, because
power was coming from Him and healing them all.

The Beatitudes

(Psalm 1:1–6; Matthew 5:3–12)

20 Looking up at His disciples, Jesus said: "Blessed are
you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be
filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will
laugh.
22 Blessed are you when people hate you, and when
they exclude you and insult you and reject your
name as evil because of the Son of Man.
23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is
your reward in heaven. For their fathers treated the
prophets in the same way.

Woes to the Satisfied

(Amos 6:1–7)

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have already
received your comfort.
25 Woe to you who are well fed,[k] for you will hunger.
Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and
weep.
26 Woe to you when men[l] speak well of you, for their
fathers treated the false prophets in the same way.

Love Your Enemies

(Matthew 5:38–48)

27 But to those of you who will listen, I say: Love your
enemies, do good to those who hate you,
28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mis-
treat you.
29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the
other also. And if someone takes your cloak, do not
withhold your tunic as well.
30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes
what is yours, do not demand it back.
31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.
32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to
you? Even sinners love those who love them.
33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what
credit is that to you? For[m] even sinners do the same.
34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect
repayment, what credit is that to you? For[n] even
sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

[a] **6:1** CT *On a Sabbath* or *One Sabbath*
[b] **6:2** CT does not include *to do*.
[c] **6:4** Or *the Bread of the Presence*
[d] **6:4** CT does not include *also*.
[e] **6:5** CT does not include *even*.
[f] **6:7** CT *for a reason to accuse*
[g] **6:9** CT *I ask you, which is lawful*
[h] **6:10** CT does not include *as sound as the other*.
[i] **6:17** CT *A large crowd*
[j] **6:18** CT *of their diseases, and those troubled by unclean spirits were healed*
[k] **6:25** CT includes *now* .
[l] **6:26** CT, TR, ALT, F35, and GOC *all men*
[m] **6:33** CT does not include *For*.
[n] **6:34** CT does not include *For*.

35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend
to them, expecting nothing in return. Then your
reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most
High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.
36 Therefore[a] be merciful, just as your Father is mer-
ciful.

Judging Others

(Matthew 7:1–6; Romans 14:1–12)

37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not
condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive,
and you will be forgiven.
38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure,
pressed down, shaken together, and running over
will be poured into your lap. For with the same[b]
measure you use, it will be measured back to you."
39 Jesus also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead
a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?
40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who
is fully trained will be like his teacher.
41 Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye
but fail to notice the beam in your own eye?
42 Or[c] how can you say, 'Brother,[d] let me take the
speck out of your eye,' while you yourself fail to see
the beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take
the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see
clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

A Tree and Its Fruit

(Matthew 7:15–23; Matthew 12:33–37)

43 No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree
bear good fruit.
44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. Indeed, figs
are not gathered from thornbushes, nor grapes from
brambles.
45 The good man brings good things out of the good
treasure of his heart, and the evil man brings evil
things out of the evil treasure of his heart. For out of
the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.

The House on the Rock

(Matthew 7:24–27)

46 Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' but do not do what
I say?
47 I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and
hears My words and acts on them:
48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down
deep and laid his foundation on the rock. When the
flood came, the torrent crashed against that house
but could not shake it, because its foundation was on
the rock.[e]
49 But the one who hears My words and does not act on
them is like a man who built his house[f] on ground
without a foundation. The torrent crashed against
that house, and immediately it fell — and great was
its destruction!"

[a] **6:36** CT does not include *Therefore.*

[b] **6:38** CT does not include *same.*

[c] **6:42** CT does not include *Or.*

[d] **6:42** Literally *How can you say to your brother, 'Brother*

[e] **6:48** CT *because it was well built*; see Matthew 7:25.

[f] **6:49** Literally *a house* ; F35 *his house*

7

The Faith of the Centurion

(Matthew 8:5–13; John 4:43–54)

1 When Jesus had concluded His discourse in the hear-
ing of the people, He went to Capernaum.
2 There a highly valued servant of a centurion was sick
and about to die.
3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some
Jewish elders to ask Him to come and heal his ser-
vant.
4 They came to Jesus and pleaded with Him earnestly,
"This man is worthy to have You grant this,
5 for he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."
6 So Jesus went with them. But when He was not far
from the house, the centurion sent friends with the
message: "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not
worthy to have You come under my roof.
7 That is why I did not consider myself worthy to come
to You. But just say the word, and my servant will
be healed.
8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers
under me. I tell one to go, and he goes, and another
to come, and he comes. I tell my servant to do some-
thing, and he does it."
9 When Jesus heard this, He marveled at the centurion.
Turning to the crowd following Him, He said, "I tell
you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith."
10 And when the messengers returned to the house,
they found the ailing[g] servant in good health.

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain.
Many of[h] His disciples went with Him, accompanied
by a large crowd.
12 As He approached the town gate, He saw a dead man
being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she
was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was
with her.
13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her
and said, "Do not weep."
14 Then He went up and touched the coffin,[i] and those
carrying it stood still. "Young man," He said, "I tell
you, get up!"
15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak! Then
Jesus gave him back to his mother.
16 A sense of awe swept over all of them, and they
glorified God. "A great prophet has appeared among
us!" they said. "God has visited His people!"
17 And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea
and all the surrounding region.

John's Inquiry

(Matthew 11:1–6)

18 Then John's disciples informed him about all these
things.
19 So John called two of his disciples and sent them to
ask Jesus,[j] "Are You the One who was to come, or
should we look for someone else?"

[g] **7:10** CT does not include *ailing.*

[h] **7:11** CT does not include *Many of.*

[i] **7:14** Literally *bier*, probably a wooden plank or open coffin

[j] **7:19** CT *the Lord*

20 When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the
Baptist sent us to ask, ‘Are You the One who was to
come, or should we look for someone else?’”
21 Now[a] at that very hour Jesus healed many people
of their diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and He
gave sight to many who were blind.
22 So Jesus replied,[b] “Go back and report to John what
you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight,
the lame walk, the lepers[c] are cleansed, the deaf
hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is
preached to the poor.
23 Blessed is the one who does not fall away on account
of Me.[d] ”

Jesus Testifies about John

(Malachi 3:1–5; Matthew 11:7–19)

24 After John’s messengers[e] had left, Jesus began to
speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go
out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the
wind?
25 Otherwise, what did you go out to see? A man
dressed in fine clothes? Look, those who wear ele-
gant clothing and live in luxury are found in palaces.
26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I
tell you, and more than a prophet.
27 This is the one about whom it is written: ‘Behold,
I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will
prepare Your way before You.’[f]
28 For I tell you, among those born of women there is
no one greater prophet than John the Baptist,[g] yet
even the least in the kingdom of God is greater than
he.”
29 All the people who heard this, even the tax col-
lectors, acknowledged God’s justice. For they had
received the baptism of John.
30 But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected
God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not
been baptized by John.
31 “To what,[h] then, can I compare the men of this gen-
eration? What are they like?
32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and
calling out to one another: ‘We played the flute for
you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge for you,
[i] and you did not weep.’
33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor
drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’
34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you
say, ‘Look at this glutton and drunkard, a friend of
tax collectors and sinners!’
35 But wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

A Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus

(Matthew 26:6–13; Mark 14:3–9; John 12:1–8)

36 Then one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with
him, and He entered the Pharisee’s house and re-
clined at the table.
37 When a sinful woman from that town learned that
Jesus was dining there, she brought an alabaster jar
of perfume.
38 As she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she
began to wet His feet with her tears and wipe them
with her hair. Then she kissed His feet and anointed
them with the perfume.
39 When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this,
he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet,[j] He
would know who this is and what kind of woman is
touching Him — for she is a sinner!”
40 But Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something
to tell you.” “Tell me, Teacher,” he said.
41 “Two men were debtors to a certain moneylender.
One owed him five hundred denarii,[k] and the other
fifty.
42 When they were unable to repay him, he forgave
both of them. Tell Me,[l] which one, then, will love
him more?”
43 “I suppose the one who was forgiven more,” Simon
replied. “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.
44 And turning toward the woman, He said to Simon,
“Do you see this woman? When I entered your
house, you did not give Me water for My feet, but she
wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with the
hair of her head.[m]
45 You did not greet Me with a kiss, but she has not
stopped kissing My feet since I arrived.[n]
46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but she has
anointed My feet with perfume.
47 Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been for-
given, for she has loved much. But he who has been
forgiven little loves little.”
48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”
49 But those at the table began to say to themselves,
“Who is this who even forgives sins?”
50 And Jesus told the woman, “Your faith has saved
you; go in peace.”

8

Women Minister to Jesus

1 Soon afterward, Jesus traveled from one town and
village to another, preaching and proclaiming the
good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were
with Him,
2 as well as some women who had been healed of
evil spirits[o] and infirmities: Mary called Magdalene,
from whom seven demons had gone out,

[a] **7:21** CT does not include *Now* .
[b] **7:22** CT *So He replied*
[c] **7:22** A *leper* was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13.
[d] **7:23** Or *who is not offended by Me*
[e] **7:24** GOC *disciples*
[f] **7:27** Malachi 3:1
[g] **7:28** CT *I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John*
[h] **7:31** TR *And the Lord said, “To what*
[i] **7:32** CT does not include *for you* .
[j] **7:39** WH *the prophet*
[k] **7:41** A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2 .
[l] **7:42** CT does not include *Tell Me.*
[m] **7:44** CT *with her hair*
[n] **7:45** GOC *she arrived*
[o] **8:2** GOC *healed of diseases, afflictions, evil spirits,*

3 Joanna the wife of Herod's household manager
Chuza, Susanna, and many others. These women
were ministering to them[a] out of their own means.

The Parable of the Sower

(Matthew 13:1–23; Mark 4:1–20)

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were
coming to Jesus from town after town, He told them
this parable:
5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. And as he was
sowing, some seed fell along the path, where it was
trampled, and the birds of the air devoured it.
6 Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the
seedlings withered because they had no moisture.
7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it
and choked the seedlings.
8 Still other seed fell on[b] good soil, where it sprang up
and produced a crop — a hundredfold." As Jesus said
this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him
hear."
9 Then His disciples asked Him what this parable
meant.
10 He replied, "The knowledge of the mysteries of the
kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others
I speak in parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may
not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'[c]
11 Now this is the meaning of the parable: The seed is
the word of God.
12 The seeds[d] along the path are those who hear, but
the devil comes and takes away the word from their
hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
13 The seeds on rocky ground are those who hear the
word and receive it with joy, but they have no root.
They believe for a season, but in the time of testing,
they fall away.
14 The seeds that fell among the thorns are those who
hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked
by the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life, and
their fruit does not mature.
15 But the seeds on good soil are those with a noble and
good heart, who hear the word, cling to it, and by
persevering produce a crop.

The Lesson of the Lamp

(Mark 4:21–25)

16 No one[e] lights a lamp and covers it with a jar or puts
it under a bed. Instead, he sets it on a stand, so those
who enter can see the light.
17 For there is nothing hidden that will not be dis-
closed, and nothing concealed that will not be made
known and brought to light.
18 Pay attention, therefore, to how you listen. Whoever
has will be given more, but whoever does not have,
even what he thinks he has will be taken away from
him."

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

(Matthew 12:46–50; Mark 3:31–35)

19 Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him,
but they were unable to reach Him because of the
crowd.
20 He was told, "Your mother and brothers are stand-
ing outside, wanting to see You."
21 But He replied, "My mother and brothers are those
who hear the word of God and carry it out."

Jesus Calms the Storm

(Psalm 107:1–43; Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41)

22 One day Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us cross to
the other side of the lake." So He got into a boat with
them and set out.
23 As they sailed, He fell asleep, and a windstorm
came down on the lake, so that the boat was being
swamped, and they were in great danger.
24 The disciples went and woke Him, saying, "Master,
Master, we are perishing!" Then Jesus arose[f] and
rebuked the wind and the raging waters, and they
subsided, and all was calm.
25 "Where is your faith?" He asked. Frightened and
amazed, they asked one another, "Who is this? He
commands even the winds and the water, and they
obey Him!"

The Demons and the Pigs

(Matthew 8:28–34; Mark 5:1–20)

26 Then they sailed[g] to the region of the Gadarenes,[h]
across the lake from Galilee.
27 When Jesus stepped ashore, He was met by a man
from the town who had been demon-possessed for a
long time. This man had not worn[i] clothing or lived
in a house, but he stayed in the tombs.
28 When the man saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down
before Him, shouting in a loud voice, "What do You
want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg
You not to torture me!"
29 For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to
come out of the man. Many times it had seized him,
and though he was bound with chains and shackles,
he had broken the chains and been driven by the
demon into solitary places.
30 "What is your name?" Jesus asked. "Legion," he
replied, because many demons had gone into him.
31 And he kept begging[j] Jesus not to order them to go
into the Abyss.
32 There on the hillside a large herd of pigs was feed-
ing. So the demons begged Jesus to let them enter the
pigs, and He gave them permission.
33 Then the demons came out of the man and went into
the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank
into the lake and was drowned.

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[a] **8:3** F35, TR, and GOC *to Him*

[b] **8:8** Literally *into* ; TR literal *on*

[c] **8:10** Isaiah 6:9 (see also LXX)

[d] **8:12** Literally *The ones*; similarly in verses 13, 14, and 15

[e] **8:16** F35 *As He said this He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear. No one*

[f] **8:24** CT *got up*

[g] **8:26** GOC *He sailed*

[h] **8:26** CT *Gerasenes*; Tischendorf *Gergesenes*; also in verse 37

[i] **8:27** CT *met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn*

[j] **8:31** CT and Scrivener TR *they kept begging*

34 When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off[a] and reported this in the town and countryside.
35 So the people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man whom the demons had left, sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.
36 Meanwhile, those who had seen it reported how the demon-possessed man had been healed.
37 Then all the people of the region of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them, because great fear had taken hold of them. So He got into the boat and started back.
38 The man whom the demons had left begged to go with Jesus. But Jesus[b] sent him away, saying,
39 "Return home and describe how much God has done for you." So the man went away and proclaimed all over the town how much Jesus had done for him.

The Healing Touch of Jesus

(Matthew 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43)

40 When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him.
41 Just then a synagogue leader named Jairus came and fell at Jesus' feet. He begged Him to come to his house,
42 because his only daughter, who was about twelve, was dying. As Jesus went with him, the crowds pressed around Him,
43 including a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years. She had spent all her money on physicians,[c] but no one was able to heal her.
44 She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.
45 "Who touched Me?" Jesus asked. But they all denied it. "Master," said Peter and those with him,[d] "the people are crowding and pressing against You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'[e] "
46 But Jesus declared, "Someone touched Me, for I know that power has gone out from Me."
47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not escape notice, came trembling and fell down before Him. In the presence of all the people, she explained why she had touched Him and how she had immediately been healed.
48 "Take courage,[f] daughter," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace."
49 While He was still speaking, someone arrived from the house of the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he told Jairus. "Do not bother the Teacher.[g] "
50 But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."
51 When He entered the house, He did not allow anyone to go in[h] except Peter, John, James,[i] and the child's father and mother.
52 Meanwhile, everyone was weeping and mourning for her. But Jesus said, "Stop weeping; she is not dead but asleep."
53 And they laughed at Him, knowing that she was dead.
54 But Jesus sent them all outside,[j] took her by the hand, and called out, "Child, get up!"
55 Her spirit returned, and at once she got up. And He directed that she be given something to eat.
56 Her parents were astounded, but Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

9

The Ministry of the Twelve

(Matthew 10:5–15; Mark 6:7–13)

1 Then Jesus called the Twelve[k] together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and power to cure diseases.
2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.
3 "Take nothing for the journey," He told them, "no staffs,[l] no bag, no bread, no money,[m] no second[n] tunic.
4 Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that area.
5 If anyone does not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that town, as a testimony against them."
6 So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

Herod Tries to See Jesus

(Matthew 14:1–12; Mark 6:14–29)

7 When Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was being done by Him,[o] he was perplexed. For some were saying that John had risen from the dead,
8 others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that a prophet of old had arisen.
9 "I beheaded John," Herod said, "but who is this man I hear such things about?" And he kept trying to see Jesus.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

(Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; John 6:1–15)

10 Then the apostles returned and reported to Jesus all that they had done. Taking them away privately, He withdrew to a deserted place of the city[p] called Bethsaida.

[a] **8:34** TR *they ran off, went away,*
[b] **8:38** CT *But He*
[c] **8:43** NE and WH do not include *She had spent all her money on physicians.*
[d] **8:45** CT does not include *and those with him.*
[e] **8:45** CT does not include *and You say, 'Who touched Me?'*
[f] **8:48** CT does not include *Take courage .*
[g] **8:49** CT includes *anymore.*
[h] **8:51** CT includes *with Him.*
[i] **8:51** TR *Peter, James, John*
[j] **8:54** CT does not include *sent them all outside.*
[k] **9:1** TR *His twelve disciples*
[l] **9:3** CT *staff*
[m] **9:3** Or *silver coins*
[n] **9:3** TH and WH *extra*
[o] **9:7** CT does not include *by Him.*
[p] **9:10** CT *to a town*

11 But the crowds found out and followed Him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and He healed those who needed healing.
12 As the day neared its end, the Twelve came to Jesus and said, “Dismiss the crowd so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside for lodging and provisions. For we are in a desolate place here.”
13 But Jesus told them, “You give them something to eat.” “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered, “unless we go and buy food for all these people.”
14 (There were about five thousand men.) He told His disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of[a] fifty each.”
15 They did so, and everyone was seated.
16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus spoke a blessing and broke them. Then He gave them to the disciples to set before the people.
17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Peter’s Confession of Christ

(Matthew 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30; John 6:67–71)

18 One day as Jesus was praying in private and the disciples were with Him, He questioned them: “Who do the crowds say I am?”
19 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that a prophet of old has arisen.”
20 “But what about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

Christ’s Passion Foretold

(Matthew 16:21–23; Mark 8:31–33)

21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.
22 “The Son of Man must suffer many things,” He said. “He must be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and He must be killed and on the third day rise again.[b] ”

Take Up Your Cross

(Matthew 16:24–28; Mark 8:34–38)

23 Then Jesus said to all of them, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross[c] and follow Me.
24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.
25 What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose or forfeit his very self?
26 If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.
27 But I tell you truly, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

The Transfiguration

(Matthew 17:1–13; Mark 9:1–13; 2 Peter 1:16–21)

28 About eight days after Jesus had said these things, He took with Him Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray.
29 And as He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became radiantly white.
30 Suddenly two men, Moses and Elijah, began talking with Jesus.
31 They appeared in glory and spoke about His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
32 Meanwhile Peter and his companions were overcome by sleep, but when they awoke, they saw Jesus’ glory and the two men standing with Him.
33 As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters[d] — one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”(He did not know what he was saying.)
34 While Peter was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.
35 And a voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son.[e] Listen to Him!”
36 After the voice had spoken, only Jesus was present with them. The disciples kept this to themselves, and in those days they did not tell anyone what they had seen.

The Boy with an Evil Spirit

(Matthew 17:14–18; Mark 9:14–29)

37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, Jesus was met by a large crowd.
38 Suddenly a man in the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only child.
39 A spirit keeps seizing him, and he screams abruptly. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It keeps mauling him and rarely departs from him.
40 I begged Your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable.”
41 “O unbelieving and perverse generation!” Jesus replied. “How long must I remain with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”
42 Even while the boy was approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

The Second Prediction of the Passion

(Matthew 17:22–23; Mark 9:30–32)

43 And they were all astonished at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus had done,[f] He said to His disciples,
44 “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”

[a] **9:14** CT *of about*
[b] **9:22** CT, GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR *be raised (to life)*
[c] **9:23** CT, GOC, and TR include *daily*.
[d] **9:33** Or *three tabernacles*
[e] **9:35** CT *This is My Son, whom I have chosen*; see Matthew 17:5.
[f] **9:43** CT *was doing*

45 But they did not understand this statement. It was
veiled from them so that they could not comprehend
it, and they were afraid to ask Him about it.

The Greatest in the Kingdom

(Matthew 18:1–5; Mark 9:33–41)

46 Then an argument started among the disciples as to
which of them would be the greatest.
47 But Jesus, seeing[a] the thoughts of their hearts, had
a little child stand beside Him.
48 And He said to them, "Whoever welcomes this
little child in My name welcomes Me, and whoever
welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. For
whoever is the least among all of you, he will be[b]
the greatest."
49 "Master," said John, "we saw someone driving out
demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him,
because he does not accompany us."
50 "Do not stop him," Jesus replied, "for whoever is not
against us is for us.[c] "

The Samaritans Reject Jesus

51 As the day of His ascension approached, Jesus res-
olutely set out for Jerusalem.
52 He sent messengers on ahead, who went into a
village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for
Him.
53 But the people there refused to welcome Him, be-
cause He was heading for Jerusalem.
54 When His disciples[d] James and John saw this, they
asked, "Lord, do You want us to call down fire from
heaven to consume them, just as Elijah did?[e] "
55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them and said, "You
do not know what kind of spirit you are.[f]
56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy the lives
of men, but to save them."[g] And He and His disciples
went on to another village.

The Cost of Discipleship

(Matthew 8:18–22; Luke 14:25–33; John 6:59–66)

57 As they were walking along the road, someone said
to Jesus, "Lord,[h] I will follow You wherever You go."
58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds of the air
have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay
His head."
59 Then He said to another man, "Follow Me." The man
replied, "Lord,[i] first let me go and bury my father."
60 But Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury their own
dead. You, however, go and proclaim the kingdom
of God."
61 Still another said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first
let me bid farewell to my family."
62 Then Jesus declared, "No one who puts his hand to
the plow and then looks back is fit for the kingdom
of God."

10

Jesus Sends the Seventy

(Matthew 9:35–38)

1 After this, the Lord appointed seventy[j] others and
sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town
and place He was about to visit.
2 Therefore[k] He told them, "The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.
3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.
4 Carry no purse or bag or sandals. Do not greet anyone
along the road.
5 Whatever house you enter, begin by saying, 'Peace to
this house.'
6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him;
if not, it will return to you.
7 Stay at the same house, eating and drinking whatever
you are offered. For the worker is worthy of his
wages.[l] Do not move around from house to house.
8 If you enter a town and they welcome you, eat what-
ever is set before you.
9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The king-
dom of God is near you.'
10 But if you enter a town and they do not welcome
you, go into the streets and declare,
11 'Even the dust of your town that clings to us,[m] we
wipe off as a testimony against you. Yet be sure of
this: The kingdom of God is near to you.[n] '
12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for
Sodom than for that town.

Woe to the Unrepentant

(Matthew 11:20–24)

13 Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if
the miracles that were performed in you had been
performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have re-
pented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.
14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at
the judgment than for you.
15 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven,
will be brought down[o] to Hades!
16 Whoever listens to you listens to Me; whoever re-
jects you rejects Me; and whoever rejects Me rejects
the One who sent Me."

The Joyful Return

17 The seventy returned with joy and said, "Lord, even
the demons submit to us in Your name."

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[a] **9:47** CT *knowing*

[b] **9:48** CT and GOC *he is*

[c] **9:50** CT and GOC *not against you is for you*

[d] **9:54** CT *the disciples*

[e] **9:54** CT does not include *just as Elijah did.*

[f] **9:55** CT does not include *and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are.*

[g] **9:56** CT does not include *For the Son of Man did not come to destroy the lives of men, but to save them.*

[h] **9:57** CT does not include *Lord.*

[i] **9:59** WH does not include *Lord.*

[j] **10:1** Most CT *seventy-two*; also in verse 17

[k] **10:2** CT *And*

[l] **10:7** See Leviticus 19:13 and Deuteronomy 24:14–15; cited in 1 Timothy 5:18.

[m] **10:11** CT and GOC *to our feet*

[n] **10:11** CT does not include *to you.*

[o] **10:15** CT *will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will be brought down*

18 So He told them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from
heaven.
19 Behold, I am giving[a] you authority to tread on
snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the
enemy. Nothing will harm you.
20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit
to you, but[b] rejoice that your names are written in
heaven."

Jesus' Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Matthew 11:25–30)

21 At that time Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit[c] and de-
clared, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth, because You have hidden these things from
the wise and learned, and revealed them to little
children. Yes, Father, for this was well-pleasing in
Your sight."
22 And turning to the disciples, He said,[d] "All things
have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one
knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one
knows who the Father is except the Son and those to
whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."
23 Then Jesus turned to the disciples and said privately,
"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.
24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired
to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear
what you hear but did not hear it."

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 One day an expert in the law stood up to test Him.
"Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eter-
nal life?"
26 "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How
do you read it?"
27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all
your heart and with all your soul and with all your
strength and with all your mind'[e] and 'Love your
neighbor as yourself.'[f] "
28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus said. "Do this
and you will live."
29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And
who is my neighbor?"
30 Jesus took up this question and said, "A man was
going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell
into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat
him, and went away, leaving him half dead.[g]
31 Now by chance a priest was going down the same
road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the
other side.
32 So too, when a Levite came to that spot and saw him,
he passed by on the other side.
33 But a Samaritan on a journey came upon him, and
when he saw him, he had compassion.
34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring
on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal,
brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
35 The next day when he departed[h] he took out two
denarii[i] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care
of him,' he said, 'and on my return I will repay you
for any additional expense.'
36 So[j] which of these three do you think was a neigh-
bor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"
37 "The one who showed him mercy," replied the ex-
pert in the law. Then Jesus told him, "Go and do
likewise."

Martha and Mary

38 As they traveled along, Jesus entered a village where
a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her
home.
39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet
[k] listening to His message.
40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations to
be made. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, do You
not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?
Tell her to help me!"
41 "Martha, Martha," Jesus[l] replied, "you are worried
and troubled[m] about many things.
42 But only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen
the good portion, and it will not be taken away from
her."

11

The Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:5–15)

1 One day in a place where Jesus had just finished
praying, one of His disciples requested, "Lord, teach
us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
2 So Jesus told them, "When you pray, say: 'Our Father
in heaven,[n] hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom
come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.[o]
3 Give us each day our daily bread.
4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone
who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.[p] '"

Ask, Seek, Knock

(Matthew 7:7–12)

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you goes
to his friend at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me
three loaves of bread,

[a] **10:19** CT *have given*

[b] **10:20** TR *but rather*

[c] **10:21** CT *in the Holy Spirit*

[d] **10:22** CT and TR do not include *And turning to the disciples, He said.*

[e] **10:27** Deuteronomy 6:5

[f] **10:27** Leviticus 19:18

[g] **10:30** Literally *half dead, as he was*; CT literal does not include *as he was.*

[h] **10:35** CT does not include *when he departed* .

[i] **10:35** A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.

[j] **10:36** CT does not include *So* .

[k] **10:39** CT *at the Lord's feet*

[l] **10:41** CT *the Lord*

[m] **10:41** CT *worried and upset*

[n] **11:2** CT *'Father* ; see Matthew 6:9 .

[o] **11:2** CT does not include *Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven* ; see Matthew 6:10 .

[p] **11:4** Or *from evil* ; CT does not include *but deliver us from the evil one* ; see Matthew 6:13 .

6 because a friend[a] has come to me on a journey, and
I have nothing to set before him.'
7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Do not bother
me. My door is already shut, and my children and I
are in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.'
8 I tell you, even though he will not get up to provide
for him because of his friendship, yet because of the
man's persistence, he will get up and give him as
much as he needs.
9 So I tell you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and
you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to
you.
10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds;
and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.
11 What father among you, if his son asks for bread,
will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will
give him a snake instead?[b]
12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?
13 So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to
your children, how much more will your Father in
heaven give the Holy Spirit[c] to those who ask Him!"

A House Divided

(Matthew 12:22–30; Mark 3:20–27)

14 One day Jesus was driving out a demon that was
mute. And when the demon was gone, the man who
had been mute spoke. The crowds were amazed,
15 but some of them said, "It is by Beelzebul,[d] the
prince of the demons, that He drives out demons."
16 And others tested Him by demanding a sign from
heaven.
17 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, "Every
kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste,
and a house divided against a house will fall.
18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his king-
dom stand? After all, you say that I drive out demons
by Beelzebul.
19 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom
do your[e] sons drive them out? So then, they will be
your judges.
20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then
the kingdom of God has come upon you.
21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his house,
his possessions are secure.
22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpow-
ers him, he takes away the armor in which the man
trusted, and then he divides up his plunder.
23 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who
does not gather with Me scatters.

An Unclean Spirit Returns

(Matthew 12:43–45)

24 When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes
through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.
Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'
25 On its return, it finds the house swept clean[f] and
put in order.
26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more
wicked than itself, and they go[g] and dwell there.
And the final plight of that man is worse than the
first."

True Blessedness

27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the
crowd raised her voice and said, "Blessed is the
womb that bore You, and blessed are the breasts that
nursed You!"
28 But He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear
the word of God and obey it."

The Sign of Jonah

(Jonah 3:1–10; Matthew 12:38–42)

29 As the crowds were increasing, Jesus said, "This is a
wicked generation. It seeks[h] a sign, but none will be
given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.[i]
30 For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so the Son
of Man will be a sign[j] to this generation.
31 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment
with the men of this generation and condemn them;
for she came from the ends of the earth to hear
the wisdom of Solomon, and now One greater than
Solomon is here.
32 The men of Nineveh will stand at the judgment with
this generation and condemn it; for they repented at
the preaching of Jonah, and now One greater than
Jonah is here.

The Lamp of the Body

(Matthew 6:22–24)

33 No one lights a lamp and puts it in a cellar or under
a basket.[k] Instead, he sets it on a stand, so those who
enter can see the light.
34 The eye is the lamp of the body.[l] So when your eyes
are good,[m] your whole body also is full of light. But
when they are bad,[n] your body is full of darkness.
35 Be careful, then, that the light within you is not
darkness.
36 So if your whole body is full of light, with no part of
it in darkness, you will be radiant, as though a lamp
were shining on you."

Woes to Pharisees and Experts in the Law

(Matthew 23:1–36)

37 As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to
dine with him; so He went in and reclined at the
table.
38 But the Pharisee was surprised to see that Jesus did
not first wash before the meal.

[a] **11:6** GOC, CT, and TR *a friend of mine*

[b] **11:11** CT *What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?*

[c] **11:13** GOC *a good spirit*

[d] **11:15** WH *Beezeboul*; Vulgate *Beelzebub*; also in verses 18 and 19

[e] **11:19** GOC *will your*

[f] **11:25** WH *unoccupied, swept clean,*

[g] **11:26** GOC, CT, and TR *go in*

[h] **11:29** CT *It demands*

[i] **11:29** CT does not include *the prophet*.

[j] **11:30** Literally *will be*; GOC *will be a sign*

[k] **11:33** TH does not include *or under a basket* .

[l] **11:34** CT *Your eye is the lamp of your body*

[m] **11:34** Literally *So when your eye is sound*; see Proverbs 22:9.

[n] **11:34** Literally *But when it is evil*; see Proverbs 23:6 and Proverbs 28:22.

39 Then the Lord said, "Now you Pharisees clean the
outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of
greed and wickedness.
40 You fools! Did not the One who made the outside
make the inside as well?
41 But give as alms the things that are within you, and
behold, everything will be clean for you.
42 Woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint,
rue, and every herb, but you disregard justice and
the love of God. You should have practiced the latter
without neglecting the former.
43 Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats
in the synagogues and the greetings in the market-
places.
44 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites![a]
For you are like unmarked graves, which men walk
over without even noticing."
45 One of the experts in the law told Him, "Teacher,
when You say these things, You insult us as well."
46 "Woe to you as well, experts in the law!" He replied.
"For you weigh men down with heavy burdens, but
you yourselves will not lift a finger to lighten their
load.
47 Woe to you! For you build tombs for the prophets,
but it was your fathers who killed them.
48 So you bear witness and consent[b] to the deeds of
your fathers: They killed the prophets, and you build
their tombs.
49 Because of this, the wisdom of God said, 'I will send
them prophets and apostles; some of them they will
kill and others they will persecute.'
50 As a result, this generation will be charged with the
blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the
foundation of the world,
51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah,
who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary.
[c] Yes, I tell you, all of it will be charged to this gener-
ation.
52 Woe to you experts in the law! For you have taken
away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have
not entered, and you have hindered those who were
entering."
53 As Jesus said these things to them,[d] the scribes and
Pharisees began to oppose Him bitterly and to ply
Him with questions about many things,
54 lying in wait for Him and seeking to catch Him in
something[e] He might say, so that they might accuse
Him.[f]

12

The Leaven of the Pharisees

(Matthew 16:5–12; Mark 8:14–21)

1 In the meantime, a crowd of many thousands had
gathered, so that they were trampling one another.
Jesus began to speak first to His disciples: "Beware
of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.
2 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed,
and nothing hidden that will not be made known.
3 What you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the
daylight, and what you have whispered in the inner
rooms will be proclaimed from the housetops.

Fear God Alone

(Matthew 10:26–31)

4 I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who
kill the body and after that can do no more.
5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear the
One who, after you have been killed, has authority
to throw you into hell.[g] Yes, I tell you, fear Him!
6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?[h] Yet not
one of them is forgotten by God.
7 And even the very hairs of your head are all num-
bered. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than
many sparrows.

Confessing Christ

(Matthew 10:32–33)

8 I tell you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the
Son of Man will also confess him before the angels
of God.
9 But whoever denies Me before men will be denied
before the angels of God.
10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son
of Man will be forgiven, but whoever blasphemes
against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.
11 When you are brought before synagogues, rulers,
and authorities, do not worry about how to defend
yourselves or what to say.
12 For at that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what
you should say."

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13 Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my
brother to divide the inheritance with me."
14 But Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed Me judge or
executor between you?"
15 And He said to them, "Watch out! Guard yourselves
against greed,[i] for one's life does not consist in the
abundance of his possessions."
16 Then He told them a parable: "The ground of a cer-
tain rich man produced an abundance.
17 So he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, since I
have nowhere to store my crops?'
18 Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down
my barns and will build bigger ones, and there I will
store up all my crops[j] and my goods.
19 Then I will say to myself, "You have plenty of good
things laid up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink,
and be merry!"'
20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your
life will be required of you. Then who will own what
you have accumulated?'

[a] **11:44** CT does not include *scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.*

[b] **11:48** CT *So you are witnesses consenting*

[c] **11:51** Literally *the house*

[d] **11:53** CT *As Jesus went on from there*

[e] **11:54** CT begins this verse with *waiting to catch Him in something.*

[f] **11:54** CT does not include *so that they might accuse Him.*

[g] **12:5** Greek *Gehenna*

[h] **12:6** Greek *two assaria* ; an assarion was a Roman copper coin worth about 1/16 of a denarius.

[i] **12:15** CT *against every form of greed*

[j] **12:18** CT *grain*

21 This is how it will be for anyone who stores up
treasure for himself but is not rich toward God."

Do Not Worry

(Matthew 6:25–34)

22 Then Jesus said to His disciples,[a] "Therefore I tell
you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat,
or about your body, what you will wear.
23 Life[b] is more than food, and the body more than
clothes.
24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they
have no storehouse or barn; yet God feeds them.
How much more valuable you are than the birds!
25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his
life?[c]
26 So if you cannot do such a small thing, why do you
worry about the rest?
27 Consider how the lilies grow: They do not labor or
spin.[d] Yet[e] I tell you, not even Solomon in all his
glory was adorned like one of these.
28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field,
which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the
furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O you
of little faith!
29 And do not be concerned about what you will eat or
drink. Do not worry about it.
30 For the Gentiles of the world strive after all these
things, and your Father knows that you need them.
31 But seek the kingdom of God,[f] and all[g] these things
will be added unto you.

Treasures in Heaven

(Matthew 6:19–21)

32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is
pleased to give you the kingdom.
33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide
yourselves with purses that will not wear out, an
inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief
approaches and no moth destroys.
34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be
also.

Readiness at Any Hour

(Matthew 24:36–51; Mark 13:32–37)

35 Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning.
36 Then you will be like servants waiting for their
master to return from the wedding banquet, so that
when he comes and knocks, they can open the door
for him at once.
37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds
on watch when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will
dress himself to serve and will have them recline
at the table, and he himself will come and wait on
them.
38 Even if he comes in the second or third watch of the
night[h] and finds them alert, those servants will be
blessed.
39 But understand this: If the homeowner had known
at what hour the thief was coming, he would have
kept watch and[i] would not have let his house be
broken into.
40 Therefore[j] you also must be ready, because the Son
of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."
41 "Lord," said Peter, "are You addressing this parable
to us, or to everyone else as well?"
42 And the Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful
and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge
of his servants to give them their portion at the
proper time?
43 Blessed is that servant whose master finds him do-
ing so when he returns.
44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his
possessions.
45 But suppose that servant says in his heart, 'My mas-
ter will be a long time in coming,' and he begins to
beat the menservants and maidservants, and to eat
and drink and get drunk.
46 The master of that servant will come on a day he
does not expect and at an hour he does not antici-
pate. Then he will cut him to pieces and assign him
a place with the unbelievers.
47 That servant who knows his master's will but does
not get ready or follow his instructions will be
beaten with many blows.
48 But the one who unknowingly does things worthy
of punishment will be beaten with few blows. From
everyone who has been given much, much will be
required; and from him who has been entrusted
with much, even more will be demanded.

Not Peace but Division

(Micah 7:1–6; Matthew 10:34–39)

49 I have come to bring fire to[k] the earth, and how I
wish it were already kindled!
50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed
I am until it is accomplished!
51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the
earth? No, I tell you, but division.
52 From now on, five in one household will be divided,
three against two and two against three.
53 They will be divided, father against son and son
against father, mother against daughter and daugh-
ter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-
in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.
[l] "

[a] **12:22** TH *the disciples*

[b] **12:23** CT *For life*

[c] **12:25** Or *a single cubit to his height* ; a cubit was approximately 18 inches or 45 centimeters.

[d] **12:27** NE and Tischendorf *Consider the lilies: They do not spin or weave.*

[e] **12:27** F35 does not include *Yet*.

[f] **12:31** CT *But seek His kingdom*; see Matthew 6:33.

[g] **12:31** CT does not include *all*.

[h] **12:38** That is, between nine at night and three in the morning

[i] **12:39** CT does not include *would have kept watch and* .

[j] **12:40** CT does not include *Therefore*.

[k] **12:49** CT and GOC *to ignite a fire on*

[l] **12:53** See Micah 7:6.

[a] **12:54** CT *in*

Interpreting the Present Time

(Matthew 16:1–4; Mark 8:11–13)

54 Then Jesus said to the crowds, "As soon as you see
a cloud rising from[a] the west, you say, 'A shower is
coming,' and that is what happens.
55 And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It will be
hot,' and it is.
56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the
appearance of the earth and sky.[b] Why can't you
interpret[c] the present time?

Reconciling with an Adversary

(Matthew 5:21–26)

57 And why don't you judge for yourselves what is
right?
58 Make every effort to reconcile with your adversary
while you are on your way to the magistrate. Other-
wise, he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge
may hand you over to the officer, and the officer may
throw you into prison.
59 I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the
very last penny.[d] "

13

A Call to Repentance

(Joel 1:13–20; Amos 5:4–15; Zephaniah 2:1–3)

1 At that time some of those present told Jesus about the
Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their
sacrifices.
2 To this Jesus replied,[e] "Do you think that these
Galileans were worse sinners than all the other
Galileans, because they suffered this way?
3 No, I tell you. But unless you repent, you too will all
perish.
4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower
of Siloam collapsed on them: Do you think that
they were more sinful than all the others living in
Jerusalem?
5 No, I tell you. But unless you repent, you too will all
perish."

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

(Isaiah 5:1–7)

6 Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree that
was planted in his vineyard. He went to look for fruit
on it but did not find any.
7 So he said to the keeper of the vineyard, 'Look, for
the past three years I have come to search for fruit
on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down!
[f] Why should it use up the soil?'
8 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone again this year,
until I dig around it and fertilize it.
9 If it bears fruit, fine. But if not, you can cut it down
next year.[g] ""

Jesus Heals a Disabled Woman

10 One Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the syna-
gogues,
11 and a woman there had been disabled by a spirit for
eighteen years. She was hunched over and could not
stand up straight.
12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said,
"Woman, you are set free from your disability."
13 Then He placed His hands on her, and immediately
she straightened up and began to glorify God.
14 But the synagogue leader was indignant that Jesus
had healed on the Sabbath. "There are six days for
work," he told the crowd. "So come and be healed on
those days and not on the Sabbath."
15 "You hypocrites!"[h] the Lord replied. "Does not each
of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from
the stall and lead it to water?
16 Then should not this daughter of Abraham, whom
Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be
released from her bondage on the Sabbath day?"
17 When Jesus said this, all His adversaries were hu-
miliated. And the whole crowd rejoiced at all the
glorious things He was doing.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

(Matthew 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–34)

18 Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like?
To what can I compare it?
19 It is like a mustard seed that a man tossed into his
garden. It grew and became a great tree,[i] and the
birds of the air nested in its branches."

The Parable of the Leaven

(Matthew 13:33)

20 Again He asked, "To what can I compare the king-
dom of God?
21 It is like leaven that a woman took and mixed into
three measures of flour, until all of it was leavened."

The Narrow Door

(Matthew 7:13–14)

22 Then Jesus traveled throughout the towns and
villages, teaching as He made His way toward
Jerusalem.
23 "Lord," someone asked Him, "will only a few people
be saved?" Jesus answered,
24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow gate.
[j] For many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not
be able.
25 After the master of the house gets up and shuts the
door, you will stand outside knocking and saying,
'Lord, Lord,[k] open the door for us.' But he will reply,
'I do not know where you are from.'
26 Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and
you taught in our streets.'
27 And he will answer, 'I tell you, I do not know where
you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers.'
28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when
you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets

[b] **12:56** GOC, F35, and Scrivener TR *sky and earth*

[c] **12:56** CT *Why don't you know how to interpret*

[d] **12:59** Greek *lepton*; that is, a Jewish coin of bronze or copper worth about 1/128 of a denarius

[e] **13:2** CT *He replied*

[f] **13:7** SBL, NE, WH *Therefore, cut it down!*

[g] **13:9** CT *If it bears fruit next year, fine. But if not, you can cut it down.*

[h] **13:15** TR and GOC *"You hypocrite!"*

[i] **13:19** CT *a tree*

[j] **13:24** CT *door*

[k] **13:25** CT *'Lord,*

in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves are thrown out.
29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.
30 And indeed, some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last."

Lament over Jerusalem

(Matthew 23:37–39)

31 On that very day,[a] some Pharisees came to Jesus and told Him, "Leave this place and get away, because Herod wants to kill You."
32 But Jesus replied, "Go tell that fox, 'Look, I will keep driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach My goal.'
33 Nevertheless, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day, for it is not admissible for a prophet to perish outside of Jerusalem.
34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling!
35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. And I tell you that you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'[b] "

14

Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy

1 One Sabbath, Jesus went to eat in the home of a leading Pharisee, and those in attendance were watching Him closely.
2 Right there before Him was a man with dropsy.
3 So Jesus asked the experts in the law and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?[c] "
4 But they remained silent. Then Jesus took hold of the man, healed him, and sent him on his way.
5 And He asked them, "Which of you whose son[d] or ox falls into a pit on the Sabbath day will not immediately pull him out?"
6 And they were unable to answer these questions .

The Parable of the Guests

7 When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, He told them a parable:
8 "When you are invited to a wedding banquet, do not sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited.
9 Then the host who invited both of you will come and tell you, 'Give this man your seat.' And in humiliation, you will have to take the last place.
10 But when you are invited, go and sit in the last place, so that your host will come and tell you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.'[e] Then you will be honored in front of those[f] at the table with you.
11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
12 Then Jesus said to the man who had invited Him, "When you host a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or brothers or relatives or rich neighbors. Otherwise, they may invite you in return, and you will be repaid.
13 But when you host a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind,
14 and you will be blessed. Since they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Parable of the Banquet

(Matthew 22:1–14)

15 When one of those reclining with Him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is he[g] who will eat at the feast[h] in the kingdom of God."
16 But Jesus replied, "A certain man prepared a great banquet and invited many guests.
17 When it was time for the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now[i] ready.'
18 But one after another they all began to make excuses. The first one said, 'I have bought a field, and I need to go and[j] see it. Please excuse me.'
19 Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out. Please excuse me.'
20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, so I cannot come.'
21 That servant[k] returned and reported all this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.[l] '
22 'Sir,' the servant replied, 'it has been done as you ordered,[m] and there is still room.'
23 So the master told his servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.
24 For I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.[n] ' "

The Cost of Discipleship

(Matthew 8:18–22; Luke 9:57–62; John 6:59–66)

25 Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and He turned and said to them,
26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be My disciple.

[a] **13:31** CT *At that very hour*
[b] **13:35** Psalm 118:26
[c] **14:3** CT includes *or not*.
[d] **14:5** TR *donkey*
[e] **14:10** See Proverbs 25:7 .
[f] **14:10** CT *everyone*
[g] **14:15** CT *everyone*
[h] **14:15** Literally *who will eat breakfast*; CT and TR *who will eat bread*
[i] **14:17** CT literal *it is now*
[j] **14:18** CT does not include *and* .
[k] **14:21** CT *The servant*
[l] **14:21** CT and F35 *the blind, and the lame*
[m] **14:22** CT *what you ordered has been done*
[n] **14:24** CT, GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR do not include *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

27 And whoever does not carry his cross and follow Me
cannot be My disciple.
28 Which of you, wishing to build a tower, does not
first sit down and count the cost to see if he has the
resources to complete it?
29 Otherwise, if he lays the foundation and is unable
to finish the work, everyone who sees it will ridicule
him,
30 saying, 'This man could not finish what he started
to build.'
31 Or what king on his way to war with another king
does not[a] first sit down and consider whether he
can engage with ten thousand men the one coming
against him with twenty thousand?
32 And if he is unable, he will send a delegation while
the other king is still far off, to ask for terms of peace.
33 In the same way, any one of you who does not give
up everything he has cannot be My disciple.

Good Salt

(Matthew 5:13–16; Mark 9:49–50)

34 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its savor, with what
will it be seasoned?
35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile,
and it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him
hear."

15

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

(Matthew 18:10–14)

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were gathering
around to listen to Jesus.
2 So the Pharisees and scribes began to grumble: "This
man welcomes sinners and eats with them."
3 Then Jesus told them this parable:
4 "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and
loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in
the pasture and go after the one that is lost, until he
finds it?
5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoul-
ders,
6 comes home, and calls together his friends and neigh-
bors to tell them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found
my lost sheep!'
7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more
joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than
over ninety-nine righteous ones who do not need to
repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 Or what woman who has ten silver coins[b] and loses
one of them does not light a lamp, sweep her house,
and search carefully until she finds it?
9 And when she finds it, she calls together her friends
and neighbors to say, 'Rejoice with me, for I have
found my lost coin.'
10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the pres-
ence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

(Deuteronomy 21:18–21)

11 Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two
sons.
12 The younger son said to him, 'Father, give me my
share of the estate.' So he divided his property be-
tween them.
13 After a few days, the younger son got everything
together and journeyed to a distant country, where
he squandered his wealth in wild living.
14 After he had spent all he had, a severe famine swept
through that country, and he began to be in need.
15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that
country, who sent him into his fields to feed the pigs.
16 He longed to fill his belly[c] with the pods the pigs
were eating, but no one would give him a thing .
17 Finally he came to his senses and said, 'How many of
my father's hired servants have plenty of food, but I
am[d] starving to death![e]
18 I will get up and go back to my father and say to him,
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against
you.
19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make
me like one of your hired servants."'
20 So he got up and went to his father. But while he was
still in the distance, his father saw him and was filled
with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him,
and kissed him.
21 The son declared, 'Father, I have sinned against
heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be
called your son.[f] '
22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring[g] the best
robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and
sandals on his feet.
23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us feast and
celebrate.
24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again! He
was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate.
25 Meanwhile the older son was in the field, and as he
approached the house, he heard music and dancing.
26 So he called one of the[h] servants and asked what
was going on.
27 'Your brother has returned,' he said, 'and your fa-
ther has killed the fattened calf, because he has him
back safe and sound.'
28 The older son became angry and refused to go in. So
his father came out and pleaded with him.
29 But he answered his father, 'Look, all these years I
have served you and never disobeyed a command-
ment of yours. Yet you never gave me even a young
goat so I could celebrate with my friends.
30 But when this son of yours returns from squan-
dering your wealth with prostitutes, you kill the
fattened calf for him!'
31 'Son, you are always with me,' the father said, 'and
all that is mine is yours.

[a] **14:31** CT *will not*

[b] **15:8** Greek *ten drachmas* , each worth about a day's wages

[c] **15:16** NA, TH, and WH *to be filled*

[d] **15:17** CT *but here I am*

[e] **15:17** Or *perishing with hunger*

[f] **15:21** WH includes *Make me like one of your hired servants* ; see verse 19.

[g] **15:22** CT *Quick! Bring*

[h] **15:26** Stephanus TR *his*

32 But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because
this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he
was lost and is found.'"

16

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

1 Jesus also said to His disciples,[a] "There was a rich
man whose manager was accused of wasting his
possessions.
2 So he called him in to ask, 'What is this I hear about
you? Turn in an account of your management, for
you cannot be manager any longer.'
3 The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, now
that my master is taking away my position? I am too
weak to dig and too ashamed to beg.
4 I know what I will do so that after my removal from
management, people will welcome me into their
homes.'
5 And he called in each one of his master's debtors.
'How much do you owe my master?' he asked the
first.
6 'A hundred measures of olive oil,'[b] he answered.
'Take your bill,' said the manager, 'sit down quickly,
and write fifty.'
7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?'
'A hundred measures of wheat,'[c] he replied. 'Take
your bill and write eighty,' he told him.
8 The master commended the dishonest manager be-
cause he had acted shrewdly. For the sons of this
age are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind
than are the sons of light.
9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for
yourselves so that when you fail,[d] they will wel-
come you into eternal dwellings.
10 Whoever is faithful with very little will also be faith-
ful with much, and whoever is dishonest with very
little will also be dishonest with much.
11 So if you have not been faithful with worldly wealth,
who will entrust you with true riches?
12 And if you have not been faithful with the belong-
ings of another, who will give you belongings of your
own?
13 No servant can serve two masters. Either he will
hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted
to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve
both God and money."

The Law and the Prophets

14 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all
of this and were scoffing at Jesus.
15 So He said to them, "You are the ones who justify
yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts.
For what is prized among men is detestable before
God.
16 The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until
John. Since that time, the gospel of the kingdom of
God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his
way into it.[e]
17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away
than for a single stroke of a pen to drop out of the
Law.
18 Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another
woman commits adultery, and everyone who[f] mar-
ries a divorced woman commits adultery.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

(John 5:39–47)

19 Now there was a rich man dressed in purple and fine
linen, who lived each day in joyous splendor.
20 And a beggar named Lazarus lay at his gate, covered
with sores
21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs that fell[g]
from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and
licked his sores.
22 One day the beggar died and was carried by the
angels to Abraham's side.[h] And the rich man also
died and was buried.
23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up
and saw Abraham from afar, with Lazarus by his
side.
24 So he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me
and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water
and cool my tongue. For I am in agony in this fire.'
25 But Abraham answered, 'Child, remember that dur-
ing your lifetime you received your good things,
while Lazarus received bad things. But now he is
comforted here,[i] while you are in agony.
26 And besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed
between us and you, so that even those who wish
cannot cross from here to you, nor can anyone cross
from there to us.'
27 'Then I beg you, father,' he said, 'send Lazarus to my
father's house,
28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that
they will not also end up in this place of torment.'
29 But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the
Prophets; let your brothers listen to them.'
30 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone is sent
to them from the dead, they will repent.'
31 Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to
Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded
even if someone rises from the dead.'"

17

Temptations and Trespasses

(Matthew 18:6–9; Mark 9:42–48)

1 Jesus said to the disciples,[j] "It is inevitable that stum-
bling blocks will come, but woe to the one through
whom they come!

[a] **16:1** CT *the disciples*

[b] **16:6** Greek *'A hundred baths of oil'* ; that is, approximately 870 gallons or 3,300 liters

[c] **16:7** Greek *'A hundred cors of wheat'* ; that is, approximately 1,000 bushels or 35,000 liters (probably about 30 tons or 27 metric tons of wheat)

[d] **16:9** Or *when you die*; CT *when it runs out*

[e] **16:16** Or *everyone is urged to enter into it*

[f] **16:18** CT *he who*

[g] **16:21** CT literal *with that which fell*

[h] **16:22** Greek *into Abraham's bosom* ; similarly in verse 23

[i] **16:25** F35 does not include *here* .

[j] **17:1** CT and GOC *His disciples*

2 It would be better for him to have a large millstone[a]
hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea
than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.
3 Watch yourselves. If your brother sins against you,[b]
rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.
4 Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and
returns seven times in that day[c] to say, 'I repent,'
you must forgive him."

The Power of Faith

(Matthew 17:19–20)

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
6 And the Lord answered, "If you have faith the size of
a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey
you.
7 Which of you whose servant comes in from plowing
or shepherding in the field will say,[d] 'Come at once
and sit down to eat'?
8 Instead, won't he tell him, 'Prepare my meal and
dress yourself to serve me while I eat and drink, and
afterward you may eat and drink'?
9 Does he thank the servant because he did what he
was told? I think not.[e]
10 So you also, when you have done everything com-
manded of you, should say, 'We are unworthy ser-
vants; we have only done our duty.'"

The Ten Lepers

(2 Kings 5:1–14)

11 While Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He was
passing between Samaria and Galilee.
12 As He entered one of the villages, He was met by ten
lepers.[f] They stood at a distance
13 and raised their voices, shouting, "Jesus, Master,
have mercy on us!"
14 When Jesus saw them, He said, "Go, show yourselves
to the priests."[g] And as they were on their way, they
were cleansed.
15 When one of them saw that he was healed, he came
back, praising God in a loud voice.
16 He fell facedown at Jesus' feet in thanksgiving to
Him — and he was a Samaritan.
17 "Were not all ten cleansed?" Jesus asked. "Where
then are the other nine?
18 Was no one found except this foreigner to return
and give glory to God?"
19 Then Jesus said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has
made you well![h] "

The Coming of the Kingdom

(Genesis 19:24–29)

20 When asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of
God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God
will not come with observable signs.
21 Nor will people say, 'Look, here it is,' or 'There it is.'
For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst.[i] "
22 Then He said to the disciples, "The time is coming
when you will long to see one of the days of the Son
of Man, but you will not see it.
23 People will tell you, 'Look, there He is!' or 'Look, here
He is!' Do not go out or chase after them.
24 For just as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky
from one end to the other, so will be the Son of Man
in His day.[j]
25 But first He must suffer many things and be rejected
by this generation.
26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in
the days of the Son of Man:
27 People were eating and drinking, marrying and be-
ing given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered
the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.
28 It was the same in the days of Lot: People were eat-
ing and drinking, buying and selling, planting and
building.
29 But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained
down from heaven and destroyed them all.
30 It will be just like that on the day the Son of Man is
revealed.
31 On that day, let no one on the housetop come down
to retrieve his possessions. Likewise, let no one in
the field return for anything he has left behind.
32 Remember Lot's wife!
33 Whoever tries to save[k] his life will lose it, but who-
ever loses his life will preserve it.
34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed:
one will be taken and the other left.
35 Two women will be grinding grain together: one will
be taken and the other left."[l]
36
37 "Where, Lord?" they asked. Jesus answered, "Wher-
ever there is a carcass, there the vultures will
gather."

18

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about the[m] need to
pray at all times and not lose heart:
2 "In a certain town there was a judge who neither
feared God nor respected men.
3 And there was a widow in that town who kept appeal-
ing to him, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'
4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself,
'Though I neither fear God nor respect men,

[a] **17:2** CT and GOC *a millstone*

[b] **17:3** CT does not include *against you* .

[c] **17:4** CT does not include *in that day*.

[d] **17:7** CT *say to him*

[e] **17:9** CT does not include *I think not*.

[f] **17:12** A *leper* was one afflicted with a skin disease. See Leviticus 13.

[g] **17:14** See Leviticus 14:1–32.

[h] **17:19** Or *has saved you*

[i] **17:21** Or *within you* or *within your grasp*

[j] **17:24** WH does not include *in His day*.

[k] **17:33** CT literal *to keep*

[l] **17:35** TR includes **36**Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left; see Matthew 24:40.

[m] **18:1** CT and GOC *their*

5 yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give
her justice. Otherwise, she will wear me out with her
perpetual requests.'"
6 And the Lord said, "Listen to the words of the unjust
judge.
7 Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry
out to Him day and night? Will He delay in helping
them?
8 I tell you, He will promptly carry out justice on their
behalf. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes,
will He find faith on earth?"

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9 To some who trusted in their own righteousness and
viewed others with contempt, He also told this para-
ble:
10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a
Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed,[a] 'God, I
thank You that I am not like other men — swindlers,
evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector.
12 I fast twice a week and pay tithes of all that I
acquire.'
13 But the tax collector stood at a distance, unwilling
even to lift up his eyes to heaven. Instead, he beat his
breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!'
14 I tell you, this man, rather than the Pharisee, went
home justified. For everyone who exalts himself will
be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will
be exalted."

Jesus Blesses the Children

(Matthew 19:13–15; Mark 10:13–16)

15 Now people were even bringing their babies to Jesus
for Him to place His hands on them. And when the
disciples saw this, they rebuked those who brought
them.
16 But Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let
the little children come to Me, and do not hinder
them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as
these.
17 Truly I tell you, anyone who does not receive the
kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

The Rich Young Ruler

(Matthew 19:16–30; Mark 10:17–31)

18 Then a certain ruler asked Him, "Good Teacher, what
must I do to inherit eternal life?"
19 "Why do you call Me good?" Jesus replied. "No one
is good except God alone.
20 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adul-
tery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false
witness, honor your father and mother.'[b] "
21 "All these I have kept from my youth," he said.
22 On hearing this, Jesus told him, "You still lack one
thing: Sell everything you own and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come,
follow Me."
23 But when the ruler heard this, he became very sad,
because he was extremely wealthy.
24 Seeing the man's sadness,[c] Jesus said, "How hard it
is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!
25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to pass through the
eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the
kingdom of God."
26 Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be
saved?"
27 But Jesus said, "What is impossible with man is pos-
sible with God."
28 "Look," said Peter, "we have left all we had[d] to
follow You."
29 "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left
home or parents[e] or brothers or wife or children
for the sake of the kingdom of God
30 will fail to receive many times more in this age —
and in the age to come, eternal life."

The Third Prediction of the Passion

(Matthew 20:17–19; Mark 10:32–34)

31 Then Jesus took the Twelve aside and said to them,
"Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything
the prophets have written about the Son of Man will
be fulfilled.
32 He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be
mocked and insulted and spit upon.
33 They will flog Him and kill Him, and on the third day
He will rise again."
34 But the disciples did not understand any of these
things. The meaning was hidden from them, and
they did not comprehend what He was saying.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

(Matthew 20:29–34; Mark 10:46–52)

35 As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was
sitting beside the road, begging.
36 When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what
was happening.
37 "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," they told him.
38 So he called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy
on me!"
39 Those who led the way admonished him to be silent,
but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have
mercy on me!"
40 Jesus stopped and directed that the man be brought
to Him. When he had come near, Jesus asked him,
41 "What do you want Me to do for you?" "Lord," he
said, "let me see again."
42 "Receive your sight!" Jesus replied. "Your faith has
healed you."
43 Immediately he received his sight and followed
Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people, when they
saw it, gave praise to God.

19

Jesus and Zacchaeus

(Numbers 5:5–10)

1 Then Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.
2 And there was a man named Zacchaeus, a chief tax
collector, who was very wealthy.

[a] **18:11** Or *stood and prayed to himself*

[b] **18:20** Exodus 20:12–16; Deuteronomy 5:16–20

[c] **18:24** Literally *Seeing that he had become sorrowful*; SBL, NE, TH, and WH *Seeing him*

[d] **18:28** Literally, CT *left our own*; MT *left all*

[e] **18:29** CT *home or wife or brothers or parents*

3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but could not see
over the crowd because he was small in stature.
4 So he ran on ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to
see Him, since Jesus was about to pass that way.
5 When Jesus came to that place, He looked up and saw
him[a] and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down, for I must
stay at your house today."
6 So Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Him joy-
fully.
7 And all who saw this began to grumble, saying, "He
has gone to be the guest of a sinful man!"
8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look,
Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if
I have cheated anyone, I will repay it fourfold."
9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this
house, because this man too is a son of Abraham.
10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

The Parable of the Ten Minas

(Matthew 25:14–30)

11 While the people were listening to this, Jesus pro-
ceeded to tell them a parable, because He was near
Jerusalem and they thought the kingdom of God
would appear imminently.
12 So He said, "A man of noble birth went to a distant
country to lay claim to his kingship and then return.
13 Beforehand, he called ten of his servants and gave
them ten minas.[b] 'Conduct business with this until
I return,' he said.
14 But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation
after him to say, 'We do not want this man to rule
over us.'
15 When he returned from procuring his kingship, he
summoned the servants to whom he had given the
money, to find out what each one had earned.[c]
16 The first servant came forward and said, 'Master,
your mina has produced ten more minas.'
17 His master replied, 'Well done, good servant! Be-
cause you have been faithful in a very small matter,
you shall have authority over ten cities.'
18 The second servant came and said, 'Master, your
mina has made five minas.'
19 And to this one he said, 'You shall have authority
over five cities.'
20 Then another servant came and said, 'Master, here
is your mina, which I have laid away in a piece of
cloth.[d]
21 For I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh
man. You withdraw what you did not deposit and
reap what you did not sow.[e] '
22 His master replied, 'You wicked servant, I will judge
you by your own words. So you knew that I am a
harsh man, withdrawing what I did not deposit and
reaping what I did not sow?[f]
23 Why then did you not deposit my money in the bank,
and upon my return I could have collected it with
interest?'
24 Then he told those standing by, 'Take the mina from
him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'
25 'Master,' they said, 'he already has ten!'
26 He replied, ' I tell you that everyone who has will
be given more; but the one who does not have, even
what he has will be taken away from him.[g]
27 And these enemies of mine who were unwilling for
me to rule over them, bring them here and slay them
in front of me.'"

The Triumphal Entry

(Zechariah 9:9–13; Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; John 12:12–19)

28 After Jesus had said this, He went on ahead, going
up to Jerusalem.
29 As He approached Bethsphage[h] and Bethany at the
Mount of Olives, He sent out two of His disciples,
30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you
enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no
one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here.
31 If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him,
'The Lord needs it.'"
32 So those who were sent went out and found it[i] just
as Jesus had told them.
33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked,
"Why are you untying the colt?"
34 "The Lord needs it," they answered.
35 Then they led the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks
over it, and put Jesus on it.
36 As He rode along, the people spread their cloaks on
the road.
37 And as He approached the descent from the Mount
of Olives, the whole multitude of disciples began to
praise God joyfully in a loud voice for all the miracles
they had seen:
38 "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of
the Lord!"[j] "Peace in heaven and glory in the high-
est!"[k]
39 But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him,
"Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!"
40 "I tell you," He answered, "if they remain silent, the
very stones will cry out."

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

(Isaiah 29:1–16)

41 As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He
wept over it
42 and said, "If only you, even you,[l] had known on
this day what would bring you peace! But now it is
hidden from your eyes.
43 For the days will come upon you when your enemies
will barricade you and surround you and hem you
in on every side.

[a] **19:5** CT does not include *and saw him.*

[b] **19:13** That is, he gave each servant one mina. A mina was most likely a silver coin worth a hundred drachmas, that is, about a hundred days' wages.

[c] **19:15** Literally *who had gained what*

[d] **19:20** Greek *soudariō*

[e] **19:21** GOC includes *and you gather where you scattered no seed.*

[f] **19:22** GOC includes *and gathering where I scattered no seed .*

[g] **19:26** CT literal does not include *from him .*

[h] **19:29** ALT, CT, and TR *Bethphage*

[i] **19:32** GOC *found the colt standing there*

[j] **19:38** Psalm 118:26

[k] **19:38** See Psalm 148:1.

[l] **19:42** CT does not include *even you.*

44 They will level you to the ground — you and the
children within your walls. They will not leave one
stone on another, because you did not recognize the
time of your visitation from God.[a] ”

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Matthew 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–19; John 2:12–25)

45 Then Jesus entered the temple courts[b] and began to
drive out those who were selling and buying[c] there.
46 He declared to them, “It is written: ‘My house is[d] a
house of prayer.’[e] But you have made it ‘a den of
robbers.’[f] ”
47 Jesus was teaching at the temple every day, but the
chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people were
intent on killing Him.
48 Yet they could not find a way to do so, because all
the people hung on His words.

20

Jesus’ Authority Challenged

(Matthew 21:23–27; Mark 11:27–33)

1 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the tem-
ple courts[g] and proclaiming the gospel, the priests
[h] and scribes, together with the elders, came up to
Him.
2 “Tell us,” they said, “by what authority are You doing
these things, and who gave You this authority?”
3 “I will also ask you one question,[i] ” Jesus replied.
“Tell Me:
4 John’s baptism — was it from heaven, or from men?”
5 They deliberated among themselves and said, “If we
say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Why[j] did you not
believe him?’
6 But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us,
for they are convinced that John was a prophet.”
7 So they answered that they did not know where it
was from.
8 And Jesus replied, “Neither will I tell you by what
authority I am doing these things.”

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

(Matthew 21:33–46; Mark 12:1–12)

9 Then He proceeded to tell the people this parable:
“A man planted a vineyard, rented it out to some
tenants, and went away for a long time.
10 At harvest time, he sent a servant to the tenants to
collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the
tenants beat the servant and sent him away empty-
handed.
11 So he sent another servant, but they beat him and
treated him shamefully, sending him away empty-
handed.
12 Then he sent a third, but they wounded him and
threw him out.
13 ‘What shall I do?’ asked the owner of the vineyard. ‘I
will send my beloved son. Perhaps they will respect
him when they see him.[k] ’
14 But when the tenants saw the son, they discussed it
among themselves and said, ‘This is the heir. Come,
[l] let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’
15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed
him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do
to them?
16 He will come and kill those tenants and give the
vineyard to others.” And when the people heard this,
they said, “May such a thing never happen!”
17 But Jesus looked directly at them and said, “Then
what is the meaning of that which is written: ‘The
stone the builders rejected has become the corner-
stone’[m] ?
18 Everyone who falls on this stone will be broken to
pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”

Paying Taxes to Caesar

(Matthew 22:15–22; Mark 12:13–17)

19 When the chief priests and scribes[n] realized that
Jesus had spoken this parable against them, they
sought to arrest Him that very hour. But they were
afraid.[o]
20 So they watched Him closely and sent spies who
pretended to be sincere. They were hoping to catch
Him in His words in order to hand Him over to the
rule and authority of the governor.
21 “Teacher,” they inquired, “we know that You speak
and teach correctly. You show no partiality but teach
the way of God in accordance with the truth.
22 Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”
23 But Jesus saw through their duplicity and said to
them, “Why do you test Me?[p]
24 Show Me a denarius.[q] Whose image and inscription
are on it?” “Caesar’s,” they answered.
25 So Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s,
and to God what is God’s.”
26 And they were unable to trap Him in His words
before the people. And amazed at His answer, they
fell silent.

The Sadducees and the Resurrection

(Matthew 22:23–33; Mark 12:18–27)

27 Then some of the Sadducees, who say there is no
resurrection,[r] came to question Him.

[a] **19:44** Literally *your visitation*
[b] **19:45** Literally *the temple*
[c] **19:45** CT does not include *and buying*.
[d] **19:46** CT *will be*
[e] **19:46** Isaiah 56:7
[f] **19:46** Jeremiah 7:11
[g] **20:1** Literally *the temple*
[h] **20:1** CT and TR *chief priests*
[i] **20:3** CT *a question*
[j] **20:5** TR and GOC *Why then*
[k] **20:13** CT does not include *when they see him* .
[l] **20:14** CT does not include *Come* .
[m] **20:17** Psalm 118:22
[n] **20:19** CT *scribes and chief priests*
[o] **20:19** CT and TR include *of the people.*
[p] **20:23** CT does not include *Why do you test Me?*
[q] **20:24** A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.
[r] **20:27** Or *deny there is a resurrection*

28 “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a
man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children,
the man is to marry his brother’s widow and raise
up offspring for him.[a]
29 Now there were seven brothers. The first one mar-
ried a wife but died childless.
30 Then the second took her as wife, and he died child-
less.[b]
31 And the third married the widow, and in the same
way all seven died, leaving no children.
32 And last of all, the woman died.
33 So then, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be?
For all seven were married to her.”
34 Jesus answered, “The sons of this age marry and are
given in marriage.
35 But those who are considered worthy to share in the
age to come and in the resurrection from the dead
will neither marry nor be given in marriage.
36 In fact, they can no longer die, because they are like
the angels. And since they are sons of the resurrec-
tion, they are sons of God.
37 Even Moses demonstrates that the dead are raised,
in the passage about the burning bush. For he calls
the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and
the God of Jacob.’[c]
38 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to
Him all are alive.”
39 Some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, You have
spoken well!”
40 And[d] they did not dare to question Him any further.

Whose Son Is the Christ?

(Matthew 22:41–46; Mark 12:35–37)

41 Then Jesus declared, “How can it be said that the
Christ is the Son of David?
42 For[e] David himself says in the book of Psalms: ‘The
Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand
43 until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your
feet.”’[f]
44 Thus David calls Him ‘Lord.’ So how can He be
David’s son?”

Beware of the Scribes

(Mark 12:38–40)

45 In the hearing of all the people, Jesus said to His
disciples,[g]
46 “Beware of the scribes. They like to walk around in
long robes, and they love the greetings in the mar-
ketplaces, the chief seats in the synagogues, and the
places of honor at banquets.
47 They defraud widows of their houses,[h] and for a
show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive
greater condemnation.”

21

The Poor Widow’s Offering

(Mark 12:41–44)

1 Then Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their
gifts into the treasury,
2 and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper
coins.[i]
3 “Truly I tell you,” He said, “this poor widow has put
in more than all the others.
4 For they all contributed to God[j] out of their surplus,
but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to
live on.”

Temple Destruction and Other Signs

(Matthew 24:1–8; Mark 13:1–8)

5 As some of the disciples were remarking how the
temple was adorned with beautiful stones and con-
secrated gifts, Jesus said,
6 “As for what you see here, the time will come when
not one stone will be left on another; every one will
be thrown down.”
7 “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things hap-
pen? And what will be the sign that they are about
to take place?”
8 Jesus answered, “See to it that you are not deceived.
For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am
He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Therefore[k] do not follow
them.
9 When you hear of wars and rebellions, do not be
alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end
is not imminent.”

Witnessing to All Nations

(Matthew 24:9–14; Mark 13:9–13)

10 Then He told them, “Nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom.
11 There will be great earthquakes in various places,
famines and pestilences,[l] along with fearful sights
and great signs from heaven.
12 But before all this, they will seize you and persecute
you. On account of My name they will deliver you to
the synagogues and prisons, and they will bring you
before kings and governors.
13 This will be your opportunity to serve as witnesses.
14 So make up your mind not to worry beforehand how
to defend yourselves.
15 For I will give you speech and wisdom that none of
your adversaries will be able to contradict or resist.[m]
16 You will be betrayed even by parents and relatives
and friends and brothers,[n] and some of you will be
put to death.
17 And you will be hated by everyone because of My
name.

[a] **20:28** Deuteronomy 25:5
[b] **20:30** CT does not include *took her as wife, and he died childless.*
[c] **20:37** Exodus 3:6
[d] **20:40** CT literal *For*
[e] **20:42** CT literal *Even*
[f] **20:43** Psalm 110:1
[g] **20:45** SBL and WH *the disciples*
[h] **20:47** Literally *They devour widows’ houses*
[i] **21:2** Greek *two lepta*; a lepton was a Jewish coin of bronze or copper worth about 1/128 of a denarius.
[j] **21:4** CT does not include *to God.*
[k] **21:8** CT does not include *Therefore.*
[l] **21:11** CT *great earthquakes, famines, and pestilences in various places*
[m] **21:15** CT *resist or contradict*
[n] **21:16** CT *parents and brothers and relatives and friends*

18 Yet not even a hair of your head will perish.
19 By your patient endurance you will gain your souls.

The Destruction of Jerusalem

(Matthew 24:15–25; Mark 13:14–23)

20 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies,
you will know that her desolation is near.
21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the moun-
tains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the
country stay out of the city.
22 For these are the days of vengeance, to fulfill all that
is written.
23 How miserable those days will be for pregnant and
nursing mothers! For[a] there will be great distress
upon the land and wrath against this people.
24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led
captive into all the nations. And Jerusalem will be
trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the
Gentiles are fulfilled.

The Return of the Son of Man

(Matthew 24:26–31; Mark 13:24–27)

25 There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars,
and on the earth dismay among the nations, bewil-
dered by the roaring of the sea and the surging of
the waves.
26 Men will faint from fear and anxiety over what is
coming upon the earth, for the powers of the heav-
ens will be shaken.
27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in
a cloud with power and great glory.[b]
28 When these things begin to happen, stand up and lift
up your heads, because your redemption is drawing
near."

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

(Matthew 24:32–35; Mark 13:28–31)

29 Then Jesus told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree
and all the trees.
30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves
and know that summer is near.
31 So also, when you see these things happening, know
that the kingdom of God is near.
32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have happened.
33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will
never pass away.

Be Watchful for the Day

34 But watch yourselves, or your hearts will be
weighed down by dissipation, drunkenness, and the
worries of life — and that day will spring upon you
suddenly like a snare.
35 For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of all
the earth.
36 So keep watch at all times, and pray that you may
be deemed worthy[c] to escape all that is about to
happen and to stand before the Son of Man."
37 Every day Jesus taught at the temple, but every
evening He went out to spend the night on the Mount
of Olives.
38 And early in the morning all the people would come
to hear Him at the temple.[d]

22

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1–5; Mark 14:1–2; John 11:45–57)

1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread,[e] called the
Passover, was approaching,
2 and the chief priests and scribes were looking for a
way to put Jesus to death, for they feared the people.

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:14–16; Mark 14:10–11)

3 Then Satan entered Judas Iscariot, who was one of
the Twelve.
4 And Judas went to discuss with the chief priests[f] and
temple officers how he might betray Jesus to them.
5 They were delighted and agreed to give him money.
6 Judas consented, and began to look for an opportu-
nity to betray Jesus to them in the absence of a
crowd.

Preparing the Passover

(Matthew 26:17–19; Mark 14:12–16)

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the
Passover lamb was to be sacrificed.
8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make
preparations for us to eat the Passover."
9 "Where do You want us to prepare it?" they asked.
10 He answered, "When you enter the city, a man car-
rying a jug of water will meet you. Follow him to the
house he enters,
11 and say to the owner of that house, 'The Teacher
asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the
Passover with My disciples?'
12 And he will show you a large upper room, already
furnished. Make preparations there."
13 So they went and found it just as Jesus had told them.
And they prepared the Passover.

The Last Supper

(Matthew 26:20–30; Mark 14:17–26; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)

14 When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table
with His twelve[g] apostles.
15 And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat
this Passover with you before My suffering.
16 For I tell you that I will not eat it again until it is
fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
17 After taking the cup,[h] He gave thanks and said,
"Take this and divide it among yourselves.
18 For I tell you that I will not drink of the fruit of the
vine until[i] the kingdom of God comes."
19 And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and
gave it to them, saying, "This is My body, given for
you; do this in remembrance of Me."

[a] **21:23** GOC *For at that time*

[b] **21:27** See Daniel 7:13–14.

[c] **21:36** CT *you may have the strength*

[d] **21:38** GOC *on the mount*

[e] **22:1** Literally *the feast of the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[f] **22:4** GOC includes *scribes*.

[g] **22:14** CT does not include *twelve*.

[h] **22:17** Literally *a cup*; GOC *the cup*

[i] **22:18** CT *from now on until*

20 In the same way, after supper He took the cup,
saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood,
which is poured out for you.[a]
21 Look! The hand of My betrayer is with Mine on the
table.
22 Indeed, the Son of Man will go as it has been deter-
mined, but woe to that man who betrays Him."
23 Then they began to question among themselves
which of them was going to do this.

Who Is the Greatest?

24 A dispute also arose among the disciples as to which
of them should be considered the greatest.
25 So Jesus declared, "The kings of the Gentiles lord
it over them, and those in authority over them call
themselves benefactors.
26 But you shall not be like them. Instead, the greatest
among you should be like the youngest, and the one
who leads like the one who serves.
27 For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table
or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines?
But I am among you as one who serves.
28 You are the ones who have stood by Me in My trials.
29 And I bestow on you a kingdom, just as My Father
has bestowed one on Me,
30 so that you may eat and drink at My table[b] and sit
on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

(Matthew 26:31–35; Mark 14:27–31; John 13:36–38)

31 And the Lord said,[c] "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked
to sift all of you like wheat.
32 But I have prayed for you, Simon , that your faith will
not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen
your brothers."
33 "Lord," said Peter, "I am ready to go with You even
to prison and to death."
34 But Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will
certainly not[d] crow today before[e] you have denied
three times that you know Me."
35 Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you out with-
out purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"
"Nothing," they answered.
36 "Now, however," He told them, "the one with a purse
should take it, and likewise a bag; and the one with-
out a sword should sell his cloak and buy one.
37 For I tell you that this Scripture must yet[f] be ful-
filled in Me: 'And He was numbered with the trans-
gressors.'[g] For what is written about Me is reaching
its fulfillment."
38 So they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords."
"That is enough," He answered.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

(Matthew 26:36–46; Mark 14:32–42)

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and
His disciples[h] followed Him.
40 When He came to the place, He told them, "Pray that
you will not enter into temptation."
41 And He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond
them, where He knelt down and prayed,
42 "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet
not My will, but Yours be done."
43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him and
strengthened Him.
44 And in His anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and
His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the
ground.[i]
45 When Jesus rose from prayer and returned to the
disciples,[j] He found them asleep, exhausted from
sorrow.
46 "Why are you sleeping?" He asked. "Get up and pray
so that you will not enter into temptation."

The Betrayal of Jesus

(Matthew 26:47–56; Mark 14:43–52; John 18:1–14)

47 While He was still speaking, a crowd arrived, led
by the man called Judas, one of the Twelve. He ap-
proached Jesus to kiss Him.[k]
48 But Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the
Son of Man with a kiss?"
49 Those around Jesus saw what was about to happen
and said to Him,[l] "Lord, should we strike with our
swords?"
50 And one of them struck the servant of the high
priest, cutting off his right ear.
51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And He
touched the man's ear and healed him.
52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple officers,
and elders who had come for Him, "Have you come
out with swords and clubs as you would against an
outlaw?
53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts,[m] and
you did not lay a hand on Me. But this hour belongs
to you and to the power of darkness."

Peter Denies Jesus

(Matthew 26:69–75; Mark 14:66–72; John 18:15–18)

54 Then they seized Jesus, led Him away, and took Him
into the house of the high priest. And Peter followed
at a distance.
55 When those present had kindled a fire in the middle
of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat
down among them.
56 A servant girl saw him seated in the firelight and
looked intently at him. "This man also was with
Him," she said.

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[a] **22:20** Some manuscripts end verse 19 after *This is My body* and do not include verse 20.

[b] **22:30** CT and TR include *in My kingdom*.

[c] **22:31** CT does not include *And the Lord said*.

[d] **22:34** CT and GOC *will not*

[e] **22:34** CT *until*

[f] **22:37** CT does not include *yet*.

[g] **22:37** Isaiah 53:12

[h] **22:39** CT *the disciples*

[i] **22:44** Some manuscripts do not include verses 43 and 44.

[j] **22:45** Scrivener TR *His disciples*

[k] **22:47** F35 and GOC include *for he had given them this sign: "Whomever I kiss, He is the One."*

[l] **22:49** CT does not include *to Him*.

[m] **22:53** Literally *the temple*

57 But Peter denied Him.[a] "Woman, I do not know
Him," he said.
58 A short time later, someone else saw him and said,
"You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I
am not."
59 About an hour later, another man insisted, "Cer-
tainly this man was with Him, for he too is a
Galilean."
60 "Man, I do not know what you are talking about,"
Peter replied. And immediately, while he was still
speaking, the rooster[b] crowed.
61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter
remembered the word that the Lord had spoken to
him: "Before the rooster crows,[c] you will deny Me
three times."
62 And Peter went outside[d] and wept bitterly.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

(Isaiah 50:4–11; Matthew 27:27–31; Mark 15:16–20; John 19:1–15)

63 The men who were holding Jesus began to mock
Him and beat Him.
64 They blindfolded Him and kept striking Him in the
face and demanding,[e] "Prophesy! Who hit You?"
65 And they said many other blasphemous things
against Him.

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

(Matthew 26:57–68; Mark 14:53–65; John 18:19–24)

66 At daybreak the council of the elders of the people,
both the chief priests and scribes, met together. They
led Jesus into their Sanhedrin[f] and said,
67 "If You are the Christ, tell us." Jesus answered, "If I
tell you, you will not believe.
68 And if I ask you a question, you will not answer Me
nor release Me.[g]
69 But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at
the right hand of the power of God."[h]
70 So they all asked, "Are You then the Son of God?" He
replied, "You say that I am."
71 "Why do we need any more testimony?" they de-
clared. "We have heard it for ourselves from His own
lips."

23

Jesus before Pilate

(Matthew 27:11–14; John 18:28–40)

1 Then the whole council rose and led Jesus away to
Pilate.
2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this
man subverting the nation,[i] forbidding payment
of taxes to Caesar, and proclaiming Himself to be
Christ, a King."
3 So Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"
"You have said so," Jesus replied.
4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,
"I find no basis for a charge against this man."
5 But they kept insisting, "He stirs up the people all over
Judea with His teaching. He began in Galilee and has
come all the way here."

Jesus before Herod

6 When Pilate heard of Galilee,[j] he asked if the man
was a Galilean.
7 And learning that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdic-
tion, he sent Him to Herod, who himself was in
Jerusalem at that time.
8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased. He
had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he
had heard many things[k] about Him and was hoping
to see Him perform a miracle.
9 Herod questioned Jesus at great length, but He gave
no answer.
10 Meanwhile, the chief priests and scribes[l] stood
there, vehemently accusing Him.
11 And even Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and
mocked Him. Dressing Him in a fine robe, they sent
Him back to Pilate.
12 That day Pilate and Herod[m] became friends; before
this time they had been enemies.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

(Matthew 27:15–23; Mark 15:6–11)

13 Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the
rulers, and the people,
14 and said to them, "You brought me this man as one
who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have ex-
amined Him here in your presence and found Him
not guilty of your charges against Him.
15 Neither has Herod, for I sent you back to him.[n] As
you can see, He has done nothing deserving of death.
16 Therefore I will punish Him and release Him."
17 Now Pilate was obliged to release to the people one
prisoner at the feast.[o]
18 But they all cried out in unison: "Away with this
man! Release Barabbas to us!"
19 (Barabbas had been imprisoned for an insurrection
in the city, and for murder.)
20 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate addressed them
again,
21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"
22 A third time he said to them, "What evil has this
man done? I have found in Him no offense worthy
of death. So after I punish Him, I will release Him."
23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices
for Jesus to be crucified. And their clamor and that

[a] **22:57** CT and GOC *Peter denied it*
[b] **22:60** Literally *a rooster*; TR *the rooster*
[c] **22:61** CT includes *today*.
[d] **22:62** CT *he went outside*
[e] **22:64** CT *They blindfolded Him and kept demanding*
[f] **22:66** Or *their Council*
[g] **22:68** CT does not include *Me nor release Me*.
[h] **22:69** See Psalm 110:1.
[i] **23:2** CT *our nation*
[j] **23:6** CT does not include *of Galilee*.
[k] **23:8** CT does not include *many things*.
[l] **23:10** GOC *scribes and chief priests*
[m] **23:12** CT *Herod and Pilate*
[n] **23:15** CT *for he sent Him back to us*
[o] **23:17** Literally *Now it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast*; CT does not include verse 17; see Matthew 27:15 and Mark 15:6.

of the chief priests[a] prevailed.
24 So Pilate sentenced that their demand be met.
25 As they had requested, he released[b] the one imprisoned for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over to their will.

The Crucifixion

(Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:32–44; Mark 15:21–32; John 19:16–27)

26 As the soldiers led Him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene on his way in from the country, and they put the cross on him to carry behind Jesus.
27 A great number of people followed Him, including women who kept mourning and wailing for Him.
28 But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.
29 Look, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore, and breasts that never nursed!'
30 At that time 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"'[c]
31 For if men do these things while the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"
32 Two others, who were criminals, were also led away to be executed with Jesus.
33 When they came to the place called The Skull,[d] they crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on His right and the other on His left.
34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."[e] And they divided up His garments by casting lots.[f]
35 The people stood watching, and the rulers with them [g] sneered at Him,[h] saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the Chosen One of God.[i] "
36 The soldiers also mocked Him and came up to offer Him sour wine.[j]
37 "If You are the King of the Jews," they said, "save Yourself!"
38 Above Him was posted an inscription written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew:[k] THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
39 One of the criminals who hung there heaped abuse on Him. "If You are the Christ," he said, "save Yourself[l] and us!"
40 But the other one rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same judgment?
41 We are punished justly, for we are receiving what our actions deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."
42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord,[m] remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"
43 And Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

The Death of Jesus

(Psalm 31:1–24; Matthew 27:45–56; Mark 15:33–41; John 19:28–30)

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over all the land until the ninth hour.[n]
45 The sun was darkened,[o] and the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.
46 Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit."[p] And when He had said this, He breathed His last.
47 When the centurion saw what had happened, he gave glory to God, saying, "Surely this was a righteous man.[q] "
48 And when all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts.
49 But all those who knew Jesus, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

The Burial of Jesus

(Isaiah 53:9–12; Matthew 27:57–61; Mark 15:42–47; John 19:38–42)

50 Now there was a Council member named Joseph, a good and righteous man,
51 who had not consented to their decision or action. He was from the Judean town of Arimathea and himself[r] was waiting for the kingdom of God.
52 He went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus.
53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had yet been laid.
54 It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was beginning.[s]
55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how His body was placed.
56 Then they returned to prepare spices and perfumes. And they rested on the Sabbath, according to the commandment.

[a] **23:23** CT does not include *and that of the chief priests*.
[b] **23:25** TR *released for them*; GOC *released for them Barabbas*
[c] **23:30** Hosea 10:8
[d] **23:33** Greek *Kranion*; Vulgate *Calvariae*, rendered in some translations as *Calvary*
[e] **23:34** Some manuscripts do not include *Then Jesus said, "Father... what they are doing."*
[f] **23:34** See Psalm 22:18.
[g] **23:35** CT does not include *with them*.
[h] **23:35** See Psalm 22:7.
[i] **23:35** CT *the Christ of God, the Chosen One*
[j] **23:36** Or *to offer Him wine vinegar*
[k] **23:38** CT does not include *written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew*; see John 19:20.
[l] **23:39** CT *"Are You not the Christ?" he said. "Save Yourself*
[m] **23:42** CT *Then he said, "Lord*
[n] **23:44** That is, from noon until three in the afternoon
[o] **23:45** CT could also be translated as *failed* or *was obscured*.
[p] **23:46** Psalm 31:5
[q] **23:47** Or *an innocent man*
[r] **23:51** CT does not include *himself*.
[s] **23:54** Or *was about to begin*

24

The Resurrection

(Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; John 20:1–9)

1 On the first day of the week,[a] very early in the morning, they and certain other women with them came[b] to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.
2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,
3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.[c]
4 While they were puzzling[d] over this, suddenly two men in radiant apparel stood beside them.
5 As the women bowed their faces to the ground in terror, the two men asked them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?
6 He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee:
7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'"
8 Then they remembered His words.
9 And when they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.
10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.
11 But their[e] words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women.
12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. And after bending down and seeing only the linen cloths lying there,[f] he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

The Road to Emmaus

(Mark 16:12–13)

13 That same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[g] from Jerusalem.
14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.
15 And as they talked and deliberated, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them.
16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.
17 He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along with sadness on your faces?"[h]
18 The one named Cleopas[i] asked Him, "Are You the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in recent days?"
19 "What things?" He asked. "The events involving Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "This man was a prophet, powerful in speech and action before God and all the people.
20 Our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and they crucified Him.
21 But we were hoping He was the One who would redeem Israel. And besides all this, today[j] is the third day since these things took place.
22 Furthermore, some of our women astounded us. They were at the tomb early,[k]
23 but they did not find His body. They came and told us they had seen a vision of angels, who said that Jesus was alive.
24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had described. But Him they did not see."
25 Then Jesus said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then to enter His glory?"
27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was written in all the Scriptures about Himself.
28 As they approached the village where they were headed, He seemed to be going farther.
29 But they pleaded with Him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So He went in to stay with them.
30 While He was reclining at the table with them, He took bread, spoke a blessing and broke it, and gave it to them.
31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus — and He disappeared from their sight.
32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us[l] as He spoke with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"
33 And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, gathered together
34 and saying, "The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon!"
35 Then the two told what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

(John 20:19–23; 1 John 1:1–4)

36 While they were describing these events, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."[m]
37 But they were startled and frightened, thinking they had seen a spirit.
38 "Why are you troubled," Jesus asked, "and why do doubts arise in your hearts?
39 Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself. Touch Me and see — for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."
40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and feet.

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[a] **24:1** Literally *But on the first of the Sabbaths,*

[b] **24:1** CT *they came*

[c] **24:3** SBL does not include *of the Lord Jesus.*

[d] **24:4** Or *were greatly perplexed*

[e] **24:11** CT literal *these*

[f] **24:12** CT does not include *lying there.*

[g] **24:13** Greek *being sixty stadia in distance*; that is, approximately 6.9 miles or 11.1 kilometers

[h] **24:17** CT *as you walk along?" And they stood still, with sadness on their faces.*

[i] **24:18** CT *One of them, named Cleopas*

[j] **24:21** CT *it*

[k] **24:22** CT *early this morning*

[l] **24:32** WH does not include *within us.*

[m] **24:36** SBL does not include *and said, "Peace be with you."*

41 While they were still in disbelief because of their
joy and amazement, He asked them, “Do you have
anything here to eat?”
42 So they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some
honeycomb,[a]
43 and He took them and ate them[b] in front of them.
44 Jesus said to them, “These are the words I spoke
to you while I was still with you: Everything must
be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of
Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”
45 Then He opened their minds to understand the
Scriptures.
46 And He told them, “This is what is written: And thus
it is necessary that[c] the Christ will suffer and rise
from the dead on the third day,
47 and in His name repentance and[d] forgiveness of
sins will be proclaimed to all nations, beginning in
Jerusalem.
48 You are witnesses of these things.
49 And behold,[e] I am sending the promise of My Father
upon you. But remain in the city of Jerusalem[f] until
you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension

(Mark 16:19–20; Acts 1:6–11)

50 When Jesus had led them out as far as Bethany, He
lifted up His hands and blessed them.
51 While He was blessing them, He left them and was
carried up into heaven.
52 And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem
with great joy,
53 praising and[g] blessing God continually in the tem-
ple.

[a] **24:42** CT does not include *and some honeycomb*.

[b] **24:43** CT *He took (it) and ate (it)*

[c] **24:46** CT does not include *And thus it is necessary that*.

[d] **24:47** NA, NE, and WH *repentance for*

[e] **24:49** TH does not include *And behold* .

[f] **24:49** CT does not include *of Jerusalem*.

[g] **24:53** CT does not include *praising and*.

John

The Gospel According to John

1

The Beginning

(Genesis 1:1–2; Hebrews 11:1–3)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was with God in the beginning.
3 Through Him all things were made, and without Him
nothing was made that has been made.
4 In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.
5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome[a] it.

The Witness of John

6 There came a man who was sent from God. His name
was John.
7 He came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that
through him everyone might believe.
8 He himself was not the Light, but he came to testify
about the Light.
9 The true Light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
10 He was in the world, and though the world was
made through Him, the world did not recognize
Him.
11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive
Him.
12 But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed
in His name, He gave the right to become children of
God —
13 children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will
of man, but born of God.

The Word Became Flesh

(Psalm 84:1–12)

14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling
among us.[b] We have seen His glory, the glory of the
one and only Son[c] from the Father, full of grace and
truth.
15 John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying,
"This is He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me
has surpassed me because He was before me.'"
16 From His fullness we have all received grace upon
grace.
17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and
truth came through Jesus Christ.
18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son,
[d] who is at the Father's side,[e] has made Him known.

The Mission of John the Baptist

(Isaiah 40:1–5; Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20)

19 And this was John's testimony when the Jews of
Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who
are you?"
20 He did not refuse to confess, but openly declared, "I
am not the Christ."
21 "Then who are you?" they inquired. "Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He
answered, "No."
22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need an
answer for those who sent us. What do you say about
yourself?"
23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet: "I
am a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make
straight the way for the Lord.'"[f]
24 Then those whom the Pharisees had sent[g]
25 asked him, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not
the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"
26 "I baptize with[h] water," John replied, "but among
you stands One you do not know.
27 He is the One who comes after me, who is preferred
before me,[i] the straps of whose sandals I am not
worthy to untie."
28 All this happened at Bethany[j] beyond the Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

Jesus the Lamb of God

(Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and
said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
of the world!
30 This is He of whom I said, 'A man who comes after
me has surpassed me because He was before me.'
31 I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came
baptizing with water was that He might be revealed
to Israel."
32 Then John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending
from heaven like a dove and resting on Him.
33 I myself did not know Him, but the One who sent me
to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom
you see the Spirit descend and rest is He who will
baptize with the Holy Spirit.'
34 I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.[k] "

The First Disciples

(Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11)

35 The next day John was there again with two of his
disciples.
36 When he saw Jesus walking by, he said, "Look, the
Lamb of God!"
37 And when the two disciples heard him say this, they
followed Jesus.
38 Jesus turned and saw them following. "What do you
want?" He asked. They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which
means Teacher), "where are You staying?"

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[a] **1:5** Or *comprehended*

[b] **1:14** Or *and tabernacled among us*

[c] **1:14** Or *the Only Begotten* or *the Unique One*

[d] **1:18** Or *the only begotten Son*; CT *the only begotten God*

[e] **1:18** Literally *in the Father's bosom*

[f] **1:23** Isaiah 40:3 (see also LXX)

[g] **1:24** CT *those sent from the Pharisees* or *the Pharisees who had been sent*

[h] **1:26** Or *in*; also in verse 31 and twice in 33

[i] **1:27** CT does not include *who is preferred before me.*

[j] **1:28** F35 *Bithabara*; TR *Bethabara*

[k] **1:34** SBL *the Chosen One of God*

39 "Come and see," He replied. So they went and saw
where He was staying, and spent that day with Him.
It was about the tenth hour.[a]
40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two
who heard John's testimony and followed Jesus.
41 He first found his brother Simon and told him, "We
have found the Messiah" (which is translated as
Christ).
42 Andrew brought him to Jesus, who looked at him
and said, "You are Simon son of Jonah.[b] You will be
called Cephas" (which is translated as Peter).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to set out for Galilee.
Finding Philip, He told him, "Follow Me."
44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as
Andrew and Peter.
45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have
found the One Moses wrote about in the Law, the
One the prophets foretold — Jesus of Nazareth, the
son of Joseph."
46 "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"
Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.
47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of
him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no
deceit."
48 "How do You know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus
replied, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under
the fig tree."
49 "Rabbi," Nathanael answered, "You are the Son of
God! You are the King of Israel!"
50 Jesus said to him, "Do you believe just because I said
to you,[c] 'I saw you under the fig tree'? You will see
greater things than these."
51 Then He declared, "Truly, truly, I tell you, from now
on[d] you will all see heaven open and the angels of
God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."[e]

2

The Wedding at Cana

1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in
Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,
2 and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to
the wedding.
3 When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to Him,
"They have no more wine."
4 "Woman, what is that to you and to Me?" Jesus
replied. "My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells
you."
6 Now six stone water jars had been set there for the
Jewish rites of purification. Each could hold from
twenty to thirty gallons.[f]
7 Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So
they filled them to the brim.
8 "Now draw some out," He said, "and take it to the
master of the banquet." They did so,
9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that
had been turned into wine. He did not know where
it was from, but the servants who had drawn the
water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside
10 and said, "Everyone serves the fine wine first, and
then the cheap wine after the guests are drunk. But
you have saved the fine wine until now!"
11 Jesus performed this, the first of His signs, at Cana in
Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples
believed in Him.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Matthew 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–19; Luke 19:45–48)

12 After this, He went down to Capernaum with His
mother and brothers and His disciples, and they
stayed there a few days.
13 When the Jewish Passover was near, Jesus went up
to Jerusalem.
14 In the temple courts[g] He found men selling cattle,
sheep, and doves, and money changers seated at
their tables.
15 So He made a whip out of cords and drove all from
the temple courts, both sheep and cattle. He poured
out the coins of the money changers and overturned
their tables.
16 To those selling doves He said, "Get these out of
here! How dare you turn My Father's house into a
marketplace!"
17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for
Your house will consume Me."[h]
18 On account of this, the Jews demanded, "What sign
can You show us to prove Your authority to do these
things?"
19 Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three
days I will raise it up again."
20 "This temple took forty-six years to build," the Jews
replied, "and You are going to raise it up in three
days?"
21 But Jesus was speaking about the temple of His body.
22 After He was raised from the dead, His disciples
remembered that He had said this.[i] Then they be-
lieved the Scripture and the word that Jesus had
spoken.
23 While He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast,
many people saw the signs He was doing and be-
lieved in His name.
24 But Jesus did not entrust Himself to them, for He
knew them all.
25 He did not need any testimony about man, for He
knew what was in a man.

3

Jesus and Nicodemus

(Genesis 22:1–10; Romans 5:6–11)

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicode-
mus, a leader of the Jews.

[a] **1:39** That is, about four in the afternoon

[b] **1:42** CT *of John*

[c] **1:50** CT *I told you*

[d] **1:51** Or *before long*; CT does not include *from now on*.

[e] **1:51** See Genesis 28:12.

[f] **2:6** Greek *two or three metretae*; that is, approximately 20.8 to 31.2 gallons (78.8 to 118.1 liters)

[g] **2:14** Literally *the temple*; also in verse 15

[h] **2:17** TR *has consumed Me*; Psalm 69:9

[i] **2:22** TR includes *to them*.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know
that You are a teacher who has come from God. For
no one could perform the signs You are doing if God
were not with him.”
3 Jesus replied, “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see
the kingdom of God unless he is born again.[a] ”
4 “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus
asked. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second
time to be born?”
5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can
enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water
and the Spirit.
6 Flesh is born of flesh, but spirit is born of the Spirit.
7 Do not be amazed that I said, ‘You[b] must be born
again.’
8 The wind blows where it wishes. You hear its sound,
but you do not know where it comes from or where
it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”
9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.
10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and you do not
understand these things?
11 Truly, truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know,
and we testify to what we have seen, and yet you
people do not accept our testimony.
12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do
not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about
heavenly things?
13 No one has ascended into heaven except the One
who descended from heaven— the Son of Man, who
is in heaven.[c]
14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness,
so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
15 that everyone who believes in Him may not perish,
but[d] may have eternal life.[e]
16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and
only[f] Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall
not perish but have eternal life.
17 For God did not send His Son[g] into the world to
condemn the world, but to save the world through
Him.
18 Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but
whoever does not believe has already been con-
demned, because he has not believed in the name of
God’s one and only Son.
19 And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the
world, but men loved the darkness rather than the
Light because their deeds were evil.
20 Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does
not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will
be exposed.
21 But whoever practices the truth comes into the
Light, so that it may be seen clearly that what he has
done has been accomplished in God.”[h]

John’s Testimony about Jesus

22 After this, Jesus and His disciples went into the
Judean countryside, where He spent some time with
them and baptized.
23 Now John was also baptizing at Aenon near Salem,
[i] because the water was plentiful there, and people
kept coming to be baptized.
24 (For John had not yet been thrown into prison.)
25 Then a dispute arose between John’s disciples and a
certain Jew[j] over the issue of ceremonial washing.
26 So John’s disciples came to him and said, “Look,
Rabbi, the One who was with you beyond the Jordan,
the One you testified about — He is baptizing, and
everyone is going to Him.”
27 John replied, “A man can receive only what is given
him from heaven.
28 You yourselves can testify[k] that I said, ‘I am not the
Christ, but am sent ahead of Him.’
29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend of
the bridegroom stands and listens for him, and is
overjoyed to hear the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is
mine, and it is now complete.
30 He must increase; I must decrease.
31 The One who comes from above is above all. The
one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and
speaks as one from the earth. The One who comes
from heaven is above all.[l]
32 He testifies to what He has seen and heard, yet no
one accepts His testimony.
33 Whoever accepts His testimony has certified that
God is truthful.
34 For the One whom God has sent speaks the words of
God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.
35 The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in
His hands.
36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Who-
ever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the
wrath of God remains[m] on him.”[n]

4

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

1 When the Lord[o] realized that the Pharisees were
aware that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more
disciples than John
2 (although it was not Jesus who baptized, but His dis-
ciples),
3 He left Judea and went away[p] to Galilee.
4 Now He had to pass through Samaria.
5 So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near
the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son
Joseph.

[a] **3:3** Or *born from above*; also in verse 7
[b] **3:7** The Greek word for *you* is plural; also in verse 12.
[c] **3:13** CT does not include *who is in heaven.*
[d] **3:15** CT does not include *may not perish, but.*
[e] **3:15** Or *everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.*
[f] **3:16** Or only begotten or *unique* ; also in verse 18
[g] **3:17** CT literal *the Son*
[h] **3:21** Some translators close this quotation after verse 15.
[i] **3:23** CT, GOC, ALT, and TR *Salim*
[j] **3:25** TR *and the Jews*
[k] **3:28** CT literal, GOC, F35, and TR *testify to me*
[l] **3:31** Tischendorf *The One comes from heaven.*
[m] **3:36** F35 *will remain*
[n] **3:36** Some translators close this quotation after verse 30.
[o] **4:1** NA, SBL, and F35 *When Jesus*
[p] **4:3** CT *went away again* or *returned*

6 Since Jacob's well was there, Jesus, weary from His
journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth
hour.[a]
7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus
said to her, "Give Me a drink."
8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)
9 "You are a Jew," said the woman. "How can You ask
for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews
do not associate with Samaritans.)[b]
10 Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God and
who is asking you for a drink, you would have asked
Him, and He would have given you living water."
11 "Sir," the woman replied, "You have nothing to draw
with and the well is deep. Where then will You get
this living water?
12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us
this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons
and his livestock?"
13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water
will be thirsty again.
14 But whoever drinks the water I give him will never
thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in
him a fount of water springing up to eternal life."
15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water so
that I will not get thirsty and have to keep coming
here to draw water."
16 Jesus told her, "Go, call your husband and come
back."
17 "I have no husband," the woman replied. Jesus said
to her, "You are correct to say that you have no
husband.
18 In fact, you have had five husbands, and the man
you now have is not your husband. You have spoken
truthfully."
19 "Sir," the woman said, "I see that You are a prophet.
20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you
Jews say that the place where one must worship is
in Jerusalem."
21 "Believe Me, woman," Jesus replied, "a time is com-
ing when you will worship the Father neither on this
mountain nor in Jerusalem.
22 You worship what you do not know; we worship
what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.
23 But a time is coming and has now come when the
true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and
in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to
worship Him.
24 God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him
in spirit and in truth."
25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah"(called
Christ) "is coming. When He comes, He will explain
everything to us."
26 Jesus answered, "I who speak to you am He."

The Disciples Return and Marvel

27 Just then His disciples returned and were surprised
that He was speaking with a woman. But no one
asked Him, "What do You want from her?" or "Why
are You talking with her?"
28 Then the woman left her water jar, went back into
the town, and said to the people,
29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.
Could this be the Christ?"
30 So they left the town and made their way toward
Jesus.
31 Meanwhile the disciples urged Him, "Rabbi, eat
something."
32 But He told them, "I have food to eat that you know
nothing about."
33 So the disciples asked one another, "Could someone
have brought Him food?"
34 Jesus explained, "My food is to do the will of Him
who sent Me and to finish His work.
35 Do you not say, 'There are still[c] four months until
the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at
the fields, for they are ripe[d] for harvest.
36 Already the reaper draws his wages and gathers a
crop for eternal life, so that both[e] the sower and the
reaper may rejoice together.
37 For in this case the saying 'One sows and another
reaps' is true.
38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for;
others have done the hard work, and now you have
taken up their labor."

Many Samaritans Believe

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in
Jesus because of the woman's testimony, "He told me
everything I ever did."
40 So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked
Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days.
41 And many more believed because of His message.
42 They said to the woman, "We now believe not only
because of your words; we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this man truly is the Christ,[f] the
Savior of the world."

Jesus Heals the Official's Son

(Matthew 8:5–13; Luke 7:1–10)

43 After two days, Jesus left and went to[g] Galilee.
44 Now He Himself had testified that a prophet has no
honor in his own hometown.
45 Yet when He arrived, the Galileans welcomed Him.
They had seen all the great things He had done in
Jerusalem at the feast, for they had gone there as
well.
46 So once again Jesus[h] came to Cana in Galilee, where
He had turned the water into wine. And there was a
royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.
47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to
Galilee, he went and begged Him to come down and
heal his son, who was about to die.
48 Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and
wonders, you will never believe."
49 "Sir," the official said, "come down before my child
dies."

[a] **4:6** That is, about noon

[b] **4:9** Tischendorf does not include this sentence.

[c] **4:35** F35 does not include *still*.

[d] **4:35** Literally *white*

[e] **4:36** CT does not include *both* .

[f] **4:42** CT does not include *the Christ*.

[g] **4:43** CT *left for*

[h] **4:46** CT *He*

50 "Go," said Jesus. "Your son will live." The man took
Jesus at His word and departed.
51 And while he was still on the way, his servants met
him with the news: "Your boy is alive."[a]
52 So he inquired as to the hour when his son had
recovered, and they told him, "The fever left him
yesterday at the seventh hour.[b] "
53 Then the father realized that this was the very hour
in which Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." And
he and all his household believed.
54 This was now the second sign that Jesus performed
after coming from Judea into Galilee.

5

The Pool of Bethesda

1 Some time later came the feast[c] of the Jews, and Jesus
went up to Jerusalem.
2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool
with five covered colonnades, which in Hebrew[d] is
called Bethesda.[e]
3 On these walkways[f] lay a great number of the sick,
the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed, awaiting the
moving of the water.[g]
4 For from time to time an angel descended into the
pool and stirred the water. As soon as the water was
stirred, the first to enter the pool would be healed of
his disease.[h]
5 One man there had been an invalid for thirty-eight
years.
6 When Jesus saw him lying there and realized that he
had spent a long time in this condition, He asked
him, "Do you want to get well?"
7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me
into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am
on my way, someone else goes in before me."
8 Then Jesus told him, "Get up, pick up your mat, and
walk."
9 Immediately the man was made well, and he picked
up his mat and began to walk. Now this happened
on the Sabbath day,
10 so the Jews said to the man who had been healed,
"This is the Sabbath! It is unlawful for you to carry
your mat."
11 But he answered, "The man who made me well told
me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"
12 "Who is this man who told you to pick up your mat
[i] and walk?" they asked.
13 But the man who was healed did not know who it
was, for Jesus had slipped away while the crowd was
there.
14 Afterward, Jesus found the man at the temple and
said to him, "See, you have been made well. Stop
sinning, or something worse may happen to you."
15 And the man went away and told the Jews that it was
Jesus who had made him well.

The Father and the Son

16 Now because Jesus was doing these things on the
Sabbath, the Jews began to persecute Him and were
seeking to kill Him.[j]
17 But Jesus answered them, "To this very day My
Father is at His work, and I too am working."
18 Because of this, the Jews tried all the harder to kill
Him. Not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He
was even calling God His own Father, making Him-
self equal with God.
19 So Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, the Son can
do nothing by Himself, unless He sees the Father
doing it. For whatever the Father does, the Son also
does.
20 The Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does.
And to your amazement, He will show Him even
greater works than these.
21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them
life, so also the Son gives life to whom He wishes.
22 Furthermore, the Father judges no one, but has as-
signed all judgment to the Son,
23 so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the
Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not
honor the Father who sent Him.
24 Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears My word and
believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will
not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed
over from death to life.
25 Truly, truly, I tell you, the hour is coming and has
now come when the dead will hear the voice of the
Son of God, and those who hear will live.
26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so also He has
granted the Son to have life in Himself.
27 And He has given Him authority to execute judg-
ment, because He is the Son of Man.
28 Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming
when all who are in their graves will hear His voice
29 and come out — those who have done good to the
resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to
the resurrection of judgment.[k]
30 I can do nothing by Myself; I judge only as I hear.
And My judgment is just, because I do not seek My
own will, but the will of the Father[l] who sent Me.

Testimonies about Jesus

31 If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not valid.
32 There is another who testifies about Me, and I know
that His testimony about Me is valid.
33 You have sent to John, and he has testified to the
truth.
34 Even though I do not accept human testimony, I say
these things so that you may be saved.
35 John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you
were willing for a season to bask in his light.

[a] **4:51** CT *with the news that his boy was alive*

[b] **4:52** That is, one in the afternoon

[c] **5:1** ALT, CT, and TR *there was a feast*

[d] **5:2** Or *in Aramaic*

[e] **5:2** NA, NE, and WH *Bethzatha*

[f] **5:3** Literally *In these*

[g] **5:3** CT does not include *awaiting the moving of the water.*

[h] **5:4** CT does not include verse 4.

[i] **5:12** CT *to pick it up*

[j] **5:16** CT does not include *and were seeking to kill Him.*

[k] **5:29** See Daniel 12:2.

[l] **5:30** CT *of Him*

36 But I have testimony more substantial than that of
John. For the works that the Father has given Me to
accomplish — the very works I am doing — testify
about Me that the Father has sent Me.
37 And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified
about Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen
His form,
38 nor does His word abide in you, because you do not
believe the One He sent.

The Witness of Scripture

(Luke 16:19–31)

39 You pore over the Scriptures because you presume
that by them you possess eternal life. These are the
very words that testify about Me,
40 yet you refuse to come to Me to have life.
41 I do not accept glory from men,
42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God
within you.
43 I have come in My Father's name, and you have not
received Me; but if someone else comes in his own
name, you will receive him.
44 How can you believe if you accept glory from one
another,[a] yet do not seek the glory that comes from
the only God?
45 Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father.
Your accuser is Moses, in whom you have put your
hope.
46 If you had believed Moses, you would believe Me,
because he wrote about Me.
47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how will
you believe what I say?"

6

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

(Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17)

1 After this, Jesus crossed to the other side of the Sea of
Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias).
2 A large crowd followed Him because they saw His
signs[b] He was performing on the sick.
3 Then Jesus went up on the mountain and sat down
with His disciples.
4 Now the Jewish Feast of the Passover was near.
5 When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming
toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where can we buy
bread for these people to eat?"
6 But He was asking this to test him, for He knew what
He was about to do.
7 Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii[c] would not
buy enough bread for each of them[d] to have a small
piece."
8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother,
said to Him,
9 "Here is a boy with five barley loaves and two small
fish. But what difference will these make among so
many?"
10 "Have the people sit down," Jesus said. Now there
was plenty of grass in that place, so the men sat
down, about five thousand of them.
11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distrib-
uted them to the disciples, and the disciples[e] to
those who were seated— and the fish— as much as
they wanted.
12 And when everyone was full, He said to His disci-
ples, "Gather the pieces that are left over, so that
nothing will be wasted."
13 So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with
the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those
who had eaten.
14 When the people saw the sign[f] that Jesus had
performed,[g] they began to say, "Truly this is the
Prophet who is to come into the world."
15 Then Jesus, realizing that they were about to come
and make Him king by force, withdrew[h] to a moun-
tain by Himself.

Jesus Walks on Water

(Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52)

16 When evening came, His disciples went down to the
sea,
17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Caper-
naum. It was already dark, and Jesus had not gone
out[i] to them.
18 A strong wind was blowing, and the sea grew agi-
tated.
19 When they had rowed about three or four miles,[j]
they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the
sea — and they were terrified.
20 But Jesus spoke up: "It is I; do not be afraid."
21 Then they were willing to take Him into the boat,
and at once the boat reached the shore where they
were heading.

Jesus the Bread of Life

22 The next day, the crowd that had remained on the
other side of the sea realized that no other boat
had been there except the one that His disciples had
entered,[k] and that Jesus had not boarded it with His
disciples, but they had gone away alone.
23 Then other boats, which were from Tiberias,[l]
landed near the place where the people had eaten
the bread after the Lord had given thanks.
24 So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His
disciples were there, they got into the boats and
went to Capernaum to look for Him.
25 When they found Him on the other side of the sea,
they asked Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

[a] **5:44** F35 *from others*

[b] **6:2** CT *the signs*

[c] **6:7** A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.

[d] **6:7** CT literal does not include *of them.*

[e] **6:11** CT does not include *to the disciples, and the disciples.*

[f] **6:14** WH *signs*

[g] **6:14** SBL, NA, NE, and WH *He had performed*

[h] **6:15** GOC, CT, F35, and TR *withdrew again*

[i] **6:17** CT *had not yet gone out*

[j] **6:19** Greek *about twenty-five or thirty stadia*; that is, approximately 2.87 to 3.45 miles (4.62 to 5.55 kilometers)

[k] **6:22** CT does not include *except the one that His disciples had entered.*

[l] **6:23** NA and TH *However, some boats from Tiberias*

26 Jesus replied, “Truly, truly, I tell you, it is not because
you saw these signs that you are looking for Me, but
because you ate the loaves and had your fill.
27 Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that
endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will
give you. For on Him God the Father has placed His
seal of approval.”
28 Then they inquired, “What must we do to perform
the works of God?”
29 Jesus replied, “The work of God is this: to believe in
the One He has sent.”
30 So they asked Him, “What sign then will You per-
form, so that we may see it and believe You? What
will You do?
31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is
written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’[a] ”
32 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I tell you, it was
not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but
it is My Father who gives you the true bread from
heaven.
33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from
heaven and gives life to the world.”
34 “Sir,” they said, “give us this bread at all times.”
35 Jesus answered, “I am the bread of life. Whoever
comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever be-
lieves in Me will never thirst.
36 But as I stated, you have seen Me and still you do not
believe.
37 Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and
the one who comes to Me I will never drive away.
38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My
own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me.
39 And this is the will of the Father[b] who sent Me, that
I shall lose none of those He has given Me, but raise
them up at the last day.
40 And it is the will of Him who sent Me[c] that everyone
who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have
eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”
41 At this, the Jews began to grumble about Jesus be-
cause He had said, “I am the bread that came down
from heaven.”
42 They were asking, “Is this not Jesus, the son of
Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How
then can He say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”
43 “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus therefore
[d] replied.
44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent
Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.
45 It is written in the Prophets: ‘And they will all
be taught by God.’[e] Therefore[f] everyone who has
heard the Father and learned from Him comes to Me
—
46 not that anyone has seen the Father except the One
who is from God; only He has seen the Father.
47 Truly, truly, I tell you, he who believes in Me[g] has
eternal life.
48 I am the bread of life.
49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, yet
they died.
50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so
that anyone may eat of it and not die.
51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And
this bread, which I will give for the life of the world,
is My flesh.”
52 At this, the Jews began to argue among themselves,
“How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”
53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I tell you, unless
you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of
Man, you have no life in you.
54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has
eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.
55 For My flesh is truly[h] food, and My blood is truly
drink.
56 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood re-
mains in Me, and I in him.
57 Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because
of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will
live because of Me.
58 This is the bread that came down from heaven.
Unlike your fathers, who ate the manna and died,[i]
the one who eats this bread[j] will live forever.”

Many Disciples Turn Back

(Matthew 8:18–22; Luke 9:57–62; Luke 14:25–33)

59 Jesus said this while teaching in the synagogue in
Capernaum.
60 On hearing it, many of His disciples said, “This is a
difficult teaching. Who can accept it?”
61 Aware that His disciples were grumbling about this
teaching , Jesus asked them, “Does this offend you?
62 Then what will happen if you see the Son of Man
ascend to where He was before?
63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The
words I speak[k] to you are spirit and they are life.
64 However, there are some of you who do not believe.”
(For Jesus had known from the beginning which of
them did not believe and who would betray Him.)
65 Then Jesus said, “This is why I told you that no one
can come to Me unless My Father[l] has granted it
to him.”
66 From that time on many of His disciples turned back
and no longer walked with Him.

Peter’s Confession of Faith

(Matthew 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30; Luke 9:18–20)

67 So Jesus asked the Twelve, “Do you want to leave
too?”
68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go?
You have the words of eternal life.

[a] **6:31** Psalm 78:24; see also Exodus 16:4.
[b] **6:39** CT *of Him*
[c] **6:40** CT *For it is My Father’s will*
[d] **6:43** CT does not include *therefore.*
[e] **6:45** Isaiah 54:13
[f] **6:45** CT does not include *Therefore.*
[g] **6:47** CT does not include *in Me* .
[h] **6:55** CT *real*; twice in this verse
[i] **6:58** CT literal *the fathers, who ate and died*
[j] **6:58** F35 *bread of Mine*
[k] **6:63** CT *have spoken*
[l] **6:65** CT *the Father*

69 We believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son
of the living God.[a] ”
70 Jesus answered them, “Have I not chosen you, the
Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!”
71 He was speaking about Judas Iscariot, the son of
Simon.[b] For although Judas was one of the Twelve,
he was later to betray Jesus.

7

Jesus Teaches at the Feast

1 After this, Jesus traveled throughout Galilee. He did
not want to travel in Judea, because the Jews there
were trying to kill Him.
2 However, the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles[c] was near.
3 So Jesus’ brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go to
Judea, so that Your disciples there may see the works
You are doing.
4 For no one who wants to be known publicly acts in
secret. Since You are doing these things, show Your-
self to the world.”
5 For even His own brothers did not believe in Him.
6 Therefore Jesus told them, “Although your time is
always at hand, My time has not yet come.
7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me, because
I testify that its works are evil.
8 Go up to the feast on your own. I am not yet[d] going
up to this feast, because My time has not yet come.”
9 Having said this to them,[e] Jesus remained in Galilee.
10 But after His brothers had gone up to the feast, He
also went — not publicly, but in secret.
11 So the Jews were looking for Him at the feast and
asking, “Where is He?”
12 Many in the crowds were whispering about Him.
Some said, “He is a good man.” But others replied,
“No, He deceives the people.”
13 Yet no one would speak publicly about Him for fear
of the Jews.
14 About halfway through the feast, Jesus went up to
the temple courts[f] and began to teach.
15 The Jews were amazed and asked, “How did this
man attain such learning without having studied?”
16 “My teaching is not My own,” Jesus replied. “It comes
from Him who sent Me.
17 If anyone desires to do His will, he will know
whether My teaching is from God or whether I speak
on My own.
18 He who speaks on his own authority seeks his own
glory, but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent
Him is a man of truth; in Him there is no falsehood.
19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you
keeps it. Why are you trying to kill Me?”
20 “You have a demon,” the crowd replied. “Who is
trying to kill You?”
21 Jesus answered them, “I did one miracle, and you
are all amazed.
22 But because Moses gave you circumcision, you cir-
cumcise a boy on the Sabbath (not that it is from
Moses, but from the patriarchs.)
23 If a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that
the law of Moses will not be broken, why are you
angry with Me for making the whole man well on
the Sabbath?
24 Stop judging by outward appearances, and start
judging justly.”

Is Jesus the Christ?

25 Then some of the people of Jerusalem began to say,
“Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?
26 Yet here He is, speaking publicly, and they are not
saying anything to Him. Have the rulers truly recog-
nized that this is the Christ?
27 But we know where this man is from. When the
Christ comes, no one will know where He is from.”
28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried
out, “You know Me, and you know where I am from.
I have not come of My own accord, but He who sent
Me is true. You do not know Him,
29 but I know Him, because I am from Him and He sent
Me.”
30 So they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on
Him, because His hour had not yet come.
31 Many in the crowd, however, believed in Him and
said, “When the Christ comes, will He perform more
signs than this man?”
32 When the Pharisees heard the crowd whispering
these things about Jesus, they and the chief priests[g]
sent officers to arrest Him.
33 So Jesus said,[h] “I am with you only a little while
longer, and then I am going to the One who sent Me.
34 You will look for Me, but you will not find Me; and
where I am, you cannot come.”
35 At this, the Jews said to one another, “Where does
He intend to go that we will not find Him? Will He
go where the Jews are dispersed among the Greeks,
[i] and teach the Greeks?
36 What does He mean by saying, ‘You will look for
Me, but you will not find Me,’ and, ‘Where I am, you
cannot come’?”

Living Water

37 On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood
up and called out in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty,
let him come to Me and drink.
38 Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said:
‘Streams of living water will flow from within him.’”
39 He was speaking about the Spirit, whom those who
believed in Him were later to receive. For the Holy
Spirit had not yet been given,[j] because Jesus had
not yet been glorified.

[a] **6:69** CT *You are the Christ, the Holy One of God*

[b] **6:71** CT *Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot*

[c] **7:2** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Booths* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering*(see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22).

[d] **7:8** NA and SBL *I am not*

[e] **7:9** CT *Having said this*

[f] **7:14** Literally *the temple*; also in verse 28

[g] **7:32** Literally *the Pharisees and the chief priests*; CT literal *the chief priests and the Pharisees*

[h] **7:33** TR *said to them*

[i] **7:35** Literally *Will He go to the Diaspora among the Greeks*; the Jewish people living outside the land of Israel since the Babylonian exile were referred to as *the Diaspora.*

[j] **7:39** Literally *the Holy Spirit was not yet*; CT *the Spirit was not yet*

Division over Jesus

40 On hearing these words, many of the people therefore said,[a] "This is truly the Prophet."
41 Others declared, "This is the Christ." But still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee?
42 Doesn't the Scripture say that the Christ will come from the line of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?[b] "
43 So there was division in the crowd because of Jesus.
44 Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him.

The Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders

45 Then the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring Him in?"
46 "Never has anyone spoken like this man!" the officers answered.
47 "Have you also been deceived?" replied the Pharisees.
48 "Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in Him?
49 But this crowd that does not know the law— they are under a curse."
50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus by night[c] and who himself was one of them, asked,
51 "Does our law convict a man without first hearing from him to determine what he has done?"
52 "Aren't you also from Galilee?" they replied. "Look into it, and you will see that no prophet comes out of Galilee."[d]
53 Then each went to his own home.

8

The Woman Caught in Adultery

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
2 Early in the morning[e] He went back into the temple courts.[f] All the people came to Him, and He sat down to teach them.
3 The scribes and Pharisees, however, brought to Him [g] a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before them
4 and to test Him they said,[h] "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.
5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. So what do You say?"
6 They said this to test Him, in order to have a basis for accusing Him. But Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with His finger, not taking notice.[i]
7 When they continued to question Him, He straightened up[j] and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to cast a stone at her."
8 And again He bent down and wrote on the ground.
9 When they heard this and were convicted by their consciences,[k] they began to go away one by one, beginning with the older ones,[l] until only Jesus was left, with the woman standing there.
10 Then Jesus straightened up and saw no one but the woman.[m] And He asked her, "Where[n] are your accusers?[o] Has no one condemned you?"
11 "No one, Lord," she answered. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared.[p] "Go[q] and sin no more."

Jesus the Light of the World

(1 John 1:5–10)

12 Once again, Jesus spoke to the people and said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."
13 So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not valid."
14 Jesus replied, "Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is valid, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going.
15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.
16 But even if I do judge, My judgment is true, because I am not alone; I am with the Father who sent Me.[r]
17 Even in your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid.[s]
18 I am One who testifies about Myself, and the Father, who sent Me, also testifies about Me."
19 "Where is Your Father?" they asked Him. "You do not know Me or My Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew Me, you would know My Father as well."
20 Jesus spoke[t] these words while teaching in the temple courts, near the treasury. Yet no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.
21 Again Jesus said[u] to them, "I am going away, and you will look for Me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."
22 So the Jews began to ask, "Will He kill Himself, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"
23 Then He told them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

[a] **7:40** CT *some of the people said*
[b] **7:42** See Micah 5:2.
[c] **7:50** CT *earlier*
[d] **7:52** Some early manuscripts do not include John 7:53 through John 8:11.
[e] **8:2** ALT and HF *Very early in the morning*
[f] **8:2** Literally *the temple*; also in verse 20
[g] **8:3** GOC, ALT, NA, and WH do not include *to Him*.
[h] **8:4** CT *and they said*
[i] **8:6** CT does not include *not taking notice*.
[j] **8:7** ALT and HF *He looked up*
[k] **8:9** GOC, ALT, HF, NA, and WH do not include *and were convicted by their consciences*.
[l] **8:9** ALT, HF, F35, and TR include *unto the last*.
[m] **8:10** GOC, NA, and WH do not include *and saw no one but the woman*.
[n] **8:10** ALT, HF, GOC, NA, TR, and WH *Woman, where*
[o] **8:10** GOC, ALT, NA, and WH *are they*
[p] **8:11** ALT, HF, F35, and TR *Jesus said to her*
[q] **8:11** GOC, ALT, HF, NA, F35, and WH *Now go*
[r] **8:16** Literally *but (it is) I and the Father who sent Me*; NE *but it is I and the One who sent Me*
[s] **8:17** See Deuteronomy 19:15.
[t] **8:20** CT *He spoke*
[u] **8:21** CT *He said*

24 That is why I told you that you would die in your
sins. For unless you believe that I am He, you will die
in your sins."
25 "Who are You?" they asked. "Just what I have been
telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied.
26 "I have much to say about you and much to judge.
But the One who sent Me is truthful, and what I have
heard from Him, I tell the world."
27 They did not understand that He was telling them
about the Father.
28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of
Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I
do nothing on My own, but speak exactly what My
Father[a] has taught Me.
29 He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left
[b] Me alone, because I always do what pleases Him."

The Truth Will Set You Free

(2 John 1:4–6)

30 As Jesus spoke these things, many believed in Him.
31 So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you
continue in My word, you are truly My disciples.
32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set
you free."
33 "We are Abraham's descendants," they answered.
"We have never been slaves to anyone. How can You
say we will be set free?"
34 Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who
sins is a slave to sin.
35 A slave does not remain in the house forever, but a
son remains forever.
36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
37 I know you are Abraham's descendants, but you
are trying to kill Me because My word has no place
within you.
38 I speak of what I have seen in the presence of My
Father,[c] and you do what you have seen[d] from your
father."
39 "Abraham is our father," they replied. "If you were
children of Abraham," said Jesus, "you would do the
works of Abraham.
40 But now you are trying to kill Me, a man who has
told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham
never did such a thing.
41 You are doing the works of your father." "We are
not illegitimate children," they declared. "Our only
Father is God Himself."
42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you
would love Me, for I have come here from God. I
have not come on My own, but He sent Me.
43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is
because you are unable to accept My message.
44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to
carry out his desires. He was a murderer from the
beginning, refusing to stand in[e] the truth, because
there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his
native language, because he is a liar and the father
of lies.
45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me!
46 Which of you can prove Me guilty of sin? If I speak
the truth, why do you not believe Me?
47 Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God.
The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong
to God."

Before Abraham Was Born, I Am

48 The Jews answered Him, "Are we not right to say that
You are a Samaritan and You have a demon?"
49 "I do not have a demon," Jesus replied, "but I honor
My Father, and you dishonor Me.
50 I do not seek My own glory. There is One who seeks
it, and He is the Judge.
51 Truly, truly, I tell you, if anyone keeps My word, he
will never see death."
52 "Now we know that You have a demon!" declared
the Jews. "Abraham died, and so did the prophets,
yet You say that anyone who keeps Your word will
never taste death.
53 Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died,
as did the prophets. Who do You claim to be?"
54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory means
nothing. The One who glorifies Me is My Father, of
whom you say 'He is our[f] God.'
55 You do not know Him, but I know Him. If I said I did
not know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do
know Him, and I keep His word.
56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My
day. He saw it and was glad."
57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty
years old, and You have seen Abraham?"
58 "Truly, truly, I tell you," Jesus declared, "before
Abraham was born, I am![g] "
59 At this, they picked up stones to throw at Him. But
Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple area,
going through the midst of them. And so He passed
by.[h]

9

Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind

1 Now as Jesus was passing by, He saw a man blind
from birth,
2 and His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this
man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents
sinned, but this happened so that the works of God
would be displayed in him.
4 While it is daytime, I must do[i] the works of Him who
sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work.
5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
6 When Jesus had said this, He spit on the ground, made
some mud, and applied it to the eyes of the blind
man.[j]

[a] **8:28** CT *the Father*
[b] **8:29** CT *He has not left*
[c] **8:38** CT *the Father*
[d] **8:38** CT *heard*
[e] **8:44** CT *to uphold*
[f] **8:54** GOC, TH, TR, and WH *Your*
[g] **8:58** Literally *before Abraham was, I am!*
[h] **8:59** CT does not include *going through the midst of them. And so He passed by.*
[i] **9:4** CT *we must do*
[j] **9:6** CT *to his eyes*

7 Then He told him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam"
(which means "Sent"). So the man went and washed,
and came back seeing.
8 At this, his neighbors and those who had formerly
seen him blind[a] began to ask, "Isn't this the man
who used to sit and beg?"
9 Some claimed that he was, but others said, "He just
looks[b] like him." But the man kept saying, "I am the
one."
10 "How[c] were your eyes opened?" they asked.
11 He answered, "The man they call Jesus made some
mud and anointed my eyes, and He told me to go to
the Pool of Siloam[d] and wash. So I went and washed
and received my sight."
12 "Where is He?" they asked. "I do not know," he
answered.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had
been blind.
14 Now the day on which[e] Jesus had made the mud
and opened his eyes was a Sabbath.
15 So the Pharisees also asked him how he had received
his sight. The man answered, "He put mud on my
eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."
16 Because of this, some of the Pharisees said, "This
man is not from God, for He does not keep the
Sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man
perform such signs?" And there was division among
them.
17 So once again they asked the man who had been
blind, "What do you say about Him, since it was your
eyes He opened?" "He is a prophet," the man replied.
18 The Jews still did not believe that the man had
been blind and had received his sight until they
summoned his parents
19 and asked, "Is this your son, the one you say was
born blind? So how is it that he can now see?"
20 His parents answered, "We know he is our son, and
we know he was born blind.
21 But how he can now see or who opened his eyes, we
do not know. He is of age. Ask him. He can speak for
himself.[f] "
22 His parents said this because they were afraid of
the Jews. For the Jews had already determined that
anyone who confessed Jesus as the Christ would be
put out of the synagogue.
23 That was why his parents said, "He is old enough.
Ask him."
24 So a second time they called for the man who had
been blind and said, "Give glory to God! We know
that this man is a sinner."
25 He answered, "Whether He is a sinner I do not know.
There is one thing I do know: I was blind, but now
I see!"
26 "What did He do to you?" they asked again.[g] "How
did He open your eyes?"
27 He replied, "I already told you, and you did not
listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also
want to become His disciples?"
28 Then they heaped insults on him and said, "You are
His disciple; we are disciples of Moses.
29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not
know where this man is from."
30 "That is remarkable indeed!" the man said. "You do
not know where He is from, and yet He opened my
eyes.
31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He
does listen to the one who worships Him and does
His will.
32 Never before has anyone heard of opening the eyes
of a man born blind.
33 If this man were not from God, He could do no such
thing."
34 They replied, "You were born in utter sin, and you
are instructing us?" And they threw him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, He
found the man and said, "Do you believe in the Son
of God[h] ?"
36 "Who is He, Sir?" he replied. "Tell me so that I may
believe in Him."
37 "You have already seen Him," Jesus answered. "He
is the One speaking with you."
38 "Lord, I believe," he said. And he worshiped Jesus.
39 Then Jesus declared, "For judgment I have come into
this world, so that the blind may see and those who
see may become blind."[i]
40 Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard
this, and they asked Him, "Are we blind too?"
41 "If you were blind," Jesus replied, "you would not be
guilty of sin. But since you say, 'We see,'[j] your guilt
remains."

10

Jesus the Good Shepherd

(Psalm 23:1–6; Ezekiel 34:11–24)

1 "Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever does not enter the
sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way,
is a thief and a robber.
2 But the one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of
the sheep.
3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep
listen for his voice. He calls his own sheep by name
and leads them out.
4 When he has brought out his own sheep,[k] he goes on
ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because
they know his voice.

[a] **9:8** CT *seen him begging*

[b] **9:9** CT *No, he just looks*

[c] **9:10** NA and WH *How then*

[d] **9:11** CT *to go to Siloam*

[e] **9:14** MT literal *Now when*

[f] **9:21** CT *Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself.*

[g] **9:26** CT does not include *again*.

[h] **9:35** CT *the Son of Man*

[i] **9:39** Literally *so that those not seeing may see and those seeing may become blind.* Some manuscripts do not include **38**"Lord, I believe"... **39**Then Jesus declared.

[j] **9:41** CT *since you claim you can see*

[k] **10:4** CT *brought out all his own*

5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will flee from him because they do not recognize his voice."
6 Jesus spoke to them using this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them.
7 So He said to them again, "Truly, truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
8 All who came[a] were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
9 I am the gate. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture.
10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.
11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
12 The hired hand is not the shepherd, and the sheep are not his own. When he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf pounces on them and scatters the flock.
13 The man[b] runs away because he is a hired servant and is unconcerned for the sheep.
14 I am the good shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me,
15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep.
16 I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them in as well, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd.
17 The reason My Father[c] loves Me is that I lay down My life in order to take it up again.
18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father."
19 Therefore[d] there was again division among the Jews because of Jesus' message.
20 Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and insane. Why would you listen to Him?"
21 But others replied, "These are not the words of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Jesus at the Feast of Dedication

22 At that time the Feast of Dedication[e] took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,
23 and Jesus was walking in the temple courts[f] in Solomon's Colonnade.
24 So the Jews gathered around Him and demanded, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."
25 "I already told you," Jesus replied, "but you did not believe. The works I do in My Father's name testify on My behalf.
26 But because you are not My sheep, you refuse to believe, just as I said to you.[g]
27 My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.
28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them out of My hand.
29 My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of My Father's hand.
30 I and the Father are one."
31 At this, the Jews again picked up stones to stone Him.
32 But Jesus responded, "I have shown you many good works from My Father.[h] For which of these do you stone Me?"
33 "We are not stoning You for any good work," said the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because You, who are a man, declare Yourself to be God."
34 Jesus replied, "Is it not written in your Law: 'I have said you are gods'[i] ?
35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came — and the Scripture cannot be broken —
36 then what about the One whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world? How then can you accuse Me of blasphemy for stating that I am the Son of God?
37 If I am not doing the works of My Father, then do not believe Me.
38 But if I am doing them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works themselves, so that you may know and believe[j] that the Father is in Me, and I am in Him.[k] "
39 At this, they tried again to seize Him, but He escaped their grasp.

John's Testimony Confirmed

40 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had first been baptizing, and He stayed there.
41 Many came to Him and said, "Although John never performed a sign, everything he said about this man was true."
42 And many in that place believed in Jesus.

11

The Death of Lazarus

1 At this time a man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
2 (Mary, whose brother Lazarus was sick, was to anoint the Lord with perfume and wipe His feet[l] with her hair.)
3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick."
4 When Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

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[a] **10:8** GOC, CT, F35, and TR *All who came before Me*

[b] **10:13** Literally *The hired servant*; CT literal *He*

[c] **10:17** CT *the Father*

[d] **10:19** CT does not include *Therefore* .

[e] **10:22** That is, Hanukkah, the historic celebration of the Maccabean Revolt and rededication of the temple

[f] **10:23** Literally *the temple*

[g] **10:26** CT does not include *just as I said to you.*

[h] **10:32** CT *the Father*

[i] **10:34** Psalm 82:6

[j] **10:38** CT *understand*

[k] **10:38** CT *in the Father*

[l] **11:2** Literally *was the one having anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and having wiped His feet*; see John 12:3.

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
6 So on hearing that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where
He was for two days,
7 and then He said to the disciples, "Let us go back to
Judea."
8 "Rabbi," they replied, "the Jews just tried to stone You,
and You are going back there?"
9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of day-
light? If anyone walks in the daytime, he will not
stumble, because he sees by the light of this world.
10 But if anyone walks at night, he will stumble, be-
cause he has no light."
11 After He had said this, He told them, "Our friend
Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to
wake him up."
12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will
get better."
13 They thought that Jesus was talking about actual
sleep, but He was speaking about the death of
Lazarus.
14 So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,
15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that
you may believe. But let us go to him."
16 Then Thomas called Didymus[a] said to his fellow
disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with
Him."

Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary

17 When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had al-
ready spent four days in the tomb.
18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, a little less than
two miles[b] away,
19 and many of the Jews had come to the women
around[c] Martha and Mary to console them in the
loss of their brother.
20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she
went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home.
21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my
brother would not have died.
22 But even now[d] I know that God will give You what-
ever You ask of Him."
23 "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her.
24 Martha replied, "I know that he will rise again in the
resurrection at the last day."
25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in Me will live, even though he
dies.
26 And everyone who lives and believes in Me will
never die. Do you believe this?"
27 "Yes, Lord," she answered, "I believe that You are
the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the
world."
28 After Martha had said this, she went back and called
her sister Mary aside to tell her, "The Teacher is here
and is asking for you."
29 And when Mary heard this, she got up quickly and
went to Him.
30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was[e]
at the place where Martha had met Him.
31 When the Jews who were in the house consoling
Mary saw how quickly she got up and went out, they
followed her, saying[f] that she was going to the tomb
to mourn there.
32 When Mary came to Jesus and saw Him, she fell at
His feet and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my
brother would not have died."
33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had
come with her also weeping, He was deeply moved
in spirit[g] and troubled.
34 "Where have you put him?" He asked. "Come and
see, Lord," they answered.
35 Jesus wept.
36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"
37 But some of them asked, "Could not this man who
opened the eyes of the blind also have kept Lazarus
from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus

(Acts 9:36–43)

38 Jesus, once again deeply moved, came to the tomb.
It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.
39 "Take away the stone," Jesus said. "Lord, by now he
stinks," said Martha, the sister of the dead man. "It
has already been four days."
40 Jesus replied, "Did I not tell you that if you believed,
you would see the glory of God?"
41 So they took away the stone from where the dead
man was lying.[h] Then Jesus lifted His eyes upward
and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard
Me.
42 I knew that You always hear Me, but I say this for
the benefit of the people standing here, so they may
believe that You sent Me."
43 After Jesus had said this, He called out in a loud
voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
44 The man who had been dead came out with his
hands and feet bound in strips of linen, and his face
wrapped in a cloth.[i] "Unwrap him and let him go,"
Jesus told them.

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1–5; Mark 14:1–2; Luke 22:1–2)

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to Mary,
and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him.
46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told
them what[j] Jesus had done.
47 Then the chief priests and Pharisees convened the
Sanhedrin[k] and said, "What are we to do? This man
is performing many signs.
48 If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in
Him, and then the Romans will come and take away
both our place and our nation."

[a] **11:16** *Didymus* means *the twin.*
[b] **11:18** Greek *about fifteen stadia*; that is, approximately 1.72 miles or 2.78 kilometers
[c] **11:19** CT does not include *the women around.*
[d] **11:22** SBL and WH *Even now*
[e] **11:30** CT *was still*
[f] **11:31** CT *supposing*
[g] **11:33** Or *He was indignant in spirit*; similarly in verse 38
[h] **11:41** CT does not include *from where the dead man was lying.*
[i] **11:44** Greek *soudariō*
[j] **11:46** F35 *all that*
[k] **11:47** Or *the Council*

49 But one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all!
50 You do not realize that it is better for us[a] that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”
51 Caiaphas did not say this on his own. Instead, as high priest that year, he was prophesying that Jesus would die for the nation,
52 and not only for the nation, but also for the scattered children of God, to gather them together into one.
53 So from that day on they plotted together[b] to kill Him.
54 As a result, Jesus no longer went about publicly among the Jews, but He withdrew to a town called Ephraim in an area near the wilderness. And He spent time there with His disciples.[c]
55 Now the Jewish Passover was near, and many people went up from the country to Jerusalem to purify themselves before the Passover.
56 They kept looking for Jesus and asking one another as they stood in the temple courts,[d] “What do you think? Will He come to the feast at all?”
57 But the chief priests and Pharisees had given an order[e] that anyone who knew where He was must report it, so that they could arrest Him.

12

Mary Anoints Jesus

(Matthew 26:6–13; Mark 14:3–9; Luke 7:36–50)

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus who had died,[f] whom He had raised from the dead.
2 So they hosted a dinner for Jesus there. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him.
3 Then Mary took about a pint[g] of expensive perfume, made of pure nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, [h] who was going to betray Him, asked,
5 “Why wasn’t this perfume sold for three hundred denarii[i] and the money given to the poor?”
6 Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. As keeper of the money bag, he used to take from what was put into it.
7 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “She has kept this perfume in preparation for the day of My burial.
8 The poor you will always have with you,[j] but you will not always have Me.”

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

9 Meanwhile a large crowd[k] of Jews learned that Jesus was there. And they came not only because of Him, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.
10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well,
11 for on account of him many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus.

The Triumphal Entry

(Zechariah 9:9–13; Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–40)

12 The next day a great crowd[l] that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.
13 They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, crying out:[m] “Hosanna!”[n] “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”[o] “Blessed is the King of Israel!”
14 Finding a young donkey, Jesus sat on it, as it is written:
15 “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion. See, your King is coming, seated on the colt of a donkey.”[p]
16 At first His disciples did not understand these things, but after Jesus was glorified they remembered what had been done to Him, and they realized that these very things had also been written about Him.
17 Meanwhile, many people who had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify.
18 That is also why the crowd went out to meet Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign.
19 Then the Pharisees said to one another, “You can see that this is doing you no good. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!”

Jesus Predicts His Death

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the feast.
21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested of him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.”
22 Philip relayed this appeal to Andrew, and both of them went and told Jesus.
23 But Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
24 Truly, truly, I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.
25 Whoever loves his life will lose it, but whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

[a] **11:50** CT *for you*
[b] **11:53** CT *they plotted*
[c] **11:54** CT *He stayed there with the disciples*
[d] **11:56** Literally *the temple*
[e] **11:57** CT *given orders*
[f] **12:1** CT does not include *who had died.*
[g] **12:3** Greek *a litra*; that is, approximately 12 ounces or 340 grams
[h] **12:4** CT does not include *son of Simon.*
[i] **12:5** A denarius was customarily a day’s wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.
[j] **12:8** See Deuteronomy 15:11.
[k] **12:9** NA, TH, and WH *the large crowd*
[l] **12:12** NA, SBL, and WH *the great crowd*
[m] **12:13** CT *shouting*
[n] **12:13** *Hosanna* is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hosia-na*, meaning *Save, we pray* or *Save now*, which became a shout of praise; see Psalm 118:25.
[o] **12:13** Psalm 118:26
[p] **12:15** Zechariah 9:9

26 If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I
am, My servant will be as well. If anyone serves Me,
the Father will honor him.
27 Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say?
'Father, save Me from this hour'? No, it is for this
purpose that I have come to this hour.
28 Father, glorify Your name!" Then a voice came from
heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it
again."
29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it
had thundered. Others said that an angel had spoken
to Him.
30 In response, Jesus said, "This voice was not for My
benefit, but yours.
31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the prince of
this world will be cast out.
32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw
everyone to Myself."
33 He said this to indicate the kind of death He was
going to die.
34 The crowd replied, "We have heard from the Law
that the Christ will remain forever. So how can You
say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is
this Son of Man?"
35 Then Jesus told them, "For a little while longer, the
Light will be with[a] you. Walk while you have the
Light, so that darkness will not overtake you. The
one who walks in the darkness does not know where
he is going.
36 While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so
that you may become sons of light." After Jesus had
spoken these things, He went away and was hidden
from them.

Belief and Unbelief

37 Although Jesus had performed so many signs in
their presence, they still did not believe in Him.
38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:
"Lord, who has believed our message? And to whom
has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"[b]
39 For this reason they were unable to believe. For
again, Isaiah says:
40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their
hearts, so that they cannot see with their eyes, and
understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would
heal them."[c]
41 Isaiah said these things when[d] he saw Jesus' glory
and spoke about Him.
42 Nevertheless, many of the leaders believed in Him.
But because of the Pharisees they did not confess
Him, for fear that they would be put out of the syn-
agogue.
43 For they loved praise from men more than praise
from God.
44 Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in Me does
not believe in Me alone, but in the One who sent Me.
45 And whoever sees Me sees the One who sent Me.
46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one
who believes in Me should remain in darkness.
47 As for anyone who hears My words and does not
believe,[e] I do not judge him. For I have not come to
judge the world, but to save the world.
48 There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does
not receive My words: The word that I have spoken
will judge him on the last day.
49 I have not spoken on My own, but the Father who
sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to
say it.
50 And I know that His command leads to eternal life.
So I speak exactly what the Father has told Me to
say."

13

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

1 It was now just before the Passover Feast, and Jesus
knew that His hour had come to leave this world and
return to the Father. Having loved His own who were
in the world, He loved them to the very end.[f]
2 By the time the evening meal had ended,[g] the devil
had already put into the heart of Judas, the son of
Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.
3 Jesus knew that the Father had delivered all things
into His hands, and that He had come from God and
was returning to God.
4 So He got up from the supper, laid aside His outer
garments, and wrapped a towel around His waist.
5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to
wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel
that was around Him.
6 He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, "Lord, are
You going to wash my feet?"
7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am
doing, but later you will understand."
8 "Never shall You wash my feet!" Peter told Him. Jesus
answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with
Me."
9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not only my feet,
but my hands and my head as well!"
10 Jesus told him, "Whoever has already bathed needs
only to wash his feet, and he will be completely
clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."
11 For He knew who would betray Him. That is why He
said, "Not all of you are clean."
12 When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His
outer garments, He reclined with them again and
asked, "Do you know what I have done for you?
13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, be-
cause I am.
14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your
feet, you also should wash one another's feet.
15 I have set you an example so that you should do as I
have done for you.
16 Truly, truly, I tell you, no servant is greater than his
master,[h] nor is a messenger greater than the one
who sent him.

[a] **12:35** CT *among*
[b] **12:38** Isaiah 53:1
[c] **12:40** Isaiah 6:10
[d] **12:41** CT *because*
[e] **12:47** CT *does not keep them*
[f] **13:1** Or *He showed them the full extent of His love.*
[g] **13:2** CT *The evening meal being underway* or *When it was time for the evening meal*
[h] **13:16** Cited in John 15:20

17 If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

(Psalm 41:1–13)

18 I am not speaking about all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the Scripture: 'The one who shares bread with Me[a] has lifted up his heel against Me.'[b]

19 I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it comes to pass, you will believe that I am He.

20 Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me."

21 After Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit and testified, "Truly, truly, I tell you, one of you will betray Me."

22 The disciples looked at one another, perplexed as to which of them He meant.

23 One of His disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining at His side.[c]

24 So Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus which one He was talking about.

25 Falling back upon[d] Jesus, he asked, "Lord, who is it?"

26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this morsel after I have dipped it." Then He dipped the morsel and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.[e]

27 And when Judas had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to Judas, "What you are about to do, do quickly."

28 But no one at the table knew why Jesus had said this to him.

29 Since Judas kept the money bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the feast, or to give something to the poor.

30 As soon as he had received the morsel, Judas went out into the night.

Love One Another

(Romans 12:9–13; 1 John 3:11–24)

31 When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

32 If God is glorified in Him,[f] God will also glorify the Son in Himself — and will glorify Him at once.

33 Little children, I am with you only a little while longer. You will look for Me, and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you: 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

34 A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

(Matthew 26:31–35; Mark 14:27–31; Luke 22:31–38)

36 "Lord, where are You going?" Simon Peter asked. Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow Me[g] later."

37 "Lord," said Peter, "why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You."

38 "Will you lay down your life for Me?" Jesus replied. "Truly, truly, I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

14

In My Father's House Are Many Rooms

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God;[h] believe in Me as well.

2 In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?[i]

3 And if I go, I will prepare a place for you.[j] I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the place where I am going and you know the way.[k] "

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

5 "Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

7 If you had known Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus replied, "Philip, I have been with you all this time, and still you do not know Me? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own. Instead, it is the Father dwelling in Me, performing His works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me — or at least believe Me[l] on account of the works themselves.

12 Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I am doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to My Father.[m]

13 And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask Me[n] for anything in My name, I will do it.

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[a] **13:18** CT *shares My bread*

[b] **13:18** Psalm 41:9

[c] **13:23** Greek *was reclining in the bosom of Jesus*

[d] **13:25** CT *Leaning back against*

[e] **13:26** CT *Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot*

[f] **13:32** TH and WH do not include *If God is glorified in Him.*

[g] **13:36** CT does not include *Me.*

[h] **14:1** Or *Believe in God*

[i] **14:2** Or *If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.*

[j] **14:3** CT *And if I go and prepare a place for you,*

[k] **14:4** CT *You know the way to the place where I am going.*

[l] **14:11** CT does not include *Me.*

[m] **14:12** CT *the Father*

[n] **14:14** GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR do not include *Me.*

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

(John 16:5–16)

15 If you love Me, keep[a] My commandments.
16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you
another Advocate[b] to abide[c] with you forever —
17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him,
because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you
do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in
you.[d]
18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
19 In a little while the world will see Me no more, but
you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live.
20 On that day you will know that I am in My Father,
and you are in Me, and I am in you.
21 Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is
the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be
loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal
Myself to him."
22 Judas (not Iscariot) asked Him, "Lord, why are You
going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?"
23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My
word. My Father will love him, and We will come to
him and make Our home with him.
24 Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words.
The word that you hear is not My own, but it is from
the Father who sent Me.
25 All this I have spoken to you while I am still with you.
26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father
will send in My name, will teach you all things and
will remind you of everything I have told you.

Peace I Leave with You

27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do
not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your
hearts be troubled; do not be afraid.
28 You heard Me say, 'I am going away, and I am coming
back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice
that I am going to the Father, because My Father[e] is
greater than I.
29 And now I have told you before it happens, so that
when it does happen, you will believe.
30 I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince
of this[f] world is coming, and he has no claim on Me.
31 But I do exactly what the Father has commanded
Me, so that the world may know that I love the
Father. Get up! Let us go on from here."

15

Jesus the True Vine

(Isaiah 27:1–13)

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the keeper of the
vineyard.
2 He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit,
and every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes to
make it even more fruitful.
3 You are already clean because of the word I have
spoken to you.
4 Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no
branch can bear fruit by itself unless it remains
in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you
remain in Me.
5 I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who
remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit.
For apart from Me you can do nothing.
6 If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch
that is thrown away and withers. Such branches are
gathered up, thrown into the fire, and burned.
7 If you remain in Me and My words remain in you,
then you will ask[g] whatever you wish, and it will be
done for you.
8 This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit,
proving yourselves to be My disciples.

No Greater Love

9 As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you.
Remain in My love.
10 If you keep My commandments, you will remain in
My love, just as I have kept My Father's command-
ments and remain in His love.
11 I have told you these things so that My joy may abide
[h] in you and your joy may be complete.
12 This is My commandment, that you love one another
as I have loved you.
13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down
his life for his friends.
14 You are My friends if you do whatever[i] I command
you.
15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does
not understand what his master is doing. But I
have called you friends, because everything I have
learned from My Father I have made known to you.
16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I
appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will
remain — so that whatever you ask the Father in My
name, He will give you.
17 This is My command to you: Love one another.

The Hatred of the World

18 If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me
first.
19 If you were of the world, it would love you as its own.
Instead, the world hates you, because you are not of
the world, but I have chosen you out of the world.
20 Remember the word that I spoke to you: 'No servant
is greater than his master.'[j] If they persecuted Me,
they will persecute you as well; if they kept My word,
they will keep yours as well.
21 But they will treat you like this because of My name,
since they do not know the One who sent Me.
22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not
be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse
for their sin.
23 Whoever hates Me hates My Father as well.

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[a] **14:15** CT *If you love Me, you will keep*

[b] **14:16** Or *Comforter* or *Helper* or *Counselor*; Greek *Paraclete*; also in verse 26

[c] **14:16** CT *to be*

[d] **14:17** WH *and is in you*

[e] **14:28** NA, SBL, and WH *the Father*

[f] **14:30** Literally *of the* ; TR *of this*

[g] **15:7** GOC and CT *you, ask*

[h] **15:11** CT *may be*

[i] **15:14** CT *what*

[j] **15:20** John 13:16

24 If I had not done among them the works that no one
else did, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they
have seen and hated both Me and My Father.
25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law:
'They hated Me without reason.'[a]
26 When the Advocate[b] comes, whom I will send to you
from the Father — the Spirit of truth who proceeds
from the Father — He will testify about Me.
27 And you also must testify, because you have been
with Me from the beginning."

16

Persecution Foretold

(Acts 23:12–22)

1 "I have told you these things so that you will not fall
away.
2 They will put you out of the synagogues. In fact, a time
is coming when anyone who kills you will think he
is offering a service to God.
3 They will do these things[c] because they have not
known the Father or Me.
4 But I have told you these things so that when the[d]
hour comes, you will remember that I told you about
them. I did not tell you these things from the begin-
ning, because I was with you.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

(John 14:15–26)

5 Now, however, I am going to Him who sent Me; yet
none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'
6 Instead, your hearts are filled with sorrow because I
have told you these things.
7 But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am
going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate[e] will not
come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
8 And when He comes, He will convict the world in
regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:
9 in regard to sin, because they do not believe in Me;
10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to My
Father[f] and you will no longer see Me;
11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this
world has been condemned.
12 I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear
to hear it.
13 However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will
guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His
own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will
declare to you what is to come.
14 He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and
disclosing it to you.
15 Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That
is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is
Mine and disclose it to you.
16 In a little while you will not see Me,[g] and then after a
little while you will see Me, because I am going away
to the Father.[h] "

Grief Will Turn to Joy

17 Then some of His disciples asked one another, "Why
is He telling us, 'In a little while you will not see Me,
and then after a little while you will see Me' and
'Because I am going to the Father'?"
18 They kept asking, "Why is He saying, 'a little while'?
We do not understand what He is saying."
19 Aware that they wanted to question Him, Jesus said
to them, "Are you asking one another why I said, 'In
a little while you will not see Me, and then after a
little while you will see Me'?
20 Truly, truly, I tell you, you will weep and wail while
the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will
turn to joy.
21 A woman has pain in childbirth because her time
has come; but when she brings forth her child, she
forgets her anguish because of her joy that a child
has been born into the world.
22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again
and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take
away your joy.

Ask in My Name

(Matthew 18:19–20)

23 In that day you will no longer ask Me anything.
Truly, truly, I tell you, whatever you ask the Father
in My name, He will give you.
24 Until now you have not asked for anything in My
name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may
be complete.
25 I have spoken these things to you in figures of
speech. But an hour[i] is coming when I will no longer
speak to you this way, but will tell you plainly about
the Father.
26 In that day you will ask in My name. I am not saying
that I will ask the Father on your behalf.
27 For the Father Himself loves you, because you have
loved Me and have believed that I came from God.[j]
28 I came from the Father and entered the world. In
turn, I will leave the world and go to the Father."
29 His disciples said to Him,[k] "See, now You are speak-
ing plainly and without figures of speech.
30 Now we understand that You know all things and
that You have no need for anyone to question You.
Because of this, we believe that You came from God."
31 "Do you finally believe?" Jesus replied.
32 "Look, an hour is coming and has already come
when you will be scattered, each to his own home,
and you will leave Me all alone. Yet I am not alone,
because the Father is with Me.
33 I have told you these things so that in Me you may
have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.
But take courage; I have overcome the world!"

[a] **15:25** See Psalm 35:19, Psalm 38:19, and Psalm 69:4.
[b] **15:26** Or *Comforter* or *Helper* or *Counselor* ; Greek *Paraclete*
[c] **16:3** TR includes *to you*.
[d] **16:4** CT *their*
[e] **16:7** Or *Comforter* or *Helper* or *Counselor*; Greek *Paraclete*
[f] **16:10** CT *the Father*
[g] **16:16** CT *you will see Me no more*
[h] **16:16** CT does not include *because I am going away to the Father*.
[i] **16:25** CT *An hour*
[j] **16:27** WH *from the Father*
[k] **16:29** CT does not include *to Him*.

17

Prayer for the Son

1 When Jesus had spoken these things, He lifted up His
eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come.
Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may also[a] glorify
You.
2 For You granted Him authority over all people,[b] so
that He will give[c] eternal life to all those You have
given Him.
3 Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the
only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.
4 I have glorified You on earth. I have accomplished[d]
the work You gave Me to do.
5 And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the
glory I had with You before the world existed.

Prayer for the Disciples

6 I have revealed Your name to those You have given
Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them
to Me, and they have kept Your word.
7 Now they know that everything You have given Me
comes from You.
8 For I have given them the words You gave Me, and
they have received them. They knew with certainty
that I came from You, and they believed that You
sent Me.
9 I ask on their behalf. I do not ask on behalf of the
world, but on behalf of those You have given Me; for
they are Yours.
10 All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine; and in
them I have been glorified.
11 I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the
world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect
them by Your name, the name You gave Me,[e] so that
they may be one as We are one.
12 While I was with them in the world,[f] I protected
and preserved by Your name those You gave Me.
[g] Not one of them has been lost, except the son of
destruction, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.
13 But now I am coming to You; and I am saying these
things while I am in the world, so that they may have
My joy fulfilled within them.
14 I have given them Your word and the world has
hated them. For they are not of the world, just as I
am not of the world.
15 I am not asking that You take them out of the world,
but that You keep them from the evil one.[h]
16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the
world.
17 Sanctify them by Your truth;[i] Your word is truth.
18 As You sent Me into the world, I have also sent them
into the world.
19 For them I sanctify Myself, so that they too may be
sanctified by the truth.

Prayer for All Believers

20 I am not asking on behalf of them alone, but also on
behalf of those who will believe in Me through their
message,
21 that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in
Me, and I am in You. May they also be one[j] in Us, so
that the world may believe that You sent Me.
22 I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they
may be one as We are one —
23 I in them and You in Me — that they may be perfectly
united and that[k] the world may know that You sent
Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me.
24 Father, I want those You have given Me to be with
Me where I am, that they may see the glory You gave
Me because You loved Me before the foundation of
the world.
25 Righteous Father, although the world has not known
You, I know You, and they know that You sent Me.
26 And I have made Your name known to them and will
continue to make it known, so that the love You have
for Me may be in them, and I in them."

18

The Betrayal of Jesus

(Matthew 26:47–56; Mark 14:43–52; Luke 22:47–53)

1 After Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with
His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where they
entered a garden.
2 Now Judas His betrayer also knew the place, because
Jesus had[l] often met there with His disciples.
3 So Judas brought a band of soldiers and officers from
the chief priests and Pharisees. They arrived at the
garden carrying lanterns, torches, and weapons.
4 Jesus, knowing all that was coming upon Him,
stepped forward and asked them, "Whom are you
seeking?"
5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. Jesus said, "I am
He." And Judas His betrayer was standing there with
them.
6 When Jesus said, "I am He," they drew back and fell
to the ground.
7 So He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"
"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered.
8 "I told you that I am He," Jesus replied. "So if you are
looking for Me, let these men go."
9 This was to fulfill the word He had spoken: "I have
not lost one of those You have given Me."[m]
10 Then Simon Peter drew his sword and struck the
servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.
The servant's name was Malchus.
11 "Put your sword back in its sheath!" Jesus said to
Peter. "Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given
Me?"

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[a] **17:1** CT does not include *also*.

[b] **17:2** Literally *all flesh*

[c] **17:2** CT and TR *may give*

[d] **17:4** CT *earth by accomplishing*

[e] **17:11** Literally *Your name, which You gave Me* ; TR *Your name—these whom You gave Me—*

[f] **17:12** CT does not include *in the world.*

[g] **17:12** CT *preserved them by Your name, the name You gave Me*

[h] **17:15** Or *from evil*

[i] **17:17** CT *the truth*

[j] **17:21** CT does not include *one.*

[k] **17:23** CT *so that*

[l] **18:2** HF and GOC *Jesus also had*

[m] **18:9** See John 6:39 and John 17:12.

12 Then the band of soldiers, with its commander and
the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound
Him.
13 They led Him away[a] first to Annas, who was the
father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.
14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews
that it would be better if one man perished[b] for the
people.

Peter's First Denial

(Matthew 26:69–70; Mark 14:66–68; Luke 22:54–57)

15 Now Simon Peter and the other[c] disciple were following Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the
high priest, he also went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.
16 But Peter stood outside at the door. Then the disciple
who was known to the high priest went out and
spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in.
17 At this, the servant girl watching the door said to
Peter, "Aren't you also one of this man's disciples?"
"I am not," he answered.
18 Because it was cold, the servants and officers were
standing around a charcoal fire they had made to
keep warm. And Peter was[d] standing with them,
warming himself.

Jesus before the High Priest

(Matthew 26:57–68; Mark 14:53–65; Luke 22:66–71)

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about
His disciples and His teaching.
20 "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus answered. "I always taught in the synagogues and at
the temple, where the Jews always[e] come together.
I said nothing in secret.
21 Why are you asking Me? Ask those who heard My
message. Surely they know what I said."
22 When Jesus had said this, one of the officers standing nearby slapped Him in the face and said, "Is this
how You answer the high priest?"
23 Jesus replied, "If I said something wrong, testify as
to what was wrong. But if I spoke correctly, why did
you strike Me?"
24 Then Annas sent Him, still bound, to Caiaphas the
high priest.

Peter's Second and Third Denials

(Matthew 26:71–75; Mark 14:69–72; Luke 22:58–62)

25 Simon Peter was still standing and warming himself.
So they asked him, "Aren't you also one of His disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not."
26 One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the
man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see
you with Him in the garden?"
27 Peter denied it once more, and immediately a
rooster crowed.

Jesus before Pilate

(Matthew 27:11–14; Luke 23:1–5)

28 Then they led Jesus away from Caiaphas into the
Praetorium. By now it was early morning, and the
Jews did not enter the Praetorium, to avoid being
defiled and unable to eat the Passover.
29 So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What accusation are you bringing against this man?"
30 "If He were not a criminal," they replied, "we would
not have handed Him over to you."
31 "You take Him and judge Him by your own law,"
Pilate told them. "We are not permitted to execute
anyone," the Jews then replied.[f]
32 This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to
indicate the kind of death He was going to die.[g]
33 Pilate went back into the Praetorium, summoned
Jesus, and asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"
34 "Are you saying this on your own," Jesus asked him,[h] "or did others tell you about Me?"
35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and
chief priests handed You over to me. What have You
done?"
36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world;
if it were, My servants would fight to prevent My
arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of
this realm."
37 "Then You are a king!" Pilate said. "You say that I
am a king," Jesus answered. "For this reason I was
born and have come into the world, to testify to the
truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to
My voice."
38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. And having said this,
he went out again to the Jews and told them, "I find
no basis for a charge against Him.
39 But it is your[i] custom that I release to you one
prisoner at the Passover. So then, do you want me to
release to you the King of the Jews?"
40 "Not this man," they all shouted,[j] "but Barabbas!"
(Now Barabbas was an insurrectionist.)

19

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

(Isaiah 50:4–11; Matthew 27:27–31; Mark 15:16–20; Luke 22:63–65)

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged.
2 The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns, set it
on His head, and dressed Him in a purple robe.
3 And they kept saying,[k] "Hail, King of the Jews!" and
slapping Him in the face.
4 Once again Pilate came out and said to the Jews,
"Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know
that I find no basis for a charge against Him."
5 When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns
and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the
man!"

[a] **18:13** CT *They brought Him*
[b] **18:14** CT *died*
[c] **18:15** CT and Scrivener TR *another*
[d] **18:18** CT includes *also*.
[e] **18:20** CT *all the Jews*
[f] **18:31** CT *the Jews replied*
[g] **18:32** See John 12:32–33.
[h] **18:34** CT *Jesus asked*
[i] **18:39** F35 *our*
[j] **18:40** CT *they shouted*
[k] **19:3** CT *And they went up to Him again and again, saying*

6 As soon as the chief priests and officers saw Him, they
shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"[a] "You take
Him and crucify Him," Pilate replied, "for I find no
basis for a charge against Him."
7 "We have a law," answered the Jews, "and according
to our law[b] He must die, because He declared Him-
self to be the Son of God."
8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more
afraid,
9 and he went back into the Praetorium. "Where are
You from?" he asked. But Jesus gave no answer.
10 So Pilate said to Him, "Do You refuse to speak to me?
Do You not know that I have authority to crucify You
and authority to release You?[c] "
11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over
Me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore
the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of
greater sin."
12 From then on, Pilate tried to release Him, but the
Jews kept crying out,[d] "If you release this man, you
are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who declares him-
self a king is defying Caesar."
13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus
out and sat on the judgment seat at a place called the
Stone Pavement, which in Hebrew[e] is Gabbatha.
14 It was the day of Preparation for the Passover, about
the sixth hour.[f] And Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is
your King!"
15 At this, they shouted, "Away with Him! Away with
Him! Crucify Him!" "Shall I crucify your King?" Pi-
late asked. "We have no king but Caesar," replied the
chief priests.

The Crucifixion

(Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:32–44; Mark 15:21–32; Luke 23:26–43)

16 Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, and
the soldiers took Him and led Him away.[g]
17 Carrying His own cross, He went out to a place called
[h] The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called
Golgotha.
18 There they crucified Him, and with Him two others,
one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.
19 Pilate also had a notice posted on the cross. It read:
JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.
20 Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place
where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it
was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.[i]
21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not
write, 'The King of the Jews,' but only that He said, 'I
am the King of the Jews.'"
22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have writ-
ten."
23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided
His garments into four parts, one for each soldier,
with the tunic remaining. It was seamless, woven in
one piece from top to bottom.
24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it. In-
stead, let us cast lots to see who will get it." This was
to fulfill the Scripture: "They divided My garments
among them, and cast lots for My clothing."[j] So that
is what the soldiers did.
25 Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother and her
sister, as well as Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary
Magdalene.
26 When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom
He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother,
"Woman, here is your son."
27 Then He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
So from that hour, this disciple took her into his
home.

The Death of Jesus

(Psalm 22:1–31; Matthew 27:45–56; Mark 15:33–41; Luke 23:44–49)

28 After this, seeing[k] that everything had now been
accomplished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said,
"I am thirsty."[l]
29 A jar of sour wine[m] was sitting there. So they soaked
a sponge in the wine, put it on a stalk of hyssop, and
lifted it to His mouth.[n]
30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It
is finished." And bowing His head, He yielded up His
spirit.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

(Zechariah 12:10–14)

31 It was the day of Preparation, and the next day was
a High Sabbath. In order that the bodies would not
remain on the cross during the Sabbath, the Jews
asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies
removed.
32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first
man who had been crucified with Jesus, and those
of the other.
33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was
already dead, they did not break His legs.
34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a
spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out.
35 The one who saw it has testified to this, and his testi-
mony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth,
so that you[o] may believe.
36 Now these things happened so that the Scripture
would be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be
broken."[p]

[a] **19:6** Literally *"Crucify! Crucify Him!"*; CT and TR *"Crucify! Crucify!"*
[b] **19:7** CT *the law*
[c] **19:10** CT *authority to release You and authority to crucify You*
[d] **19:12** CT *kept shouting*
[e] **19:13** Or *in Aramaic*; also in verses 17 and 20
[f] **19:14** That is, about noon
[g] **19:16** CT does not include *and led Him away*.
[h] **19:17** GOC, CT, F35, and TR literal *what is called*
[i] **19:20** CT *Hebrew, Latin, and Greek*
[j] **19:24** Psalm 22:18
[k] **19:28** CT and TR *knowing*
[l] **19:28** See Psalm 22:15.
[m] **19:29** Or *A jar of wine vinegar*; similarly in verse 30
[n] **19:29** See Psalm 69:21.
[o] **19:35** CT and GOC *you also*
[p] **19:36** Psalm 34:20; see also Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:12.

37 And, as another Scripture says: “They will look on
the One they have pierced.”[a]

The Burial of Jesus

(Isaiah 53:9–12; Matthew 27:57–61; Mark 15:42–47; Luke 23:50–56)

38 Afterward, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple
of Jesus (but secretly for fear of the Jews), asked
Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave
him permission, so he came and removed the body
of Jesus.[b]
39 Nicodemus, who had previously come to Jesus at
night, also brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,
about seventy-five pounds.[c]
40 So they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in
linen cloths with the spices, according to the Jewish
burial custom.
41 Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus
was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in
which no one had yet been laid.
42 And because it was the Jewish day of Preparation
and the tomb was nearby, they placed Jesus there.

20

The Resurrection

(Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12)

1 Early on the first day of the week,[d] while it was still
dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw
that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other dis-
ciple, the one whom Jesus loved. “They have taken
the Lord out of the tomb,” she said, “and we do not
know where they have put Him!”
3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out for the tomb.
4 The two were running together, but the other disciple
outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
5 He bent down and looked in at the linen cloths lying
there, but he did not go in.
6 Simon Peter arrived just after him. He entered the
tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there.
7 The cloth[e] that had been around Jesus’ head was
rolled up, lying separate from the linen cloths.
8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb
first, also went in. And he saw and believed.
9 For they still did not understand from the Scripture
that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

(Mark 16:9–11)

10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.
11 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. And as
she wept, she bent down to look into the tomb,
12 and she saw two angels in white sitting where the
body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and the other
at the feet.
13 “Woman, why are you weeping?” they asked. “Be-
cause they have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and
I do not know where they have put Him.”
14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw
Jesus standing there. But she did not recognize that
it was Jesus.
15 “Woman, why are you weeping?” Jesus asked.
“Whom are you seeking?” Thinking He was the gar-
dener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried Him off, tell
me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.”
16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to Him,
[f] “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).
17 “Do not cling to Me,” Jesus said, “for I have not yet
ascended to My Father.[g] But go and tell My brothers,
‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My
God and your God.’”
18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disci-
ples that she had seen the Lord.[h] And she told them
what He had said to her.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

(Luke 24:36–49; 1 John 1:1–4)

19 It was the first day of the week, and that very
evening, while the disciples were gathered together
[i] with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus
came and stood among them. “Peace be with you!”
He said to them.
20 After He had said this, He showed them His hands
and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw
the Lord.
21 Again Jesus said to them, “Peace be with you. As the
Father has sent Me, so also I am sending you.”
22 When He had said this, He breathed on them and
said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.
23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;
if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is with-
held.”

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas called Didymus,[j] one of the Twelve,
was not with the disciples when Jesus came.
25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the
Lord!” But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in
His hands, and put my finger where the nails have
been, and put my hand into His side, I will never
believe.”
26 Eight days later, His disciples were once again inside
with the doors locked, and Thomas was with them.
Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace
be with you.”
27 Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and
look at My hands. Reach out your hand and put it
into My side. Stop doubting and believe.”
28 Thomas replied, “My Lord and my God!”

[a] **19:37** Zechariah 12:10
[b] **19:38** CT *His body*
[c] **19:39** Greek *about a hundred litras*; that is, approximately 34 kilograms
[d] **20:1** Literally *Now on the first of the Sabbaths, early,*
[e] **20:7** Greek *soudarion*
[f] **20:16** CT includes *in Hebrew* or *in Aramaic.*
[g] **20:17** NA, SBL, and WH *the Father*
[h] **20:18** CT *to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”*
[i] **20:19** CT *were together*
[j] **20:24** *Didymus* means *the twin.*
[a] **20:29** TR includes *Thomas.*

29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me,[a] you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Book

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book.
31 But these are written so that you may believe[b] that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

21

Jesus Appears by the Sea of Tiberias

1 Later, by the Sea of Tiberias,[c] Jesus again revealed Himself to the disciples. He made Himself known in this way:
2 Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus,[d] Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.
3 Simon Peter told them, "I am going fishing." "We will go with you," they said. So they went out and immediately[e] got into the boat, but caught nothing that night.
4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not recognize that it was Jesus.
5 So He called out to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" "No," they answered.
6 He told them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it there, and they were unable to haul it in because of the great number of fish.
7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it. . .) and jumped into the sea.
8 The other disciples came ashore in the boat. They dragged in the net full of fish, for they were not far from land, only about a hundred yards.[f]
9 When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it, and some bread.
10 Jesus told them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."
11 So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many, the net was not torn.
12 "Come, have breakfast," Jesus said to them. None of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord.
13 Jesus then[g] came and took the bread and gave it to them, and He did the same with the fish.
14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to His disciples[h] after He was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of Jonah,[i] do you love Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "You know I love You." Jesus replied, "Feed My lambs."
16 Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of Jonah, do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "You know I love You." Jesus told him, "Shepherd My sheep."
17 Jesus asked a third time, "Simon son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was deeply hurt that Jesus had asked him a third time, "Do you love Me?" "Lord, You know all things," he replied. "You know I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.
18 Truly, truly, I tell you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else[j] will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."
19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And after He had said this, He told him, "Follow Me."

Jesus and the Beloved Disciple

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. He was the one who had leaned back against Jesus[k] at the supper to ask, "Lord, who is going to betray You?"
21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"
22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you? You follow Me!"
23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. However, Jesus did not say that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you?"
24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who has written them down. And we know that his testimony is true.
25 There are many more things that Jesus did. If all of them were written down, I suppose that not even the world itself would have space for the books that would be written. Amen.[l]

[b] **20:31** Or *may continue to believe*

[c] **21:1** That is, the Sea of Galilee; ALT and F35 include *after He had been raised from the dead.*

[d] **21:2** *Didymus* means *the twin.*

[e] **21:3** CT does not include *immediately.*

[f] **21:8** Greek *about two hundred cubits away*; that is, approximately 300 feet or 91 meters

[g] **21:13** CT does not include *then.*

[h] **21:14** CT *to the disciples*

[i] **21:15** Or *of Jonas*; CT *of John*; also in verses 16 and 17

[j] **21:18** Or *others*

[k] **21:20** Greek *reclined on His bosom*

[l] **21:25** CT does not include *Amen.*

Acts

Acts of the Apostles

1

Prologue

(Luke 1:1–4)

1 In my first book, O Theophilus, I wrote about all that
Jesus began to do and to teach,
2 until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving
instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles
He had chosen.
3 After His suffering, He presented Himself to them
with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He
appeared to them over a span of forty days and
spoke about the kingdom of God.
4 And while they were gathered together,[a] He com-
manded them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for
the gift the Father promised, which you have heard
Me discuss .
5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you
will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.[b] "

The Ascension

(Mark 16:19–20; Luke 24:50–53)

6 So when they came together, they asked Him, "Lord,
will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
7 Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or sea-
sons that the Father has fixed by His own authority.
8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit
comes upon you, and you will be witnesses to Me[c]
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to
the ends of the earth."
9 After He had said this, they watched as He was taken
up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.
10 They were looking intently into the sky as He was
going, when suddenly two men dressed in white
stood beside them.
11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here
looking[d] into the sky? This same Jesus, who has
been taken from you into heaven, will come back in
the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

Matthias Replaces Judas

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount
of Olives, which is near the city, a Sabbath day's
journey away.[e]
13 When they arrived, they went to the upper room
where they were staying: Peter and James, John and
Andrew,[f] Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and
Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot,
and Judas son of James.
14 With one accord they all continued in prayer and pe-
tition,[g] along with the women and Mary the mother
of Jesus, and with His brothers.
15 In those days Peter stood up among the disciples[h] (a
gathering of about a hundred and twenty) and said,
16 "Brothers, this[i] Scripture had to be fulfilled that
the Holy Spirit foretold through the mouth of David
concerning Judas, who became a guide for those
who arrested Jesus.
17 He was one of our number and shared in this min-
istry."
18 (Now with the reward for his wickedness Judas
bought a field; there he fell headlong and burst open
in the middle, and all his intestines spilled out.
19 This became known to all who lived in Jerusalem,
so they called that field in their own language Akel-
dama, that is, Field of Blood.)
20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'May his
place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,'[j]
and, 'May another take his position.'[k]
21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men
who have accompanied us the whole time the Lord
Jesus went in and out among us,
22 beginning from John's baptism until the day Jesus
was taken up from us. For one of these must become
a witness with us of His resurrection."
23 So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabas
[l] (also known as Justus) and Matthias.
24 And they prayed, "Lord, You know everyone's heart.
Show us which of these two You have chosen
25 to receive a portion in this[m] ministry and apostle-
ship that Judas abandoned to go to his rightful
place."
26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias. So he
was added to the eleven apostles.

2

The Holy Spirit at Pentecost

(Genesis 11:1–9; Leviticus 23:15–22)

1 When the day of Pentecost[n] came, they were all with
one accord[o] in one place.
2 Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came
from heaven and filled the whole house where they
were sitting.
3 They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated
and came to rest on each of them.

[a] **1:4** Or *eating together*

[b] **1:5** Or *For John baptized in water, but in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit*; cited in Acts 11:16

[c] **1:8** CT *My witnesses*

[d] **1:11** Or *staring*; or *gazing up*

[e] **1:12** *A Sabbath day's journey* is 2,000 cubits (approximately 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters)

[f] **1:13** CT *Peter and John, James and Andrew*

[g] **1:14** CT does not include *and petition.*

[h] **1:15** CT *the brothers*

[i] **1:16** CT *the*

[j] **1:20** Psalm 69:25

[k] **1:20** Psalm 109:8

[l] **1:23** CT and GOC *Barsabbas*

[m] **1:25** CT *to take up this*

[n] **2:1** 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 Weeks*(see Exodus 34:22).

[o] **2:1** CT *were all together*

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
5 Now there were dwelling[a] in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.
6 And when this sound rang out, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking his own language.
7 Astounded and amazed, they asked one another,[b] "Are not all[c] these who are speaking Galileans?
8 How is it then that each of us hears them in his own native language?
9 Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[d]
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome,
11 both Jews and converts to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs— we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"
12 Astounded and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does[e] this mean?"
13 But others mocked them and said, "They are drunk on new wine!"

Peter Addresses the Crowd

(Psalm 16:1–11; Joel 2:28–32)

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice, and addressed the crowd: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen carefully to my words.
15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day![f]
16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
17 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.
18 Even on My menservants and maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.
20 The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and glorious Day of the Lord.
21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'[g]
22 Men of Israel, listen to this message: Jesus of Nazareth was a man certified by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know.
23 He was delivered up by God's set plan and foreknowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, took and[h] put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.
24 But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep Him in its grip.
25 David says about Him: 'I saw[i] the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will dwell in hope,
27 because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.
28 You have made known to me the paths of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence.'[j]
29 Brothers, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.
30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that from his descendants[k] according to the flesh He would raise up the Christ to seat Him on his throne.[l]
31 Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not abandoned[m] to Hades, nor did His body see decay.
32 God has raised this Jesus to life, to which we are all witnesses.
33 Exalted, then, to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.
34 For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand
35 until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."'[n]
36 Therefore let all Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!"

Three Thousand Believe

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins,[o] and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
39 This promise belongs to you and your children and to all who are far off — to all whom the Lord our God will call to Himself."
40 With many other words he testified, and he urged them, "Be saved from this corrupt generation."

[a] **2:5** Or *staying*; similarly in verse 14
[b] **2:7** CT does not include *one another*.
[c] **2:7** HF, NA, F35, SBL, and WH do not include *all*.
[d] **2:9** That is, the Roman province of Asia, located in what is now western Turkey
[e] **2:12** Or *could*
[f] **2:15** That is, nine in the morning
[g] **2:21** Joel 2:28–32 (see also LXX)
[h] **2:23** CT does not include *took and*.
[i] **2:25** Literally *I foresaw*; see verse 31.
[j] **2:28** Psalm 16:8–11 (see also LXX)
[k] **2:30** Literally *out of the fruit of his loins*
[l] **2:30** CT *that God had promised him on oath that He would place one of his descendants on his throne*; Psalm 132:11
[m] **2:31** CT *He was not abandoned*
[n] **2:35** Psalm 110:1
[o] **2:38** NA, SBL, TH, and WH *of your sins*

41 Those who gladly[a] embraced his message were
baptized, and about three thousand were added to
the believers that day.[b]

The Fellowship of Believers

(Acts 4:32–37)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching
and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and
to prayer.
43 A sense of awe[c] came over everyone, and the apos-
tles performed many wonders and signs.
44 All the believers were together and had everything
in common.
45 Selling their possessions and goods, they shared
with anyone who was in need.
46 With one accord they continued to meet daily in the
temple courts[d] and to break bread from house to
house, sharing their meals with gladness and sincer-
ity of heart,
47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.
And the Lord added to the church[e] daily those who
were being saved.

3

A Lame Man Walks

1 One afternoon Peter and John were going up together
[f] to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
[g]
2 And a man who was lame from birth was being
carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he
was put every day to beg from those entering the
temple courts.[h]
3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked
them for money.
4 Peter looked directly at him, as did John. "Look at us!"
said Peter.
5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to
receive something from them.
6 But Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what
I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of
Nazareth, get up and walk![i] "
7 Taking him by the right hand, Peter helped him up,
and at once the man's feet and ankles were made
strong.
8 He sprang to his feet and began to walk. Then he
went with them into the temple courts, walking and
leaping and praising God.
9 When all the people saw him walking and praising
God,
10 they recognized him as the man who used to sit
begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they
were filled with wonder and amazement at what
had happened to him.

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Colonnade

(Deuteronomy 18:15–22)

11 While the lame man who had been healed clung to[j]
Peter and John, all the people were astonished and
ran to them in the walkway called Solomon's Colon-
nade.[k]
12 And when Peter saw this, he addressed the people:
"Men of Israel, why are you surprised by this? Why
do you stare at us as if by our own power or godli-
ness we had made this man walk?
13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of
our fathers, has glorified His servant[l] Jesus. You
handed Him over and rejected Him before Pilate,
even though he had decided to release Him.
14 You rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked
that a murderer be released to you.
15 You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him
from the dead, and we are witnesses of this fact.
16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see
and know has been made strong. It is Jesus' name
and the faith that comes through Him that has given
him this complete healing in your presence.
17 And now, brothers, I know that you acted in igno-
rance, as did your leaders.
18 But in this way God has fulfilled what He foretold
through all His prophets, saying that the[m] Christ
would suffer.
19 Repent, then, and turn back, so that your sins may
be wiped away,
20 that times of refreshing may come from the pres-
ence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus, the
Christ, who has been appointed for you.
21 Heaven must take Him in until the time comes for
the restoration of all things, which God announced
long ago through all[n] His holy prophets.
22 For Moses said to the fathers,[o] 'The Lord your God
will raise up for you a prophet like me from among
your brothers. You must listen to Him in everything
He tells you.[p]
23 Everyone who does not listen to Him will be com-
pletely cut off from among his people.[q] '
24 Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as
have spoken, have proclaimed[r] these days.
25 And you are sons of the prophets and of the
covenant God made with our fathers[s] when He said
to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all the families

[a] **2:41** CT does not include *gladly*.
[b] **2:41** Literally *about three thousand souls were added that day*
[c] **2:43** Or *fear*
[d] **2:46** Literally *the temple*
[e] **2:47** CT *to their number*
[f] **3:1** CT does not include *together*.
[g] **3:1** That is, three in the afternoon
[h] **3:2** Literally *the temple*; also in verse 8
[i] **3:6** SBL, NE, and WH *In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!*
[j] **3:11** NA, SBL, TH, and WH *While he clung to*
[k] **3:11** Literally *in the colonnade called Solomon's*
[l] **3:13** Or *His child*; also in verse 26
[m] **3:18** CT *the prophets, (saying) that His*
[n] **3:21** CT does not include *all*.
[o] **3:22** CT does not include *to the fathers*.
[p] **3:22** Deuteronomy 18:15
[q] **3:23** See Deuteronomy 18:19.
[r] **3:24** ALT, F35, and TR *have foretold*
[s] **3:25** NA, SBL, TH, and WH *your fathers*

of the earth will be blessed.'[a]
26 When God raised up His servant Jesus,[b] He sent
Him first to you to bless you by turning each of you
from your wicked ways."

4

Peter and John before the Sanhedrin

1 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the
priests[c] and the captain of the temple guard and the
Sadducees came up to them,
2 greatly disturbed that they were teaching the people
and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the
dead.
3 They seized Peter and John, and because it was
evening, they put them in custody until the next day.
4 But many who heard the message believed, and the
number of men grew to about five thousand.
5 The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled
in Jerusalem,
6 along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John,
Alexander, and many others from the high priest's
family.
7 They had Peter and John brought in and began to
question them: "By what power or what name did
you do this?"
8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,
"Rulers and elders of the people of Israel![d]
9 If we are being examined today about a kind service
to a man who was lame, to determine how he was
healed,
10 then let this be known to all of you and to all the
people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ
of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God
raised from the dead, that this man stands before
you healed.
11 This Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which
has become the cornerstone.'[e]
12 Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other
name[f] given to men by which we must be saved."

The Name Forbidden

13 When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and
realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men,
they marveled and took note that these men had
been with Jesus.
14 And seeing the man who had been healed stand-
ing there with them, they had nothing to say in
response.
15 So they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin[g] and
then conferred together.
16 "What shall we do with these men?" they asked. "It is
clear to everyone living in Jerusalem that a remark-
able miracle has occurred through them, and we
cannot deny it.
17 But to keep this message from spreading any further
among the people, we must strictly[h] warn them not
to speak to anyone in this name."
18 Then they called them in again and commanded
them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves
whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you
rather than God.
20 For we cannot stop speaking about what we have
seen and heard."
21 After further threats they let them go. They could
not find a way to punish them, because all the people
were glorifying God for what had happened.
22 For the man who was miraculously healed was over
forty years old.

The Believers' Prayer

(Psalm 2:1–12)

23 On their release, Peter and John returned to their
own people and reported everything that the chief
priests and elders had said to them.
24 When the believers heard this, they lifted up their
voices to God with one accord. "Sovereign Lord,"
they said, "You are God, who made[i] the heaven and
the earth and the sea and everything in them.
25 You spoke[j] through the mouth of Your servant[k]
David:[l] 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples
plot in vain?
26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers
gather together against the Lord and against His
Anointed One.'[m]
27 In fact,[n] Herod and Pontius Pilate conspired with
the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your
holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed.
28 They carried out what Your hand and will had de-
cided beforehand would happen.
29 And now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable
Your servants to speak Your word with complete
boldness,
30 as You stretch out Your hand to heal and perform
signs and wonders through the name of Your holy
servant Jesus."
31 After they had prayed, their meeting place was
shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke the word of God boldly.

Sharing among Believers

(Acts 2:42–47)

32 The multitude of believers was one in heart and
soul. No one claimed that any of their[o] posses-
sions was his own, but they shared everything they
owned.

[a] **3:25** Genesis 22:18
[b] **3:26** CT *His Servant*
[c] **4:1** WH *the chief priests*
[d] **4:8** CT does not include *of Israel.*
[e] **4:11** Psalm 118:22
[f] **4:12** CT, TR, and some MT include *under heaven.*
[g] **4:15** Or *the Council*
[h] **4:17** CT does not include *strictly*.
[i] **4:24** CT *You made*
[j] **4:25** CT includes *by the Holy Spirit*.
[k] **4:25** Or *child*; also in verses 27 and 30
[l] **4:25** CT *Your servant, our father David*
[m] **4:26** Or *His Christ* or *His Messiah*; Psalm 2:1–2
[n] **4:27** CT includes *this is the very city where.*
[o] **4:32** GOC, ALT, CT, and F35 *his*

33 With great power the apostles continued to give
their testimony about the resurrection of the Lord
Jesus. And abundant grace was upon them all.
34 There were no needy ones among them, because
those who owned lands or houses would sell their
property , bring the proceeds from the sales,
35 and lay them at the apostles' feet for distribution to
anyone as he had need.
36 Joses,[a] a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles
called Barnabas(meaning Son of Encouragement),
37 sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid
it at the apostles' feet.

5

Ananias and Sapphira

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife
Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.
2 With his wife's full knowledge, he kept back some of
the proceeds for himself, but brought a portion and
laid it at the apostles' feet.
3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has
filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and withhold
some of the proceeds from the land?
4 Did it not belong to you before it was sold? And after
it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How could
you conceive such a deed in your heart? You have
not lied to men, but to God!"
5 On hearing these words, Ananias fell down and died.
And great fear came over all who heard what had
happened.
6 Then the young men stepped forward, wrapped up
his body, and carried him out and buried him.
7 About three hours later his wife also came in, un-
aware of what had happened.
8 "Tell me," said Peter, "is this the price you and your
husband got for the land?" "Yes," she answered,
"that is the price."
9 "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?"
Peter replied. "Look, the feet of the men who buried
your husband are at the door, and they will carry you
out also."
10 At that instant she fell down at his feet and died.
Then the young men came in and, finding her dead,
carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
11 And great fear came over the whole church and all
who heard about these events.

The Apostles Heal Many

12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders
among the people, and with one accord the believers
gathered together in Solomon's Colonnade.
13 Although the people regarded them highly, no one
else dared to join them.
14 Yet more and more believers were brought to the
Lord — large numbers of both men and women.
15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets
and laid them on cots and mats, so that at least
Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he
passed by.
16 Crowds also gathered from the towns around
Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by
unclean spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Apostles Arrested and Freed

17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who
belonged to the party of the Sadducees, were filled
with jealousy. They went out
18 and arrested the apostles and put them in the public
jail.
19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the
doors of the jail and brought them out, saying,
20 "Go, stand in the temple courts[b] and tell the people
the full message of this new life."
21 At daybreak the apostles entered the temple courts
as they had been told and began to teach the people.
When the high priest and his associates arrived, they
convened the Sanhedrin[c] — the full assembly of the
elders of Israel— and sent to the jail for the apostles.
22 But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find
them there. So they returned with the report:
23 "We indeed[d] found the jail securely locked, with
the guards posted before[e] the doors; but when we
opened them, we found no one inside."

The Apostles before the Sanhedrin

24 When the high priest and[f] the captain of the temple
guard and the chief priests heard this account, they
were perplexed as to what was happening.[g]
25 Then someone came in and announced, "Look, the
men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts
teaching the people!"
26 At that point, the captain went with the officers and
brought the apostles — but not by force, for fear the
people would stone them.
27 They brought them in and made them stand before
the Sanhedrin, where the high priest interrogated
them.
28 "Did we not give you strict orders not to teach in this
name?" he asked.[h] "Yet you have filled Jerusalem
with your teaching and are determined to make us
responsible for this man's blood."
29 But Peter and the other apostles replied, "We must
obey God rather than men.
30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you
had killed by hanging Him on a tree.
31 God exalted Him to His right hand as Prince and
Savior, in order to grant repentance and forgiveness
of sins to Israel.
32 We are His[i] witnesses of these things, and so is the
Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey
Him."

[a] **4:36** CT *Joseph*

[b] **5:20** Literally *the temple*; also in verses 21, 25, and 42

[c] **5:21** Or *the Council*; also in verses 27, 34, and 41

[d] **5:23** CT does not include *indeed.*

[e] **5:23** CT *posted at*

[f] **5:24** CT does not include *the high priest and.*

[g] **5:24** Literally *as to what this might be*

[h] **5:28** CT *"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said*

[i] **5:32** CT does not include *His.*

[a] **5:33** ECM, MT, TR, and Tischendorf; or *they took counsel*; SBL, NE, and WH *they wanted*

Gamaliel's Advice

33 When the Council members heard this, they were enraged, and they resolved[a] to put the apostles to death.
34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the apostles[b] be put outside for a short time.
35 "Men of Israel," he said, "consider carefully what you are about to do to these men.
36 Some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him.[c] He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.
37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and drew away many[d] people after him. He too perished, and all his followers were scattered.
38 So in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone. Let them go! For if their purpose or endeavor is of human origin, it will fail.
39 But if it is from God, you cannot stop it.[e] You may even find yourselves fighting against God."
40 At this, they yielded to Gamaliel. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released them.
41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name of Jesus.[f]
42 Every day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

6

The Choosing of the Seven

(1 Timothy 3:8–13)

1 In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Grecian Jews among them began to grumble against the Hebraic Jews[g] because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food .
2 So the Twelve summoned all the disciples and said, "It is unacceptable for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.
3 Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men confirmed to be full of the Holy[h] Spirit and wisdom. We will assign this responsibility to them
4 and will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."
5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, as well as Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.[i]
6 They presented these seven to the apostles,[j] who prayed and laid their hands on them.
7 So the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew rapidly, and a great number of priests[k] became obedient to the faith.

The Arrest of Stephen

8 Now Stephen, who was full of faith[l] and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.
9 But resistance arose from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and men from the provinces of Cilicia and Asia.[m] They disputed with Stephen,
10 but they could not stand up to his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.
11 Then they prompted some men to say, "We heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."
12 So they stirred up the people, elders, and scribes and confronted Stephen. They seized him and brought him before the Sanhedrin,[n]
13 where they presented false witnesses who said, "This man never stops speaking blasphemies[o] against this holy place and against the law.
14 For we have heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."
15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

7

Stephen's Address: The Call of Abraham

(Genesis 12:1–9)

1 Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?"
2 And Stephen declared: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,
3 and told him, 'Leave your country and your kindred and go to the land I will show you.'[p]
4 So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After his father died, God brought him out of that place and into this land where you are now living.
5 He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised to give possession of the

[a] **5:34** CT *the men*
[b] **5:36** GOC, CT, F35, and TR *joined him*
[c] **5:37** CT does not include *many*.
[d] **5:39** CT *you will not be able to stop them*
[e] **5:41** CT *for the Name*; TR *for His name*; F35 *for the name of the Christ*
[f] **6:1** Literally *the Hellenists began to grumble against the Hebrews*
[g] **6:3** CT does not include *Holy*.
[h] **6:5** Literally *and Nicolas, a convert of Antioch*
[i] **6:6** Literally *—whom they set before the apostles,*
[j] **6:7** GOC *Jews*
[k] **6:8** CT *grace*
[l] **6:9** Literally *and those from Cilicia and Asia*; the Roman province of Asia was located in what is now western Turkey.
[m] **6:12** Or *the Council*; also in verse 15
[n] **6:13** CT does not include *blasphemies*.
[o] **7:3** Genesis 12:1

land to Abraham and his descendants, even though he did not yet have a child.
6 God told him that his descendants would be foreigners in a strange land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.
7 'But I will punish the nation that enslaves them,' God said, 'and afterward they will come forth and worship Me in this place.'[a]
8 Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, and Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. And Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

Joseph Sold into Egypt

(Genesis 37:12–30)

9 Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him
10 and rescued him from all his troubles. He granted Joseph favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and all his household.
11 Then famine and great suffering swept across the land of[b] Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could not find food.
12 When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers on their first visit.
13 On their second visit, Joseph revealed his identity to[c] his brothers, and his family became known to Pharaoh.
14 Then Joseph sent for his father Jacob and all his relatives, seventy-five in all.

Israel Oppressed in Egypt

(Exodus 1:8–22)

15 So Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our fathers died.
16 Their bones were carried back[d] to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor of Shechem[e] for a price he paid in silver.
17 As the time drew near for God to fulfill His promise[f] to Abraham, our people in Egypt increased greatly in number.
18 Then another king, who knew nothing of Joseph, arose.[g]
19 He exploited our people and oppressed our fathers, forcing them to abandon their infants so they would die.

The Birth and Adoption of Moses

(Exodus 2:1–10; Hebrews 11:23–29)

20 At that time Moses was born, and he was beautiful in the sight of God.[h] For three months he was nurtured in his father's house.
21 When he was set outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son.
22 So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

The Rejection and Flight of Moses

(Exodus 2:11–22)

23 When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.
24 And when he saw one of them being mistreated, Moses went to his defense and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian who was oppressing him.
25 He assumed his brothers would understand that God was using him to deliver them, but they did not.
26 The next day he came upon two Israelites who were fighting, and he urged them to make peace,[i] saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why are you mistreating each other?'
27 But the man who was abusing his neighbor pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?
28 Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'[j]
29 At this remark, Moses fled to the land of Midian, where he lived as a foreigner and had two sons.

The Call of Moses

(Exodus 3:1–22)

30 After forty years had passed, an angel of the Lord[k] appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai.
31 When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight. As he approached to look more closely, the voice of the Lord came to him:[l]
32 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.'[m] Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.
33 Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.
34 I have indeed seen the oppression of My people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'[n]
35 This Moses, whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?'[o] is the one whom God sent to be their ruler and redeemer through the angel[p] who appeared to him in the bush.

[a] **7:7** Genesis 15:13–14; Exodus 3:12
[b] **7:11** CT does not include *the land of*.
[c] **7:13** Or *Joseph was made known to* or *Joseph was recognized by*
[d] **7:16** Literally *And they were carried back*
[e] **7:16** CT *at Shechem*
[f] **7:17** Literally *the promise He had sworn*
[g] **7:18** CT includes *over Egypt*.
[h] **7:20** Or *he was of great status in God's eyes* or *he was no ordinary child*
[i] **7:26** CT *he tried to reconcile them in peace*
[j] **7:28** Exodus 2:13–14 (see also LXX)
[k] **7:30** CT does not include *of the Lord*.
[l] **7:31** CT literal does not include *to him*.
[m] **7:32** Exodus 3:6
[n] **7:34** Exodus 3:5–10
[o] **7:35** Exodus 2:14
[p] **7:35** Or *Angel*; also in verse 38

36 He led them out and performed wonders and signs
in the land of[a] Egypt, at the Red Sea, and for forty
years in the wilderness.
37 This is the same Moses who told the Israelites, 'The
Lord our God will raise up[b] for you a prophet like
me from among your brothers.'[c]
38 He was in the assembly in the wilderness with the
angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with
our fathers. And he received a living word[d] to pass
on to us.[e]

The Rebellion of Israel

(Exodus 32:1–35; Deuteronomy 9:7–29; Amos 5:16–27)

39 But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they
rejected him and in their heart[f] turned back to
Egypt.
40 They said to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before
us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of
Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.'[g]
41 At that time they made a calf and offered a sacrifice
to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands.
42 But God turned away from them and gave them over
to the worship of the host of heaven, as it is written
in the book of the prophets: 'Did you bring Me sacri-
fices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, O
house of Israel?
43 You have taken along the tabernacle of Molech and
the star of your god Remphan,[h] the idols you made
to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile
beyond Babylon.'[i]

The Tabernacle of the Testimony

(Exodus 40:1–33; Hebrews 9:1–10)

44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony
with them in the wilderness. It was constructed
exactly as God had directed Moses, according to the
pattern he had seen.
45 And our fathers who received it brought it in with
Joshua when they dispossessed the nations God
drove out before them. It remained until the time
of David,
46 who found favor in the sight of God and asked to
provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.[j]
47 But it was Solomon who built the house for Him.
48 However, the Most High does not dwell in temples
made by human hands.[k] As the prophet says:
49 'Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool.
What kind of house will you build for Me, says the
Lord, or where will My place of repose be?
50 Has not My hand made all these things?'[l]
51 You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised heart[m]
and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit, just as
your fathers did.
52 Which of the prophets did your fathers fail to per-
secute? They even killed those who foretold the
coming of the Righteous One. And now you are His
betrayers and murderers —
53 you who received the law ordained by angels, yet
have not kept it."

The Stoning of Stephen

54 On hearing this, the members of the Sanhedrin were
enraged,[n] and they gnashed their teeth at him.
55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently
into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus
standing at the right hand of God.
56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of
Man standing at the right hand of God."
57 At this they covered their ears, cried out in a loud
voice, and rushed together at him.
58 They dragged him out of the city and began to stone
him. Meanwhile the witnesses laid their garments at
the feet of a young man named Saul.
59 While they were stoning him, Stephen appealed,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
60 Falling on his knees, he cried out in a loud voice,
"Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when
he had said this, he fell asleep.

8

Saul Persecutes the Church

1 And Saul was there, giving approval to Stephen's
death. On that day a great persecution broke out
against the church in Jerusalem, and all except
the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and
Samaria.
2 God-fearing men buried Stephen and mourned
deeply over him.
3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from
house to house, he dragged off men and women and
put them in prison.

Philip in Samaria

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word
wherever they went.
5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria[o] and pro-
claimed the Christ to them.
6 The crowds all paid close attention to Philip's message
and to the signs they saw him perform.
7 With loud shrieks, unclean spirits came out of many
who were possessed, and many of the paralyzed and
lame were healed.
8 So there was great joy in that city.

[a] **7:36** WH does not include *the land of.*

[b] **7:37** CT *'God will raise up*; TR *'The Lord your God will raise up*

[c] **7:37** Deuteronomy 18:15

[d] **7:38** CT and TR *living words*

[e] **7:38** NE and WH *to you*

[f] **7:39** CT and TR *hearts*

[g] **7:40** Exodus 32:1

[h] **7:43** ALT and TH *Rephan*; F35 *Rephphan*; ECM, NA, and SBL *Raiphan*; WH *Rompha*

[i] **7:43** Amos 5:25–27 (see also LXX)

[j] **7:46** SBL, WH, MT, and TR; see also LXX for Psalm 132:5; ECM and NE *a dwelling place for the house of Jacob*

[k] **7:48** CT *houses made by human hands*

[l] **7:50** Isaiah 66:1–2

[m] **7:51** CT *hearts*

[n] **7:54** Literally *On hearing these things, they were cut in their hearts,*

[o] **8:5** NA, SBL, and WH *the city of Samaria*

Simon the Sorcerer

(Deuteronomy 18:9–14)

9 Prior to that time, a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and astounded the people of Samaria. He claimed to be someone great,
10 and from the least to the greatest they heeded his words[a] and said, "This man is the great power of God.[b] "
11 They paid close attention to him because he had astounded them for a long time with his sorcery.
12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the gospel of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
13 Even Simon himself believed and was baptized. He followed Philip closely and was astounded by the miracles and signs[c] he observed.
14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.
15 On their arrival, they prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.
16 For the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of Jesus Christ.[d]
17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
18 When Simon saw that the Holy[e] Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money.
19 "Give me this power as well," he said, "so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
20 But Peter replied, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!
21 You have no part or share in our ministry, because your heart is not right in the sight of God.[f]
22 Repent, therefore, of your wickedness, and pray to God.[g] Perhaps He will forgive you for the intent of your heart.
23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and captive to iniquity."
24 Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord[h] for me, so that nothing you have said may happen to me."
25 And after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many of the Samaritan villages.

Philip and the Ethiopian

(Isaiah 53:1–8)

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace,[i] the queen[j] of the Ethiopians. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship,
28 and on his return was sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet.
29 The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that chariot and stay by it."
30 So Philip ran up and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.
31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
32 The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so He did not open His mouth.
33 In His humiliation He was deprived of justice. Who can recount His descendants? For His life was removed from the earth."[k]
34 "Tell me," said the eunuch, "who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"
35 Then Philip began with this very Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.
36 As they traveled along the road and came to some water, the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is there to prevent me from being baptized?"[l]
37
38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.
39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.
40 But Philip appeared at Azotus and traveled through that region, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

9

The Road to Damascus

(Acts 22:1–21; Acts 26:1–23)

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord. He approached the high priest
2 and requested letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.
3 As Saul drew near to Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

[a] **8:10** CT *and all from the least to the greatest heeded his words*
[b] **8:10** CT *the divine power called the Great Power*
[c] **8:13** CT and Stephanus TR *signs and great miracles*
[d] **8:16** CT, GOC, and TR *of the Lord Jesus*
[e] **8:18** CT does not include *Holy*.
[f] **8:21** CT *before God*
[g] **8:22** CT *to the Lord*
[h] **8:24** GOC *Pray to God*

[i] **8:27** Greek *Kandakē*
[j] **8:27** CT *Candace, queen*
[k] **8:33** Isaiah 53:7–8 (see also LXX)
[l] **8:36** TR includes **37**And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him,
"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"
5 "Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom
you are persecuting," replied the Lord.[a]
6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told
what you must do."
7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless.
They heard the voice but did not see anyone.
8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his
eyes he could not see a thing.[b] So they led him by
the hand into Damascus.
9 For three days he was without sight, and he did not
eat or drink anything.

Ananias Baptizes Saul

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias.
The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Here
I am, Lord," he answered.
11 "Get up!" the Lord told him. "Go to the house of Judas
on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus
named Saul, for he is praying.
12 In a vision[c] he has seen a man named Ananias come
and place a hand[d] on him to restore his sight."
13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have
told me about this man and all the harm he has done
to Your saints in Jerusalem.
14 And now he is here with authority from the chief
priests to arrest all who call on Your name."
15 "Go!" said the Lord. "This man is My chosen instru-
ment to carry My name before the Gentiles and their
kings, and before the people of Israel.
16 I will show him how much he must suffer for My
name."
17 So Ananias went to the house, and when he arrived,
he placed his hands on Saul. "Brother Saul," he said,
"the Lord,[e] who appeared to you on the road as you
were coming here, has sent me so that you may see
again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
18 At that instant, something like scales fell from Saul's
eyes, and his sight was restored.[f] He got up and was
baptized,
19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.
And Saul[g] spent several days with the disciples in
Damascus.

Saul Preaches at Damascus

20 Saul promptly began to proclaim Christ[h] in the syn-
agogues, declaring , "He is the Son of God."
21 All who heard him were astounded and asked, "Isn't
this the man who wreaked havoc in Jerusalem on
those who call on this name? And hasn't he come
here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"
22 But Saul was empowered all the more, and he con-
founded the Jews living in Damascus by proving that
Jesus is the Christ.

The Escape from Damascus

23 After many days had passed, the Jews conspired to
kill him,
24 but Saul learned of their plot. Day and night they
watched the city gates in order to kill him.
25 One night, however, the disciples[i] took him and
lowered him in a basket through a window in the
wall.[j]

Saul in Jerusalem

26 When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the
disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believ-
ing that he was a disciple.
27 Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and de-
scribed how Saul had seen the Lord, who had spoken
to him on the road to Damascus, and how Saul had
spoken boldly in that city in the name of Jesus.[k]
28 So Saul stayed with them, moving about freely in
Jerusalem and speaking boldly in the name of the
Lord Jesus.[l]
29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews,[m] but
they tried to kill him.
30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him
down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

The Healing of Aeneas

31 Then the churches[n] throughout Judea, Galilee, and
Samaria experienced a time of peace. They grew
in strength[o] and numbers, living in the fear of the
Lord and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.
32 As Peter traveled throughout the area, he went to
visit the saints in Lydda.
33 There he found a man named Aeneas who had been
paralyzed and bedridden for eight years.
34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you!
Get up and put away your mat." Immediately Aeneas
got up,
35 and all who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and
turned to the Lord.

The Raising of Tabitha

(John 11:38–44)

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which
is translated as Dorcas),[p] who was always occupied
with works of kindness and charity.
37 At that time, however, she became sick and died, and
her body was washed and placed in an upper room.
[q]

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[a] **9:5** CT does not include *replied the Lord.* TR includes *"It is hard for you to kick against the goads."* **6**And trembling and astonished, the man asked, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" And the Lord said to him:

[b] **9:8** Literally *he could see nothing* or *he could see no one*

[c] **9:12** ECM does not include *In a vision.*

[d] **9:12** CT *(his) hands*

[e] **9:17** GOC, CT, and TR *the Lord Jesus*

[f] **9:18** ALT, F35, and TR *restored immediately*

[g] **9:19** CT *he*

[h] **9:20** GOC, CT, and F35 *Jesus*

[i] **9:25** CT *his disciples*

[j] **9:25** Literally *through the wall*; see 2 Corinthians 11:33.

[k] **9:27** F35 *the Lord Jesus*

[l] **9:28** CT *in the name of the Lord*; F35 *in the name of Jesus*

[m] **9:29** Or *Hellenists*

[n] **9:31** CT *church*

[o] **9:31** CT *It grew in strength*

[p] **9:36** *Tabitha* in Aramaic and *Dorcas* in Greek both mean *gazelle.*

[q] **9:37** F35 *the upper room*

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing
that Peter was there, sent[a] to urge him, "Come to
them[b] without delay."
39 So Peter got up and went with them. On his arrival,
they took him to the upper room. All the widows
stood around him, weeping and showing him the tu-
nics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while
she was still with them.
40 Then Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt
down and prayed, and turning toward her body, he
said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and
seeing Peter, she sat up.
41 Peter took her by the hand and helped her up. Then
he called the saints and widows and presented her
to them alive.
42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people
believed in the Lord.
43 And Peter stayed for several days in Joppa with a
tanner named Simon.

10

Cornelius Sends for Peter

1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a
centurion in what was called the Italian Regiment.
2 He and all his household were devout and God-fear-
ing. He gave generously to the people and prayed to
God regularly.
3 One day at about the ninth hour,[c] he had a clear
vision of an angel of God who came to him and said,
"Cornelius!"
4 Cornelius stared at him in fear and asked, "What is it,
Lord?" The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts
to the poor have ascended as a memorial offering
before God.
5 Now send men to Joppa to call for Simon[d] who is
called Peter.
6 He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is
by the sea.[e] "
7 When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cor-
nelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier
from among his attendants.
8 He explained what had happened and sent them to
Joppa.

Peter's Vision

(Leviticus 11:1–47; Deuteronomy 14:1–21)

9 The next day at about the sixth hour,[f] as the men
were approaching the city on their journey, Peter
went up on the roof to pray.
10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat,
but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into
a trance.
11 He saw heaven open and something like a large
sheet being let down to earth to him, bound at its
four corners.[g]
12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals of the
earth, wild beasts, and reptiles,[h] as well as birds of
the air.
13 Then a voice said to him: "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"
14 "No, Lord!" Peter answered. "I have never eaten
anything impure[i] or unclean."
15 The voice spoke to him a second time: "Do not call
anything impure that God has made clean."
16 This happened three times, and again[j] the sheet
was taken back up into heaven.

Peter Called to Caesarea

17 While Peter was puzzling over the meaning of the
vision, the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's
house and approached the gate.
18 They called out to ask if Simon called Peter was
staying there.
19 As Peter continued to reflect on the vision, the Spirit
said to him, "Behold, men[k] are looking for you.
20 So get up! Go downstairs and accompany them with-
out hesitation, because I have sent them."
21 So Peter went down to the men[l] and said, "Here am
I, the one you are looking for. Why have you come?"
22 "Cornelius the centurion has sent us ," they said.
"He is a righteous and God-fearing man with a good
reputation among the whole Jewish nation. A holy
angel[m] instructed him to request your presence in
his home so he could hear a message from you."
23 So Peter invited them in as his guests. And the next
day he went[n] with them, accompanied by some of
the brothers from Joppa.

Peter Visits Cornelius

24 The following day they arrived[o] in Caesarea, where
Cornelius was expecting them and had called to-
gether his relatives and close friends.
25 As Peter was about to enter, Cornelius met him and
fell at his feet to worship him.
26 But Peter helped him up. "Stand up," he said, "I am
only a man myself."
27 As Peter talked with him, he went inside and found
many people gathered together.
28 He said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for
a Jew to associate with a foreigner or visit him. But
God has shown me that I should not call any man
impure or unclean.
29 So when I was invited, I came without objection. I
ask, then, why have you sent for me?"

[a] **9:38** GOC, CT, and TR include *two men.*
[b] **9:38** CT *Come to us*
[c] **10:3** That is, about three in the afternoon; also in verse 30
[d] **10:5** CT *a man named Simon*
[e] **10:6** TR includes *He will tell you what you need to do.*
[f] **10:9** That is, about noon
[g] **10:11** CT *being let down to earth by its four corners*
[h] **10:12** CT *all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth*
[i] **10:14** Literally *common*; similarly in verses 15 and 28
[j] **10:16** CT *all at once*
[k] **10:19** SBL and MT; ECM and TR *three men*; NE and WH *two men*
[l] **10:21** TR *the men sent to him by Cornelius*
[m] **10:22** F35 *An angel*
[n] **10:23** GOC and CT *he got ready and went*
[o] **10:24** CT *he arrived*
[a] **10:30** CT does not include *fasting and.*

30 Cornelius answered: “Four days ago I was in my
house fasting and[a] praying at this, the ninth hour.
Suddenly a man in radiant clothing stood before me
31 and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard,
and your gifts to the poor have been remembered
before God.
32 Therefore send to Joppa for Simon, who is called
Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner,
by the sea. He will speak to you when he arrives.[b] ’
33 So I sent for you immediately, and you were kind
enough to come. Now then, we are all here in the
presence of God to listen to everything God[c] has
instructed you to tell us.”

Good News for the Gentiles

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now truly understand
that God does not show favoritism,
35 but welcomes those from every nation who fear Him
and do what is right.
36 He has sent this message to the people of Israel, pro-
claiming the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ,
who is Lord of all.
37 You yourselves know what has happened through-
out Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism that
John proclaimed:
38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy
Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went around
doing good and healing all who were oppressed by
the devil, because God was with Him.
39 We are witnesses of all that He did, both in the land
of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And although they put
Him to death by hanging Him on a tree,
40 God raised Him up on the third day and caused Him
to be seen —
41 not by all the people, but by the witnesses God had
chosen beforehand, by us who ate and drank with
Him after He rose from the dead.
42 And He commanded us to preach to the people and
to testify that He is the One appointed by God to
judge the living and the dead.
43 All the prophets testify about Him that everyone
who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins
through His name.”

The Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

(Acts 19:1–7)

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy
Spirit fell upon all who heard his message.
45 All[d] the circumcised believers who had accompa-
nied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy
Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.
46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalt-
ing God. Then Peter said,
47 “Can anyone withhold the water to baptize these
people? They have received the Holy Spirit just as
we have!”
48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of
the Lord.[e] Then they asked him to stay for a few
days.

[b] **10:32** CT does not include *He will speak to you when he arrives.*

[c] **10:33** CT *the Lord*

[d] **10:45** WH does not include *All.*

[e] **10:48** F35 *the Lord Jesus*; CT *of Jesus Christ*

11

Peter’s Report at Jerusalem

1 The apostles and brothers throughout Judea soon
heard that the Gentiles also had received the word
of God.
2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised
believers[f] took issue with him
3 and said, “You visited uncircumcised men and ate
with them.”
4 But Peter began and explained to them the whole
sequence of events:
5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I
saw a vision of something like a large sheet being let
down from heaven by its four corners, and it came
right down to me.
6 I looked at it closely and saw four-footed animals of
the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air.
7 Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter, kill
and eat.’
8 ‘No, Lord,’ I said, ‘for nothing impure[g] or unclean has
ever entered my mouth.’
9 But the voice spoke to me[h] from heaven a second
time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has
made clean.’
10 This happened three times, and everything was
drawn back up into heaven.
11 Just then three men sent to me from Caesarea
stopped at the house where I was staying.
12 The Spirit told me to accompany them without hesi-
tation. These six brothers also went with me, and we
entered the man’s home.
13 He told us how he had seen an angel standing in his
house and saying, ‘Send men[i] to Joppa for Simon
who is called Peter.
14 He will convey to you a message by which you and
all your household will be saved.’
15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them,
just as He had fallen upon us at the beginning.
16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He
said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be bap-
tized with the Holy Spirit.’[j]
17 So if God gave them the same gift He gave us who
believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,[k] who was I to
hinder the work of God?”
18 When they heard this, they had no further objec-
tions, and they glorified God, saying, “So then, God
has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.”

The Church at Antioch

19 Meanwhile those scattered by the persecution that
began with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia,
Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the message only to
Jews.

[f] **11:2** Literally *those of the circumcision*

[g] **11:8** Literally *common*; similarly in verse 9

[h] **11:9** CT does not include *to me.*

[i] **11:13** CT and F35 do not include *men.*

[j] **11:16** Or *‘John baptized in water, but in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’*Acts 1:5

[k] **11:17** F35 *the Lord Jesus*

20 But some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene,
went to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks,
[a] proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus.
21 The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great
number of people believed and[b] turned to the Lord.
22 When news of this reached the ears of the church in
Jerusalem, they sent out Barnabas, that he should go
to Antioch.[c]
23 When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he re-
joiced and encouraged them all to abide in the Lord
with all their hearts.
24 Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and
faith, and a great number of people were brought to
the Lord.
25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
26 and when he found him, he brought him back to
Antioch. So for a full year they met together with
the church and taught large numbers of people. The
disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.
27 In those days some prophets came down from
Jerusalem to Antioch.
28 One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted
through the Spirit that a great famine would sweep
across the whole world.[d] (This happened under
Claudius Caesar[e] .)
29 So the disciples, each according to his ability, de-
cided to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.
30 This they did, sending their gifts to the elders with
Barnabas and Saul.

12

James Killed, Peter Imprisoned

1 About that time, King Herod[f] reached out to harm[g]
some who belonged to the church.
2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with
the sword.
3 And seeing that this pleased the Jews, Herod pro-
ceeded to seize Peter during the Feast of Unleavened
Bread.[h]
4 He arrested him and put him in prison, handing him
over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers
each. Herod intended to bring him out to the people
after the Passover.

The Rescue of Peter

5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was
earnestly[i] praying to God for him.
6 On the night before Herod was to bring him to trial,
Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound
with two chains, with sentries standing guard at the
entrance to the prison.
7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light
shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and
woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And the
chains fell off his wrists.
8 "Get dressed and put on your sandals," said the angel.
Peter did so, and the angel told him, "Wrap your
cloak around you and follow me."
9 So Peter followed him out, but he was unaware that
what the angel was doing was real. He thought he
was only seeing a vision.
10 They passed the first and second guards and came
to the iron gate leading to the city, which opened
for them by itself. When they had gone outside and
walked the length of one block, the angel suddenly
left him.
11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know
for sure that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued
me from Herod's grasp and from everything the
Jewish people were anticipating."
12 And when he had realized this, he went to the house
of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where
many people had gathered together and were pray-
ing.
13 Peter[j] knocked at the outer gate, and a servant girl
named Rhoda came to answer it.
14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so over-
joyed that she forgot to open the gate, but ran inside
and announced, "Peter is standing at the gate!"
15 "You are out of your mind," they told her. But when
she kept insisting it was so, they said, "It must be his
angel."
16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened
the door and saw him, they were astounded.
17 Peter motioned with his hand for silence, and he
described how the Lord had brought him out of the
prison. "Send word to James and to the brothers," he
said, and he left for another place.
18 At daybreak there was no small commotion among
the soldiers as to what had become of Peter.
19 After Herod had searched for him unsuccessfully, he
examined the guards and ordered that they be exe-
cuted. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea
and spent some time there.

The Death of Herod

20 Now Herod was in a furious dispute[k] with the
people of Tyre and Sidon, and they convened before
him. Having secured the support of Blastus, the
king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because
their region depended on the king's country for food.
21 On the appointed day, Herod donned his royal robes,
sat on his throne, and addressed the people.
22 And they began to shout, "This is the voice of a god,
not a man!"
23 Immediately, because Herod did not give glory to
God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he
was eaten by worms and died.
24 But the word of God[l] continued to spread and mul-
tiply.

[a] **11:20** Or *the Hellenists*; CT includes *as well*.
[b] **11:21** NA, SBL, TH, and WH *who believed*
[c] **11:22** ECM, SBL, TH, and WH *they sent Barnabas to Antioch*
[d] **11:28** Or *the entire Roman world*
[e] **11:28** CT does not include *Caesar*.
[f] **12:1** That is, King Herod Agrippa
[g] **12:1** Literally *put forth the hands to mistreat*
[h] **12:3** Literally *seize Peter—now these were the days of the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20.
[i] **12:5** CT *fervently*
[j] **12:13** CT *He*
[k] **12:20** Or *had become furious*
[l] **12:24** WH *the Lord*

25 When Barnabas and Saul had fulfilled their mission to Jerusalem, they returned,[a] bringing with them John, also called Mark.

13

Paul's First Missionary Journey Begins

(Acts 15:36–41; Acts 18:23–28)

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were certain [b] prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch), and Saul.
2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
3 And after they had fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

On Cyprus

4 So Barnabas and Saul, sent forth by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.
5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. And John was with them as their helper.
6 They traveled through the island[c] as far as Paphos, where they found a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus,
7 an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, a man of intelligence, summoned Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.
8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.
9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked directly at Elymas
10 and said, "O child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, you are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery! Will you never stop perverting the straight ways of the Lord?
11 Now look, the hand of the Lord is against you, and for a time you will be blind and unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness fell [d] over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.
12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

In Pisidian Antioch

13 After setting sail from Paphos, Paul and his companions came to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.
14 And from Perga, they traveled inland to Pisidian Antioch, where they entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and sat down.
15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent word to them: "Brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, please speak."
16 Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and began to speak: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who fear God, listen to me!
17 The God of the people[e] chose our fathers. He made them into a great people during their stay in Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out of that land.
18 He endured their conduct for about forty years in the wilderness.
19 And having vanquished seven nations in Canaan, He gave their land to His people as their inheritance. [f]
20 All this took about 450 years. After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet.
21 Then the people asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years.
22 After removing Saul, He raised up David as their king and testified about him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after My own heart; he will carry out My will in its entirety.'[g]
23 From the descendants of this man, God has brought to Israel salvation,[h] as He promised.
24 Before the arrival of Jesus, John preached a baptism of repentance to Israel.[i]
25 As John was completing his course, he said, 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not that One. But there is One coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'[j]
26 Brothers, children of Abraham, and you Gentiles who fear God, it is to you[k] that this message of salvation has been sent.
27 The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning Him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.
28 And though they found no ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have Him executed.
29 When they had carried out all that was written about Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.
30 But God raised Him from the dead,
31 and for many days He was seen by those who had accompanied Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are[l] His witnesses to our people.
32 And now we proclaim to you the good news: What God promised our fathers

[a] **12:25** Or *had fulfilled their mission, they returned to Jerusalem*; ALT, NE, and TR *had fulfilled their mission, they returned from Jerusalem*; F35 includes *to Antioch*.

[b] **13:1** CT does not include *certain*.

[c] **13:6** CT *the whole island*

[d] **13:11** CT *came*

[e] **13:17** GOC, CT, and TR *the people of Israel*

[f] **13:19** CT *as an inheritance*

[g] **13:22** See 1 Samuel 13:14.

[h] **13:23** CT and TR *the Savior Jesus*

[i] **13:24** GOC, CT, and TR *to all the people of Israel*

[j] **13:25** Luke 3:16; see also Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:7, and John 1:27.

[k] **13:26** CT *to us*

[l] **13:31** CT includes *now*.

33 He has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up
Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: 'You are
My Son; today I have become Your Father.'[a]
34 In fact, God raised Him from the dead, never to see
decay. As He has said: 'I will give you the holy and
sure blessings promised to David.'[b]
35 So also, He says in another Psalm: 'You will not let
Your Holy One see decay.'[c]
36 For when David had served God's purpose in his
own generation, he fell asleep. His body was buried
with his fathers and saw decay.
37 But the One whom God raised from the dead did not
see decay.
38 Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that
through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed
to you.
39 Through Him everyone who believes is justified
from everything from which you could not be justi-
fied by the law of Moses.
40 Watch out, then, that what was spoken by the
prophets does not happen to you:[d]
41 'Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish! For I am
doing a work in your days that you would never
believe, even if someone told you.'[e] "

A Light for the Gentiles

(Isaiah 49:1–6)

42 As the Jews were leaving the synagogue, the Gentiles
urged[f] Paul and Barnabas to continue this message
on the next Sabbath.
43 After the synagogue was dismissed, many of the
Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul
and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them
to continue in the grace of God.
44 On the following Sabbath, nearly the whole city
gathered to hear the word of God.[g]
45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled
with jealousy, and they blasphemously opposed and
contradicted[h] what Paul was saying.
46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "It
was necessary to speak the word of God to you
first. But since you reject it and do not consider
yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the
Gentiles.
47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have
made you a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation
to the ends of the earth.'[i] "
48 When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and
glorified the word of the Lord, and all who were
appointed for eternal life believed.
49 And the word of the Lord spread throughout that
region.
50 The Jews, however, incited the religious women of
prominence and the leading men of the city. They
stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas
and drove them out of their district.
51 So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against
them and went to Iconium.
52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the
Holy Spirit.

14

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

1 At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the
Jewish synagogue, where they spoke so well that a
great number of Jews and Greeks believed.
2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and
poisoned their minds against the brothers.
3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there,
speaking boldly for the Lord, who affirmed the mes-
sage of His grace by enabling them to perform signs
and wonders.
4 The people of the city were divided. Some sided with
the Jews, and others with the apostles.
5 But when the Gentiles and Jews, together with their
rulers, set out to mistreat and stone them,
6 they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian
cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding
region,
7 where they continued to preach the gospel.

The Visit to Lystra and Derbe

8 In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was
lame from birth and had never walked.
9 This man was listening to the words of Paul, who
looked intently at him and saw that he had faith to
be healed.
10 In a loud voice Paul called out, "Stand up on your
feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk.
11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they
lifted up their voices in the Lycaonian language:
"The gods have come down to us in human form!"
12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called
Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.
13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside
their city,[j] brought bulls and wreaths to the city
gates, hoping to offer a sacrifice along with the
crowds.
14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul found out
about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into
the crowd, shouting,
15 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men,
human like you. We are bringing you good news that
you should turn from these worthless things to the
living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and
everything in them.
16 In past generations, He let all nations go their own
way.
17 Yet He has not left Himself without testimony to
His goodness: He gives you[k] rain from heaven and
fruitful seasons, filling our[l] hearts with food and
gladness."

[a] **13:33** Psalm 2:7; literally *today I have begotten You*

[b] **13:34** Literally *I will give you the holy, the trustworthy of David*; Isaiah 55:3

[c] **13:35** Psalm 16:10

[d] **13:40** CT literal does not include *to you.*

[e] **13:41** Habakkuk 1:5 (see also LXX)

[f] **13:42** CT *As they were leaving, they urged*

[g] **13:44** CT *of the Lord*

[h] **13:45** CT *blasphemously contradicted*

[i] **13:47** Isaiah 49:6

[j] **14:13** CT *the city*

[k] **14:17** TR *us*

[l] **14:17** CT *your*

18 Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas could hardly stop the crowds from sacrificing to them.
19 Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, presuming he was dead.
20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. And the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

Strengthening the Disciples

21 They preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,
22 strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith. "We must endure many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.
23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church, praying and fasting as they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.
24 After passing through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.
25 And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.
26 From Attalia they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had just completed.
27 When they arrived, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them, and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.
28 And they spent a long time there[a] with the disciples.

15

The Dispute over Circumcision

1 Then some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."
2 Therefore after[b] engaging these men in sharp debate, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers , to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.
3 Sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia[c] and Samaria, recounting the conversion of the Gentiles and bringing great joy to all the brothers.
4 On their arrival in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and apostles and elders, to whom they reported all that God had done through them.[d]

The Council at Jerusalem

(Amos 9:11–15; Galatians 2:1–10)

5 But some believers from the party of the Pharisees stood up and declared, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."
6 So the apostles and elders met to look into this matter.
7 After much debate,[e] Peter got up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among us[f] that the Gentiles would hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.
8 And God, who knows the heart, showed His approval by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as He did to us.
9 He made no distinction between us and them, for He cleansed their hearts by faith.
10 Now then, why do you test God by placing on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?
11 On the contrary, we believe it is through the grace of the Lord Jesus[g] that we are saved, just as they are."
12 The whole assembly fell silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describing the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.
13 When they had finished speaking, James declared, "Brothers, listen to me!
14 Simon[h] has told us how God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people to be His own.
15 The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written:
16 'After this I will return and rebuild the fallen tent of David. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,
17 so that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.'[i]
18 Known for ages to God are all His works.[j]
19 It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not cause trouble for the Gentiles who are turning to God.
20 Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood.
21 For Moses has been proclaimed in every city from ancient times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

The Letter to the Gentile Believers

22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to select men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas called Barsabbas[k] and Silas, two leaders among the brothers,
23 and sent them with this letter: The apostles, elders, and brothers,[l] To the brothers among the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.
24 It has come to our attention that some went out from us without our authorization and unsettled you, troubling your minds by saying that you must

[a] **14:28** CT literal does not include *there*.
[b] **15:2** CT *And after*
[c] **15:3** NA, SBL, TH, and WH *both Phoenicia*
[d] **15:4** GOC includes *and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles*.
[e] **15:7** CT *discussion*
[f] **15:7** CT and F35 *you*
[g] **15:11** TR *the Lord Jesus Christ*
[h] **15:14** Greek *Simeon*, a variant of Simon
[i] **15:17** Amos 9:11–12 (see also LXX)
[j] **15:18** CT *says the Lord who does these things* **18**that have been known for ages.'
[k] **15:22** ALT, F35, and TR *Barsabas*
[l] **15:23** CT *The apostles and elders, (your) brothers*

be circumcised and keep the law.[a]
25 So we all agreed to send chosen men[b] to you along
with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ.
27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to tell you
in person the same things we are writing.
28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to
burden you with anything beyond these essential
requirements:
29 You must abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from
blood, from the meat of strangled animals, and from
sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these
things. Farewell.

The Believers at Antioch Rejoice

30 So the men were sent off and went[c] to Antioch,
where they assembled the congregation and deliv-
ered the letter.
31 When the people read it, they rejoiced at its encour-
aging message.
32 Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said
much to encourage and strengthen the brothers.
33 After spending some time there, they were sent off
by the brothers in peace to return to the apostles.[d]
34
35 But Paul and Barnabas remained at Antioch, along
with many others, teaching and preaching the word
of the Lord.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey Begins

(Acts 13:1–3; Acts 18:23–28)

36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go
back and visit our brothers[e] in every town where
we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they
are doing."
37 Barnabas wanted to take John called[f] Mark.
38 But Paul thought it best not to take him, because he
had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accom-
panied them in the work.
39 Their disagreement was so sharp that they parted
company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,
40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the
brothers to the grace of God.[g]
41 And he traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strength-
ening the churches.

16

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where he
found a disciple named Timothy, the son of a believ-
ing Jewish woman and a Greek father.
2 The brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of
him.
3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, so he took
him and circumcised him on account of the Jews in
that area, for they all knew that his father was a
Greek.
4 As they went from town to town, they delivered the
decisions handed down by the apostles and elders in
Jerusalem for the people to obey.
5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and
grew daily in numbers.

Paul's Vision of the Macedonian

6 After the Holy Spirit had prevented them from speak-
ing the word in the province of Asia,[h] they traveled
through the region of Phrygia and Galatia.
7 And when they came to the border of Mysia, they
tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit[i] would not
permit them.
8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.
9 During the night, Paul had a vision of a man of Mace-
donia standing and pleading with him, "Come over
to Macedonia and help us."
10 As soon as Paul had seen the vision, we got ready to
leave for Macedonia, concluding that the Lord[j] had
called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

(Revelation 2:18–29)

11 Therefore[k] we sailed from Troas straight to Samoth-
race, and the following day on to Neapolis.
12 From there we went to the Roman colony of Philippi,
the leading city of that district of Macedonia.[l] And
we stayed there several days.
13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city[m] along
the river, where it was customary to find a place of
prayer. After sitting down, we spoke to the women
who had gathered there.
14 Among those listening was a woman named Lydia, a
dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who
was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart
to respond to Paul's message.
15 And when she and her household had been bap-
tized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer
in the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she
persuaded us.

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

16 One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we
were met by a slave girl with a spirit of divination,
[n] who earned a large income for her masters by
fortune-telling.

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[a] **15:24** CT *troubling your minds by what they said*

[b] **15:25** CT *choose men to send*

[c] **15:30** CT *went down*

[d] **15:33** CT *to those who had sent them.* TR includes **34**But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

[e] **15:36** CT *the brothers*

[f] **15:37** CT and F35 *John, also called*

[g] **15:40** CT *of the Lord*

[h] **16:6** Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

[i] **16:7** CT *the Spirit of Jesus*

[j] **16:10** CT *that God*

[k] **16:11** CT does not include *Therefore* .

[l] **16:12** Literally *we went to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia—a colony*

[m] **16:13** CT *the city gate*

[n] **16:16** Greek *a spirit of Python*; that is, a spirit of divination named after the mythical serpent slain by Apollo

[a] **16:17** GOC, ALT, and F35 *and Silas*

17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us,[a] shouting,
"These men are servants of the Most High God, who
are proclaiming to us[b] the way of salvation!"
18 She continued this for many days. Eventually Paul
grew so aggravated that he turned and said to the
spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to
come out of her!" And the spirit left her at that very
moment.
19 When the girl's owners saw that their hope of mak-
ing money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and
dragged them before the authorities in the market-
place.
20 They brought them to the magistrates and said,
"These men are Jews and are throwing our city into
turmoil
21 by promoting customs that are unlawful for us Ro-
mans to adopt or practice."
22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and
Silas, and the magistrates ordered that they be
stripped and beaten with rods.
23 And after striking them with many blows, they
threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to
guard them securely.
24 On receiving this order, he placed them in the inner
cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Conversion of the Jailer

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and
singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were
listening to them.
26 Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the founda-
tions of the prison. At once all the doors flew open
and everyone's chains came loose.
27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors
open, he drew his sword and was about to kill him-
self, presuming that the prisoners had escaped.
28 But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Do not harm
yourself! We are all here!"
29 Calling for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell trem-
bling before Paul and Silas.
30 Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what
must I do to be saved?"
31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ[c] and
you will be saved, you and your household."
32 Then Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord[d] to
him and to everyone in his house.
33 At that hour of the night, the jailer took them and
washed their wounds. And without delay, he and all
his household were baptized.
34 Then he brought them into his home and set a meal
before them. So he and all his household rejoiced
that they had come to believe in God.

An Official Apology

35 When daylight came, the magistrates sent their offi-
cers with the order: "Release those men."
36 The jailer informed Paul: "The magistrates have sent
orders to release you. Now you may go on your way
in peace."
37 But Paul said to the officers, "They beat us publicly
without a trial and threw us into prison, even though
we are Roman citizens. And now do they want to
send us away secretly? Absolutely not! Let them
come themselves and escort us out!"
38 So the officers relayed this message to the magis-
trates, who were alarmed to hear that Paul and Silas
were Roman citizens.
39 They came to appease them and led them out, re-
questing that they leave the city.
40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they
went to Lydia's house to see the brothers and en-
courage them. Then they left the city .

17

The Uproar in Thessalonica

1 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apol-
lonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a
Jewish synagogue.
2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and
on three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from the
Scriptures,
3 explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer
and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming
to you is the Christ," he declared .
4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul
and Silas, along with a large number of God-fearing
Greeks and quite a few leading women.
5 The unbelieving Jews, however, brought in some
troublemakers from the marketplace,[e] formed a
mob, and sent the city into an uproar. They raided
Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas, hoping to
bring them out to the people.
6 But when they could not find them, they dragged Ja-
son and some other brothers before the city officials,
shouting, "These men who have turned the world
upside down have now come here,
7 and Jason has welcomed them into his home. They
are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is
another king, named Jesus!"
8 On hearing this, the crowd and city officials were
greatly disturbed.
9 And they collected bond from Jason and the others
and then released them.

The Character of the Bereans

10 As soon as night had fallen, the brothers sent Paul
and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they
went into the Jewish synagogue.
11 Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the
Thessalonians, for they received the message with
great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every
day to see if these teachings were true.[f]
12 As a result, many of them believed, along with quite
a few prominent Greek women and men.
13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that
Paul was also proclaiming the word of God in Berea,
they went there themselves to incite[g] the crowds.

[b] **16:17** CT *to you*

[c] **16:31** CT *the Lord Jesus*

[d] **16:32** WH *of God*

[e] **17:5** CT *The Jews, however, became jealous. So they brought in some troublemakers from the marketplace*

[f] **17:11** Literally *with great eagerness, every day examining the Writings, whether these things were so.*

[g] **17:13** CT *to incite and agitate*

14 The brothers immediately sent Paul away as if[a] to
the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained in Berea.
15 Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and
then returned with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

Paul in Athens

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was
deeply disturbed in his spirit to see that the city was
full of idols.
17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and
God-fearing Gentiles, and in the marketplace with
those he met each day.
18 Some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also began
to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is
this babbler trying to say?" Others said, "He seems to
be advocating foreign gods." They said this because
Paul was proclaiming the good news of Jesus and the
resurrection.
19 So they took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus,
[b] where they asked him, "May we know what this
new teaching is that you are presenting?
20 For you are bringing some strange notions to our
ears, and we want to know what they mean."
21 Now all the Athenians and foreigners who lived
there spent their time doing nothing more than
hearing and articulating new ideas.

Paul's Address in the Areopagus

22 Then Paul stood up in the meeting[c] of the Areopa-
gus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that in every way
you are very religious.
23 For as I walked around and examined your objects
of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore Him whom
[d] you worship as something unknown, I now proclaim to you.
24 The God who made the world and everything in it
is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in
temples made by human hands.
25 Nor is He served by the hands of men,[e] as if He
needed anything, because He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.
26 From one blood[f] He made every nation of men, that
they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined their appointed times and the boundaries of
their lands.
27 The Lord intended that they would seek Him[g] and
perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He
is not far from each one of us.
28 'For in Him we live and move and have our being.'[h]
As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His
offspring.'[i]
29 Therefore, being offspring of God, we should not
think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or
stone, an image formed by man's skill and imagination.
30 Although God overlooked the ignorance of earlier
times, He now commands all people everywhere to
repent.
31 For He has set a day when He will judge the world
with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has
given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from
the dead."
32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead,
some began to mock him, but others said, "We want
to hear you again on this topic."
33 At that, Paul left the Areopagus.
34 But some[j] joined him and believed, including
Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris,
and others who were with them.

18

Paul Ministers in Corinth

(1 Corinthians 1:1–3; 2 Corinthians 1:1–2)

1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.
2 There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of
Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his
wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the
Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to visit them,
3 and he stayed and worked with them because they
were tentmakers by trade, just as he was.
4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying
to persuade Jews and Greeks alike.
5 And when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit,[k] testifying
to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.
6 But when they opposed and insulted him, he shook
out his garments and told them, "Your blood be on
your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I
will go to the Gentiles."
7 So Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the
house of Justus,[l] a worshiper of God.
8 Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his whole household believed in the Lord. And many of the Corinthians who heard the message believed and were
baptized.
9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not
be afraid; keep on speaking; do not be silent.
10 For I am with you and no one will lay a hand on you,
because I have many people in this city."
11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching the
word of God among the Corinthians.

[a] **17:14** CT *sent Paul (away to go)*

[b] **17:19** Or *Ares Hill* or *Mars Hill*; also in verse 22 and added for clarity in verse 33

[c] **17:22** Literally *in the middle*

[d] **17:23** CT *Therefore what*

[e] **17:25** CT *human hands*

[f] **17:26** CT *From one man*

[g] **17:27** Literally *that they would seek the Lord*; CT *that they would seek God*

[h] **17:28** This is probably a quote from the Cretan philosopher Epimenides of Knossos.

[i] **17:28** This is probably a quote from the poem "Phainomena" by the Cilician philosopher Aratus.

[j] **17:34** Literally *some men*

[k] **18:5** CT *Paul devoted himself fully to the word*

[l] **18:7** ECM *Titus Justus*; SBL, NE, and WH *Titius Justus*

Paul before Gallio

12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews coordinated an attack on Paul and brought him before the judgment seat.
13 "This man is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law," they said.
14 But just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio told the Jews, "If this matter involved a wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to hear your complaint .
15 But since it is a dispute about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. For[a] I refuse to be a judge of such things."
16 And he drove them away from the judgment seat.
17 At this, all the Greeks[b] seized Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the judgment seat. But none of this was of concern to Gallio.

Paul Returns to Antioch

18 Paul remained in Corinth for quite some time before saying goodbye to the brothers. He had his head shaved in Cenchrea to keep a vow he had made , and then he sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.
19 When he reached[c] Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue there and reasoned with the Jews.
20 When they asked him to stay with them[d] for a while longer, he declined.
21 But as he left, he said, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but[e] I will come back to you if God is willing." And he set sail from Ephesus.
22 When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church at Jerusalem .[f] Then he went down to Antioch.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey Begins

(Acts 13:1–3; Acts 15:36–41)

23 After Paul had spent some time in Antioch, he traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.
24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, well versed in the Scriptures.
25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord and was fervent in spirit. He spoke and taught accurately about the Lord,[g] though he knew only the baptism of John.
26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla[h] heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
27 When Apollos resolved to cross over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On his arrival, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.
28 For he powerfully refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

19

The Holy Spirit Received at Ephesus

(Acts 10:44–48)

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the interior[i] and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples
2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" "No," they answered, "we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
3 "Into what, then, were you baptized?" Paul asked. "The baptism of John," they replied.
4 Paul explained: "John's baptism was indeed[j] a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.[k] "
5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.
7 There were about twelve men in all.

Paul Ministers in Ephesus

(Ephesians 1:1–2; Revelation 2:1–7)

8 Then Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.
9 But when some of them stubbornly refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way, Paul took his disciples and left the synagogue to conduct daily discussions in the lecture hall of a man named Tyrannus.[l]
10 This continued for two years, so that everyone who lived in the province of Asia,[m] Jews and Greeks alike, heard the word of the Lord Jesus.[n]
11 God did extraordinary miracles through the hands of Paul,
12 so that even handkerchiefs[o] and aprons that had touched him were brought[p] to the sick, and the diseases and evil spirits left them.

Seven Sons of Sceva

13 Now there were some itinerant Jewish exorcists who tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those with evil spirits. They would say, "I command you by Jesus, whom Paul proclaims."

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[a] **18:15** CT does not include *For*.
[b] **18:17** CT *they all*
[c] **18:19** CT *they reached*
[d] **18:20** CT does not include *with them*.
[e] **18:21** CT does not include *I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but*.
[f] **18:22** Literally *he went up and greeted the church*
[g] **18:25** CT *about Jesus*
[h] **18:26** CT *Priscilla and Aquila*
[i] **19:1** Or *the highland*
[j] **19:4** CT does not include *indeed*.
[k] **19:4** CT *in Jesus*; GOC *in Jesus Christ*
[l] **19:9** CT *of Tyrannus*
[m] **19:10** Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey; similarly in verses 22, 26, 27, and 31.
[n] **19:10** CT *of the Lord*
[o] **19:12** Greek *soudaria*
[p] **19:12** CT *were taken*

14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.
15 But one day the evil spirit responded, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"
16 Then the man with the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them.[a] The attack was so violent that they ran out of the house naked and wounded.
17 This became known to all the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, and fear came over all of them. So the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.
18 Many who had believed now came forward, confessing and disclosing their deeds.
19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books and burned them in front of everyone. When the value of the books was calculated, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.[b]
20 So the word of the Lord powerfully continued to spread and prevail.

The Riot in Ephesus

21 After these things had happened, Paul resolved in the Spirit[c] to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must see Rome as well."
22 He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed for a time in the province of Asia.
23 About that time there arose a great disturbance[d] about the Way.
24 It began with a silversmith named Demetrius who made silver shrines of Artemis, bringing much business[e] to the craftsmen.
25 Demetrius assembled the craftsmen, along with the workmen in related trades. "Men," he said, "you know that this business is our source of prosperity.
26 And you can see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in nearly the whole province of Asia, this Paul has persuaded a great number of people to turn away. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all.
27 There is danger not only that our business will fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited and her majesty deposed — she who is worshiped by all the province of Asia and the whole world."
28 When the men heard this, they were enraged and began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"
29 Soon the whole city[f] was in disarray. They rushed together into the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.
30 Paul wanted to go before the assembly, but the disciples would not allow him.
31 Even some of Paul's friends who were officials of the province of Asia[g] sent word to him, begging him not to venture into the theatre.
32 Meanwhile the assembly was in turmoil. Some were shouting one thing and some another, and most of them did not even know why they were there.
33 The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward, [h] and he motioned for silence so he could make his defense to the people.
34 But when they realized that he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"
35 Finally the city clerk quieted the crowd and declared, "Men of Ephesus, doesn't everyone know that the city of Ephesus is guardian of the temple of the great goddess[i] Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?
36 Since these things are undeniable, you ought to be calm and not do anything rash.
37 For you have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed our temple nor blasphemed your[j] goddess.
38 So if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open and proconsuls are available. Let them bring charges against one another there .
39 But if you are seeking anything concerning other matters,[k] it must be settled in a legal assembly.
40 For we are in jeopardy of being charged with rioting for today's events, and we have no justification to account for this commotion."
41 After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

20

Paul in Macedonia and Greece

1 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. And[l] he said goodbye to them and left for Macedonia.
2 After traveling through that area and speaking many words of encouragement, he arrived in Greece,
3 where he stayed three months. And when the Jews formed a plot against him as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided[m] to go back through Macedonia.
4 Paul was accompanied into the province of Asia[n] by Sopater[o] from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.
5 These men went on ahead and waited for us in Troas.

[a] **19:16** CT *them all*

[b] **19:19** Or *fifty thousand pieces of silver.* A drachma was a silver coin worth about one day's wages.

[c] **19:21** Or *resolved in spirit*

[d] **19:23** Literally *there arose no little disturbance*

[e] **19:24** Literally *bringing no little business*

[f] **19:29** CT literal *the city*

[g] **19:31** Or *friends who were Asiarchs*

[h] **19:33** Literally *forward, putting him forward,* CT *forward to explain himself*

[i] **19:35** CT does not include *goddess*.

[j] **19:37** CT *our*

[k] **19:39** CT *anything beyond this*

[l] **20:1** CT includes *after encouraging them*.

[m] **20:3** Literally *the decision was made*

[n] **20:4** Literally *into Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey; twice in this verse and also in verses 16 and 18; CT does not include *into the province of Asia.*

[o] **20:4** CT *Sopater son of Pyrrhus*

6 And after the Feast of Unleavened Bread,[a] we sailed
from Philippi, and five days later we rejoined them
in Troas, where we stayed seven days.

Eutychus Revived at Troas

(2 Kings 4:18–37)

7 On the first day of the week, the disciples came
together[b] to break bread. Since Paul was ready to
leave the next day, he talked to them and kept on
speaking until midnight.
8 Now there were many lamps in the upper room
where we were[c] gathered.
9 And a certain young man named Eutychus, seated in
the window, was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul
talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell
from the third story and was picked up dead.
10 But Paul went down, threw himself on the young
man, and embraced him. "Do not be alarmed!" he
said. "He is still alive!"
11 Then Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, and ate.
And after speaking until daybreak, he departed.
12 And the people were greatly relieved to take the boy
home alive.

From Troas to Miletus

13 We went to[d] the ship and sailed to Assos, where
we were to take Paul aboard. He had arranged this
because he was going there on foot.
14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him aboard
and went on to Mitylene.
15 Sailing on from there, we arrived the next day oppo-
site Chios. The day after that we arrived at Samos.
And after remaining at Trogyllium,[e] on the follow-
ing day we came to Miletus.
16 Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spend-
ing time in the province of Asia, because he was in
a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of
Pentecost.[f]

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians

17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of
the church.
18 When they came to him, he said, "You know how I
lived the whole time I was with you, from the first
day I arrived in the province of Asia.
19 I served the Lord with great humility and with many
tears,[g] especially in the trials that came upon me
through the plots of the Jews.
20 I did not shrink back from declaring anything that
was helpful to you as I taught you publicly and from
house to house,
21 testifying to Jews and Greeks alike about repentance
to God and faith in our Lord Jesus.[h]
22 And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to
Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me
there.
23 I only know that in town after town the Holy Spirit
warns[i] that chains and afflictions await me.
24 But I consider my life of no value to me, if only I
may finish my course with joy[j] and complete the
ministry I have received from the Lord Jesus —
the ministry of testifying to the good news of God's
grace.
25 Now I know that none of you among whom I have
preached the kingdom of God[k] will see my face
again.
26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent
of the blood of all men.[l]
27 For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the
whole will of God.
28 Therefore[m] keep watch over yourselves and the en-
tire flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you
overseers. Be shepherds of the church of the Lord
and God,[n] which He purchased with His own blood.
[o]
29 For I know this,[p] that after my departure, savage
wolves will come in among you and will not spare
the flock.
30 Even from your own number, men will rise up and
distort the truth to draw away disciples after them.
31 Therefore be alert and remember that for three
years I never stopped warning each of you night and
day with tears.
32 And now I commit you, brothers,[q] to God and to the
word of His grace, which can build you up and give
you an inheritance among all who are sanctified.
33 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or cloth-
ing.
34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have
ministered to my own needs and those of my com-
panions.
35 In everything, I showed you that by this kind of
hard work we must help the weak, remembering the
words of the Lord Jesus Himself: 'It is more blessed
to give than to receive.'"
36 When Paul had said this, he knelt down with all of
them and prayed.
37 They all wept openly as they embraced Paul and
kissed him.
38 They were especially grieved by his statement that
they would never see his face again. Then they ac-
companied him to the ship.

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[a] **20:6** Literally *after the days of the Unleavened*; see Exodus 12:14–20.

[b] **20:7** CT *we came together*

[c] **20:8** TR *they were*

[d] **20:13** GOC, NA, SBL, TR, and WH *went on ahead to*

[e] **20:15** CT does not include *after remaining at Trogyllium.*

[f] **20:16** 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 Weeks*(see Exodus 34:22).

[g] **20:19** CT *and with tears*

[h] **20:21** ECM, TR, GOC, and Tischendorf *our Lord Jesus Christ*

[i] **20:23** CT *warns me*

[j] **20:24** CT does not include *with joy.*

[k] **20:25** CT does not include *of God.*

[l] **20:26** See Ezekiel 33:8–9.

[m] **20:28** CT does not include *Therefore .*

[n] **20:28** CT *the church of God*

[o] **20:28** Or *with the blood of His own Son.*

[p] **20:29** CT begins the verse with *I know.*

[q] **20:32** CT does not include *brothers.*

21

Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

1 After we had torn ourselves away from them, we
sailed directly to Cos, and the next day on to Rhodes,
and from there to Patara.
2 Finding a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we boarded
it and set sail.
3 After sighting Cyprus and passing south of it, we
sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship
was to unload its cargo.
4 We sought out disciples[a] in Tyre and stayed with
them seven days. Through the Spirit they kept telling
Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.
5 But when our time there had ended, we set out on
our journey. All the disciples, with their wives and
children, accompanied us out of the city and knelt
down on the beach to pray with us.
6 And after we had said our farewells, we went aboard
the ship, and they returned home.
7 When we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we
landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers
and stayed with them for a day.

Paul Visits Philip the Evangelist

8 Leaving the next day, Paul and his companions went
on[b] to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the
evangelist, who was one of the Seven.[c]
9 He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.
10 After we had been there several days, a prophet
named Agabus came down from Judea.
11 Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own
feet and hands,[d] and said, "The Holy Spirit says: 'In
this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner
of this belt and hand him over to the Gentiles.'"
12 When we heard this, we and the people there
pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.
13 Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and
breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound,
but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord
Jesus."
14 When he would not be dissuaded, we quieted down
and said, "The Lord's will be done."
15 After these days, we packed up and went on to
Jerusalem.
16 Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied
us, and they took us to stay at the home of Mnason
the Cypriot, an early disciple.

Paul's Arrival at Jerusalem

17 When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers wel-
comed us joyfully.
18 The next day Paul went in with us to see James, and
all the elders were present.
19 Paul greeted them and recounted one by one
the things that God had done among the Gentiles
through his ministry.
20 When they heard this, they glorified the Lord.[e]
Then they said to Paul, "You see, brother, how many
thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are
zealous for the law.
21 But they are under the impression that you teach
all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to forsake
Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children
or observe our customs.
22 What then should we do? Certainly a multitude will
gather, for[f] they will hear that you have come.
23 Therefore do what we advise you. There are four
men with us who have taken a vow.
24 Take these men, purify yourself along with them,
and pay their expenses so they can have their heads
shaved. Then everyone will know that there is no
truth to these rumors about you, but that you also
live in obedience to the law.
25 As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them
our decision that they should observe no such thing,
except that they[g] must abstain from food sacrificed
to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled
animals, and from sexual immorality."
26 So the next day Paul took the men and purified him-
self along with them. Then he entered the temple to
give notice of the date when their purification would
be complete and the offering would be made for
each of them.

Paul Seized at the Temple

27 When the seven days were almost over, some Jews
from the province of Asia[h] saw Paul at the temple.
They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him,
28 crying out, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the
man who teaches everyone everywhere against our
people and against our law and against this place.
Furthermore, he has brought Greeks into the temple
and defiled this holy place."
29 For they had seen[i] Trophimus the Ephesian with
him in the city, and they assumed that Paul had
brought him into the temple.
30 The whole city was stirred up, and the people rushed
together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of
the temple, and at once the gates were shut.
31 While they were trying to kill him, the commander
of the Roman regiment[j] received a report that all
Jerusalem was in turmoil.
32 Immediately he took some soldiers and centurions
and ran down to the crowd. When the people saw
the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beat-
ing Paul.
33 The commander came up and arrested Paul, order-
ing that he be bound with two chains. Then he asked
who he was and what he had done.
34 Some in the crowd were crying out[k] one thing, and
some another. And since the commander could not

[a] **21:4** CT *the disciples*

[b] **21:8** CT *Leaving the next day, we went on*

[c] **21:8** See Acts 6:5.

[d] **21:11** TR *hands and feet*

[e] **21:20** CT *they glorified God*

[f] **21:22** CT does not include *a multitude will gather, for*.

[g] **21:25** CT does not include *should observe no such thing, except that they*.

[h] **21:27** Literally *from Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

[i] **21:29** CT and TR *previously seen*

[j] **21:31** Literally *the commander of the cohort*

[k] **21:34** CT *were shouting*

get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks.
35 When Paul reached the steps, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob.
36 For the crowd that followed him kept shouting, "Away with him!"

Paul Addresses the Crowd

37 As they were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, "May I speak[a] to you?" "Do you speak Greek?" he replied.
38 "Aren't you the Egyptian who incited a rebellion some time ago and led four thousand members of the Assassins into the wilderness?"
39 But Paul answered, "I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Now I beg you to allow me to speak to the people."
40 Having received permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. A great hush came over the crowd, and he addressed them in Hebrew:[b]

22

Paul's Defense to the Crowd

(Acts 9:1–19; Acts 26:1–23)

1 "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you."
2 When they heard him speak to them in Hebrew,[c] they became even more quiet. Then Paul declared,
3 "I am indeed[d] a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but raised in this city. I was educated at the feet of Gamaliel in strict conformity to the law of our fathers. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.
4 I persecuted this Way even to the death, detaining both men and women and throwing them into prison,
5 as the high priest and the whole Council can testify about me. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and I was on my way to apprehend these people and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.
6 About noon as I was approaching Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me.
7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?'
8 'Who are You, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' He replied.
9 My companions saw the light and were terrified,[e] but they could not understand the voice of the One speaking to me.
10 Then I asked, 'What should I do, Lord?' 'Get up and go into Damascus,' He told me. 'There you will be told all that you have been appointed to do.'
11 Because the brilliance of the light had blinded me, my companions led me by the hand into Damascus.
12 There a man named Ananias, a devout observer of the law who was highly regarded by all the Jews living there,[f]
13 came and stood beside me. 'Brother Saul,' he said, 'receive your sight.' And at that moment I could see him.
14 Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear His voice.
15 You will be His witness to everyone of what you have seen and heard.
16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord.[g] '
17 Later, when I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance
18 and saw the Lord[h] saying to me, 'Hurry! Leave Jerusalem quickly, because the people here will not accept your testimony about Me.'
19 'Lord,' I answered, 'they know very well that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in You.
20 And when the blood of Your witness[i] Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval to his death[j] and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'
21 Then He said to me, 'Go! I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Paul the Roman Citizen

22 The crowd listened to Paul until he made this statement. Then they lifted up their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He is not fit to live!"
23 As they were crying out[k] and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air,
24 the commander ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. He directed that Paul be flogged and interrogated to determine the reason for this outcry against him.
25 But as he stretched him out[l] to strap him down, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it lawful for you to flog a Roman citizen without a trial?"
26 On hearing this, the centurion went and reported it to the commander. "Consider what you are about to do,"[m] he said. "This man is a Roman citizen."
27 The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes," he answered.
28 "I paid a high price for my citizenship," said the commander. "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied.
29 At once those who were about to interrogate Paul stepped back, and the commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put a Roman citizen in chains.

[a] **21:37** CT and TR *May I say something*
[b] **21:40** Or *in Aramaic*; literally *in the Hebrew language*
[c] **22:2** Or *in Aramaic*; literally *in the Hebrew language*
[d] **22:3** CT does not include *indeed.*
[e] **22:9** CT does not include *and were terrified.*
[f] **22:12** GOC, HF, and F35 *In Damascus*
[g] **22:16** CT *calling on His name*
[h] **22:18** Literally *saw Him*
[i] **22:20** Or *martyr*
[j] **22:20** CT does not include *to his death.*
[k] **22:23** CT *were shouting*
[l] **22:25** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and Scrivener TR *as they stretched him out*
[m] **22:26** CT *"What are you going to do?"*

30 The next day the commander, wanting to learn the
real reason Paul was accused by the Jews, released
him from the bonds[a] and ordered the chief priests
and their whole Sanhedrin[b] to assemble. Then he
brought Paul down and had him stand before them.

23

Paul before the Sanhedrin

1 Paul looked directly at the Sanhedrin[c] and said,
"Brothers, I have conducted myself before God in all
good conscience to this day."
2 At this, the high priest Ananias ordered those stand-
ing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.
3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you
whitewashed wall! You sit here to judge me accord-
ing to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by
commanding that I be struck."
4 But those standing nearby said, "How dare you insult
the high priest of God!"
5 "Brothers," Paul replied, "I was not aware that he was
the high priest, for it is written: 'Do not speak evil
about the ruler of your people.'[d] "
6 Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sad-
ducees and others Pharisees,[e] called out in the
Sanhedrin, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a
Pharisee. It is because of my hope in the resurrection
of the dead that I am on trial."
7 As soon as he had said this, a dispute broke out
between the Pharisees and Sadducees,[f] and the as-
sembly was divided.
8 For the Sadducees say that there is neither a resur-
rection nor angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees
acknowledge them all.
9 A great clamor arose, and some scribes from the party
of the Pharisees got up and contended sharply, "We
find nothing wrong with this man. If a spirit or an
angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God.
[g] "
10 The dispute grew so violent that the commander
was afraid they would tear Paul to pieces. He or-
dered the soldiers to go down and remove him by
force and bring him into the barracks.
11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and
said, "Take courage, Paul![h] As you have testified
about Me in Jerusalem, so also you must testify in
Rome."

The Plot to Kill Paul

(John 16:1–4)

12 When daylight came, some of[i] the Jews formed a
conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not
to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.
13 More than forty of them were involved in this plot.
14 They went to the chief priests and elders and said,
"We have bound ourselves with a solemn oath not
to eat anything until we have killed Paul.
15 Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the com-
mander to bring him down to you tomorrow[j] on the
pretext of examining his case more carefully. We are
ready to kill him on the way."
16 But when the son of Paul's sister heard about the
plot,[k] he went into the barracks and told Paul.
17 Then Paul called one of the centurions and said,
"Take this young man to the commander; he has
something to tell him."
18 So the centurion took him to the commander and
said, "Paul the prisoner sent and asked me to bring
this young man to you. He has something to tell you."
19 The commander took the young man by the hand,
drew him aside, and asked, "What do you need to
tell me?"
20 He answered, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to
bring Paul to the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext
of acquiring more information about him.
21 Do not let them persuade you, because more than
forty men are waiting to ambush him. They have
bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink
until they have killed him; they are ready now,
awaiting your consent."
22 So the commander dismissed the young man and
instructed him, "Do not tell anyone that you have
reported this to me."

Paul Sent to Felix

23 Then he called two of his centurions and said, "Pre-
pare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and
two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea in the third
hour of the night.[l]
24 Provide mounts for Paul to take him safely to Gov-
ernor Felix."
25 And he wrote the following letter:
26 Claudius Lysias, To His Excellency, Governor Felix:
Greetings.
27 This man was seized by the Jews, and they were
about to kill him when I came with my troops to
rescue him. For I had learned that he is a Roman
citizen,
28 and since I wanted to know[m] their charges against
him, I brought him down to their Sanhedrin.
29 I found that the accusation involved questions about
their own law, but there was no charge worthy of
death or imprisonment.
30 When I was informed that there was a plot by the

[a] **22:30** CT does not include *from the bonds*.
[b] **22:30** Or *their whole Council*; CT *the whole Sanhedrin*
[c] **23:1** Or *the Council*; also in verses 6, 15, 20, and 28
[d] **23:5** Exodus 22:28 (see also LXX)
[e] **23:6** F35 *Pharisees and others Sadducees*
[f] **23:7** *and Sadducees* is implied but not included in MT; CT, GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR include *and Sadducees*.
[g] **23:9** CT *What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?*
[h] **23:11** CT does not include *Paul*.
[i] **23:12** CT does not include *some of*.
[j] **23:15** CT does not include *tomorrow*.
[k] **23:16** Or *the ambush*
[l] **23:23** That is, at nine tonight
[m] **23:28** CT *to understand*

Jews[a] against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also instructed his accusers to present their case against him before you. Farewell.[b]

31 So the soldiers followed their orders and brought Paul by night to Antipatris.
32 The next day they returned to the barracks and let the horsemen go on with him.
33 When the horsemen arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and presented Paul to him.
34 The governor read the letter and asked what province Paul was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia,
35 he said, "I will hear your case when your accusers arrive." Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's Praetorium.

24

Tertullus Prosecutes Paul

1 Five days later the high priest Ananias came down with the elders[c] and a lawyer[d] named Tertullus, who presented to the governor their case against Paul.
2 When Paul had been called in, Tertullus opened the prosecution: "Because of you, we have enjoyed a lasting peace, and your foresight has brought worthy reforms[e] to this nation.
3 In every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with all gratitude.
4 But in order not to delay you any further, I beg your indulgence to hear us briefly.
5 We have found this man to be a pestilence, stirring up dissension among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes,
6 and he even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.[f]
7
8 By examining him yourself, you will be able to learn the truth about all our charges against him."
9 The Jews concurred, asserting that these charges were true.

Paul's Defense to Felix

10 When the governor motioned for Paul to speak, he began his response: "Knowing that you have been a judge[g] over this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense.
11 You can verify for yourself that no more than twelve days ago I went up to worship in Jerusalem.[h]
12 Yet my accusers did not find me debating with anyone in the temple or riling up a crowd in the synagogues or in the city.
13 Nor can they prove[i] any of their charges against me.
14 I do confess to you, however, that I worship the God of our fathers according to the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is written throughout the Law and the Prophets,[j]
15 and I have the same hope in God that they themselves cherish, that there will be a resurrection of the dead—[k] of both the righteous and the wicked.
16 In this hope, I strive always to maintain a clear conscience before God and man.
17 After several years, then, I returned to Jerusalem to bring alms to my people and to present offerings.
18 At the time they found me in the temple, I was ceremonially clean and was not inciting a crowd or an uproar. But there are some Jews from the province of Asia[l]
19 who ought to appear before you and bring charges, if they have anything against me.
20 Otherwise, let these men state for themselves any crime they found in me[m] when I stood before the Sanhedrin,[n]
21 unless it was this one thing I called out as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am being tried by[o] you today.'"

The Verdict Postponed

22 On hearing these things[p] Felix, who was well informed about the Way, adjourned the hearing and said, "When Lysias the commander comes, I will decide your case."
23 He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard, but to allow him some freedom and permit his friends to come and[q] minister to his needs.
24 After several days, Felix returned with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him speak about faith in Christ.[r]
25 As Paul expounded on righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "You may go for now. When I find the time, I will call for you."
26 At the same time, he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe to release him.[s] So he sent for Paul frequently and talked with him.
27 After two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

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[a] **23:30** CT does not include *by the Jews*.

[b] **23:30** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Farewell*.

[c] **24:1** CT *some elders*

[d] **24:1** Or *an orator*

[e] **24:2** CT *brought improvements*

[f] **24:6** TR includes *and we would have judged him according to our law.* **7**But Lysias the commander came with great force and took him out of our hands, **8**ordering his accusers to come before you.

[g] **24:10** F35 *a righteous judge*

[h] **24:11** CT *I went up to Jerusalem to worship*

[i] **24:13** CT includes *to you*.

[j] **24:14** GOC and CT *everything that is laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets*

[k] **24:15** CT does not include *of the dead—*

[l] **24:18** Literally *from Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

[m] **24:20** CT literal does not include *in me*.

[n] **24:20** Or *the Council*

[o] **24:21** CT *I am on trial before*

[p] **24:22** CT does not include *On hearing these things*.

[q] **24:23** CT does not include *come and*.

[r] **24:24** CT and F35 *in Christ Jesus*

[s] **24:26** CT does not include *to release him*.

25

Paul's Trial before Festus

1 Three days after his arrival in the province, Festus
went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem,
2 where the high priest[a] and Jewish leaders presented
their case against Paul. They urged Festus
3 to grant them a concession against Paul by summoning him to Jerusalem, because they were preparing
an ambush to kill him along the way.
4 But Festus replied, "Paul is being held in Caesarea,
and I myself am going there soon.
5 So if this man has done anything wrong, let some of
your leaders come down with me and accuse him
there."
6 After spending more than ten days[b] with them, Festus went down to Caesarea. The next day he sat on
the judgment seat and ordered that Paul be brought
in.
7 When Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down
from Jerusalem stood around him, laying against
Paul many[c] serious charges that they could not
prove.
8 Then Paul made his defense: "I have committed no
offense against the law of the Jews or against the
temple or against Caesar."
9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul,
"Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem to stand trial
before[d] me on these charges?"

Paul Appeals to Caesar

10 Paul replied, "I am standing before the judgment
seat of Caesar, where I ought to be tried. I have done
nothing wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know
very well.
11 If, however, I am guilty of anything worthy of death,
I do not refuse to die. But if there is no truth to their
accusations against me, no one has the right to hand
me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!"
12 Then Festus conferred with his council and replied,
"You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

Festus Consults Agrippa

13 After several days had passed, King Agrippa and
Bernice came down to Caesarea to pay their respects
to Festus.
14 Since he was staying[e] several days, Festus laid out
Paul's case before the king: "There is a certain man
whom Felix left in prison.
15 While I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders
of the Jews presented their case and requested a
judgment against him.
16 I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand a
man over to die[f] before he has had an opportunity
to face his accusers and defend himself against their
charges.
17 So when they came here with me, I did not delay.
The next day I sat on the judgment seat and ordered
that the man be brought in.
18 But when his accusers rose to speak, they did not
charge him with anything[g] I had expected.
19 They only had some contentions with him regarding
their own religion and a certain Jesus who had died,
but whom Paul affirmed to be alive.
20 Since I was at a loss as to how to investigate this
matter,[h] I asked if he was willing to go to Jerusalem
and be tried there on these charges.
21 But when Paul appealed to be held over for the
decision of the Emperor, I ordered that he be held
until I could send him to Caesar."
22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear
this man myself." "Tomorrow you will hear him,"
Festus declared.

Paul before Agrippa and Bernice

23 The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great
pomp and entered the auditorium, along with the
commanders and leading men of the city. And Festus
ordered that Paul be brought in.
24 Then Festus said, "King Agrippa and all who are
present with us, you see this man. The whole Jewish
community has petitioned me about him, both here
and in Jerusalem, crying out that he ought not to live
any longer.
25 But I found he had done nothing worthy of death,
and since he has now appealed to the Emperor, I
decided to send him.
26 I have nothing definite to write to our sovereign
about him. Therefore I have brought him before all
of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so
that after this inquiry I may have something to write.
27 For it seems unreasonable to me to send on a prisoner without specifying the charges against him."

26

Paul's Testimony to Agrippa

(Acts 9:1–19; Acts 22:1–21)

1 Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak
for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and
began his defense:
2 "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand
before you today to defend myself against all the
accusations of the Jews,
3 especially since you[i] are acquainted with all the
Jewish customs and controversies. I beg you, therefore, to listen to me patiently.
4 Surely all the Jews know how I have lived from
my earliest childhood among my own people[j] in
Jerusalem.
5 They have known me for a long time and can testify, if
they are willing, that I lived as a Pharisee, adhering
to the strictest sect of our religion.
6 And now I stand on trial because of my hope in the
promise that God made to our fathers,

[a] **25:2** CT and F35 *chief priests*

[b] **25:6** CT *no more than eight or ten days*

[c] **25:7** CT *bringing many*

[d] **25:9** F35 *be tried by*

[e] **25:14** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *they were staying*

[f] **25:16** CT does not include *to die*.

[g] **25:18** CT *with any of the crimes*

[h] **25:20** CT and F35 *these matters*

[i] **26:3** Scrivener TR *since I know you*

[j] **26:4** CT includes *and*.

7 the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. It is because of this hope, O King Agrippa,[a] that I am accused by the Jews.
8 Why would any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?
9 So then, I too was convinced that I ought to do all I could to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
10 And that is what I did in Jerusalem. With authority from the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were condemned to death, I cast my vote against them.
11 I frequently had them punished in the synagogues, and I tried to make them blaspheme. In my raging fury against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.
12 In this pursuit I was on my way to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.
13 About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions.
14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice say to me in Hebrew,[b] 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'
15 'Who are You, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' He replied.[c]
16 'But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen[d] and what I will show you.
17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them
18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn[e] from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in Me.'
19 So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.
20 First to those in Damascus and Jerusalem, then to everyone throughout the region[f] of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I declared that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds worthy of their repentance.
21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple courts[g] and tried to kill me.
22 But I have had God's help to this day, and I stand here to testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen:
23 that the Christ would suffer, and as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to[h] our people and to the Gentiles."

Festus Interrupts Paul's Defense

24 At this stage of Paul's defense, Festus exclaimed in a loud voice, "You are insane, Paul! Your great learning is driving you to madness!"
25 But he answered,[i] "I am not insane, most excellent Festus; I am speaking words of truth and sobriety.
26 For the king knows about these matters, and I can speak freely to him. I am confident that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner.
27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."
28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Can you persuade me in such a short time to become a Christian?"
29 "Short time or long," Paul replied, "I wish to God that not only you but all who hear me this day may become what I am, except for these chains."
30 When he had spoken these things,[j] the king and the governor rose, along with Bernice and those seated with them.
31 On their way out, they said to one another, "This man has done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment."
32 And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar."

27

Paul Sails for Rome

1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial[k] Regiment.
2 We boarded an Adramyttian ship about to sail for ports along the coast of Asia,[l] and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.
3 The next day we landed at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul with consideration, allowing him to visit his[m] friends and receive their care.
4 After putting out from there, we sailed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us.
5 And when we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia.
6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board.
7 After sailing slowly for many days, we arrived off Cnidus. When the wind impeded us, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone.
8 After we had moved along the coast with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.
9 By now much time had passed, and the voyage had already become dangerous because it was after the

[a] **26:7** CT *O king*
[b] **26:14** Or *in Aramaic*; literally *in the Hebrew language*
[c] **26:15** CT *the Lord replied*
[d] **26:16** NA, SBL, TH, and WH *seen from Me*
[e] **26:18** Or *to turn them*
[f] **26:20** CT *in the region*
[g] **26:21** Literally *the temple*
[h] **26:23** CT and F35 literal *both to*
[i] **26:25** CT *But Paul answered*
[j] **26:30** CT *Then*
[k] **27:1** Or *Augustan*
[l] **27:2** Literally *sail to the places along Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.
[m] **27:3** Stephanus TR *some*

Fast.[a] So Paul advised them,
10 "Men, I can see that our voyage will be filled with
disaster and great loss, not only to ship and cargo,
but to our own lives as well."
11 But contrary to Paul's advice, the centurion was per-
suaded by the pilot and by the owner of the ship.
12 Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the
majority decided to sail on, hoping that somehow
they could reach Phoenix to winter there. Phoenix
was a harbor in Crete facing both southwest and
northwest.

The Storm at Sea

(Jonah 1:4–10)

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they
thought they had their opportunity. So they weighed
anchor and sailed along, hugging the coast of Crete.
14 But it was not long before a cyclone called the North-
easter[b] swept down across the island.
15 Unable to head into the wind, the ship was caught
up. So we gave way and let ourselves be driven
along.
16 Passing to the lee of a small island called Clauda,[c]
we barely managed to secure the lifeboat.
17 After hoisting it up, the crew used ropes to under-
gird the ship. And fearing that they would run
aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the
sea anchor[d] and were driven along.
18 We were tossed so violently that the next day the
men began to jettison the cargo.
19 On the third day, we threw the ship's tackle over-
board with our own hands.[e]
20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days
and the great storm continued to batter us, we aban-
doned all hope of being saved.
21 After the men had gone a long time without food,
Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you
should have followed my advice not to sail from
Crete. Then you would have averted this disaster
and loss.
22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because
you will not experience any loss of life, but only of
the ship.
23 For just last night an angel of the God to whom I
belong and whom I serve stood beside me
24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand
before Caesar. And look, God has granted you the
lives of all who sail with you.'
25 So take courage, men, for I believe God that it will
happen just as He told me.
26 However, we must run aground on some island."

The Shipwreck

27 On the fourteenth night we were still being driven
across the Adriatic Sea.[f] About midnight the sailors
sensed they were approaching land.
28 They took soundings and found that the water was
twenty fathoms deep.[g] Going a little farther, they
took another set of soundings that read fifteen fath-
oms.[h]
29 Fearing that we would run aground[i] on the rocks,
they dropped four anchors from the stern and
prayed for daybreak.
30 Meanwhile, the sailors attempted to escape from
the ship. Pretending to lower anchors from the bow,
they let the lifeboat down into the sea.
31 But Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers,
"Unless these men remain with the ship, you cannot
be saved."
32 So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and set
it adrift.
33 Right up to daybreak, Paul kept urging them all to
eat: "Today is your fourteenth day in constant sus-
pense, without taking any food.
34 So for your[j] own preservation, I urge you to eat
something, because not a single hair of your head
will be lost."
35 After he had said this, Paul took bread and gave
thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it
and began to eat.
36 They were all encouraged and took some food them-
selves.
37 In all, there were 276[k] of us on board.
38 After the men had eaten their fill, they lightened the
ship by throwing the grain into the sea.
39 When daylight came, they did not recognize the
land, but they sighted a bay with a sandy beach,
where they decided to run the ship aground if possi-
ble.[l]
40 Cutting away the anchors, they left them in the sea
as they loosened the ropes that held the rudders.
Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made
for the beach.
41 But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The
bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern
was being broken up by the pounding of the waves.
42 The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so none of
them could swim to freedom.
43 But the centurion, wanting to spare Paul's life ,
thwarted their plan. He commanded those who
could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.
44 The rest were to follow on planks and various parts
of the ship. In this way everyone was brought safely
to land.

28

Ashore on Malta

1 Once we were safely ashore, we learned that the
island was called Malta.[m]

[a] **27:9** That is, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement

[b] **27:14** Literally *Euroclydon*; CT *Euraquilo*

[c] **27:16** ECM, NA, SBL, and WH *Cauda*

[d] **27:17** Or *the sails*

[e] **27:19** CT *they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands*

[f] **27:27** The Adriatic Sea referred to an area extending well south of Italy to include the central portion of the Mediterranean Sea.

[g] **27:28** *20 fathoms* is approximately 120 feet or 36.6 meters.

[h] **27:28** *15 fathoms* is approximately 90 feet or 27.4 meters.

[i] **27:29** Stephanus TR *they would run aground*

[j] **27:34** F35 *our*

[k] **27:37** WH *76*

[l] **27:39** GOC, CT, and TR *if they could*

[m] **28:1** WH *Melitene*

2 The islanders showed us extraordinary kindness.
They kindled a fire and welcomed all of us because
it was raining and cold.
3 Paul gathered a bundle of sticks, and as he laid them
on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened
itself to his hand.
4 When the islanders saw the creature hanging from
his hand, they said to one another, "Surely this man
is a murderer. Although he was saved from the sea,
Justice[a] has not allowed him to live."
5 But Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suf-
fered no ill effects.
6 The islanders were expecting him to swell up or
suddenly drop dead. But after waiting a long time
and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they
changed their minds and said he was a god.
7 Nearby stood an estate belonging to Publius, the chief
official of the island. He welcomed us and enter-
tained us hospitably for three days.
8 The father of Publius was sick in bed, suffering from
fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him, and af-
ter praying and placing his hands on him, he healed
the man.
9 After this had happened, the rest of the sick on the
island came and were cured as well.
10 The islanders honored us in many ways and sup-
plied our needs when we were ready to sail.

Paul Arrives in Italy

11 After three months we set sail in an Alexandrian
ship that had wintered in the island. It had the Twin
Brothers[b] as a figurehead.
12 Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there three days.
13 From there we sailed around[c] and came to
Rhegium. After one day, a south wind came up, and
on the second day we arrived at Puteoli.
14 There we found some brothers who invited us to
spend the week with them. And so we came to Rome.
15 The brothers there had heard about us and traveled
as far as the Forum of Appius[d] and the Three
Taverns[e] to meet us. When Paul saw them, he was
encouraged and gave thanks to God.

Paul Preaches at Rome

(Isaiah 6:1–13)

16 When we arrived in Rome, the centurion delivered
up the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but[f]
Paul was permitted to stay by himself, with a soldier
to guard him.
17 After three days, Paul[g] called together the leaders of
the Jews. When they had gathered, he said to them,
"Brothers, although I have done nothing against
our people or the customs of our fathers, I was
taken prisoner in Jerusalem and handed over to the
Romans.
18 They examined me and wanted to release me,
because there was no basis for a death sentence
against me.
19 But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to
appeal to Caesar, even though I have no charge to
bring against my nation.
20 So for this reason I have called to see you and speak
with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am
bound with this chain."
21 The leaders replied, "We have not received any
letters about you from Judea, nor have any of the
brothers from there reported or even mentioned
anything bad about you.
22 But we consider your views worth hearing, because
we know that people everywhere are speaking
against this sect."
23 So they set a day to meet with Paul, and many people
came to the place he was staying. He expounded to
them from morning to evening, testifying about the
kingdom of God and persuading them about Jesus
from the Law of Moses and the Prophets.
24 Some of them were convinced by what he said, but
others refused to believe.
25 They disagreed among themselves and began to
leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The
Holy Spirit was right when He spoke to our[h]
fathers through Isaiah the prophet:
26 'Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing
but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but
never perceiving."
27 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.'[i]
28 Be advised, therefore, that God's salvation has been
sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"
29 And when he had said these things, the Jews went
away, disputing sharply among themselves.[j]
30 Paul stayed there two full years in his own rented
house, welcoming all who came to visit him.
31 Boldly and freely he proclaimed the kingdom of God
and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

[a] **28:4** Greek *Dike*; that is, the Greek goddess of justice

[b] **28:11** Greek *Dioscuri*; that is, the Greek gods Castor and Pollux

[c] **28:13** CT *we weighed anchor*

[d] **28:15** The Forum of Appius was about 43 miles or 70 kilometers from Rome.

[e] **28:15** The Three Taverns was about 35 miles or 57 kilometers from Rome.

[f] **28:16** CT does not include *the centurion delivered up the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but*.

[g] **28:17** CT *he*

[h] **28:25** CT *your*

[i] **28:27** Isaiah 6:9–10 (see also LXX)

[j] **28:29** CT does not include verse 29.

Romans

Epistle to the Romans

1

Paul Greets the Saints in Rome

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,[a] called to be an apostle, and set apart for the gospel of God—
2 the gospel He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,
3 regarding His Son, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh,
4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.
5 Through Him and on behalf of His name, we received grace and apostleship to call all those among the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.
6 And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.
7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Unashamed of the Gospel

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being proclaimed all over the world.
9 God, whom I serve with my spirit[b] in preaching the gospel of His Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you
10 in my prayers at all times, asking that now at last by God's will I may succeed in coming to you.
11 For I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you,
12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.
13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, how often I planned to come to you(but have been prevented from visiting[c] until now), in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.
14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks,[d] both to the wise and the foolish.
15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.
16 I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,[e] because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Greek.
17 For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish,[f] just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."[g]

God's Wrath against Sin

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.
19 For what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.
20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse.
21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts.
22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools,
23 and exchanged[h] the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.
24 Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity for the dishonoring of their bodies with one another.
25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise![i] Amen.
26 For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.
27 Likewise, the men abandoned natural relations with women and burned with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.
28 Furthermore, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.
29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, sexual immorality,[j] evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips,
30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. They invent new forms of evil; they disobey their parents.
31 They are senseless, faithless, heartless, unforgiving,[k] merciless.
32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things are worthy of death, they not only continue to do these things, but also approve of those who practice them.

2

God's Righteous Judgment

(Psalm 75:1–10)

1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on another. For on whatever grounds you

[a] **1:1** CT *of Christ Jesus*

[b] **1:9** Or *in my spirit*

[c] **1:13** Literally *but have been prevented*

[d] **1:14** Literally *to Greeks and barbarians*

[e] **1:16** CT does not include *of Christ*.

[f] **1:17** Literally *For in it is revealed the righteousness of God from faith to faith*

[g] **1:17** Habakkuk 2:4

[h] **1:23** F35 *exchanged for themselves*

[i] **1:25** Or *forever blessed*

[j] **1:29** CT does not include *sexual immorality*.

[k] **1:31** CT does not include *unforgiving*.

judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.
2 And we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.
3 So when you, O man, pass judgment on others, yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?
4 Or do you disregard the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you to repentance?
5 But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of wrath, revelation, and God's righteous judgment.[a]
6 God "will repay each one according to his deeds."[b]
7 To those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life.
8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow wickedness, there will be anger and wrath.[c]
9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil, first for the Jew, then for the Greek;
10 but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, first for the Jew, then for the Greek.
11 For God does not show favoritism.
12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.
13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but it is the doers of the law who will be declared righteous.
14 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.
15 So they show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts either accusing or defending them
16 on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ,[d] as proclaimed by my gospel.

The Jews and the Law

17 Behold, you call yourself a Jew. You[e] rely on the law and boast in God.
18 And you know[f] His will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law.
19 And you are convinced[g] that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those in darkness,
20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth.
21 You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?
22 You who forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?
24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."[h]
25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.
26 If a man who is not circumcised keeps the requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?
27 The one who is physically uncircumcised yet keeps the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.
28 A man is not a Jew because he is one outwardly, nor is circumcision only outward and physical.
29 No, a man is a Jew because he is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise does not come from men, but from God.

3

God Remains Faithful

1 What, then, is the advantage of being a Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?
2 Much in every way. First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words[i] of God.
3 What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness?
4 Certainly not! Let God be true and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that You may be proved right when You speak and victorious when You judge."[j]
5 But if our unrighteousness highlights the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unjust to inflict His wrath on us? I am speaking in human terms.
6 Certainly not! In that case, how could God judge the world?
7 For[k] if my falsehood accentuates God's truthfulness, to the increase of His glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?
8 Why not say, as some slanderously claim that we say, "Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is deserved!

There Is No One Righteous

(Psalm 14:1–7; Psalm 53:1–6; Isaiah 59:1–17)

9 What then? Are we any better? Not at all. For we have already made the charge that Jews and Greeks alike are all under sin.
10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one.
11 There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.

[a] **2:5** CT and TR *for the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed*
[b] **2:6** Psalm 62:12
[c] **2:8** CT *wrath and anger*
[d] **2:16** NA, SBL, and WH *through Christ Jesus*
[e] **2:17** CT *Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you*
[f] **2:18** CT *if you know*
[g] **2:19** CT *if you are convinced*
[h] **2:24** Isaiah 52:5 (see also LXX)
[i] **3:2** Or *the oracles*
[j] **3:4** Or *when You are judged*; Psalm 51:4 (see also LXX)
[k] **3:7** NA, SBL, and WH *But*

12 All have turned away, they have together become
worthless; there is no one who does good, not even
one."[a]
13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues prac-
tice deceit."[b] "The venom of vipers is on their lips."[c]
14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."[d]
15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16 ruin and misery lie in their wake,
17 and the way of peace they have not known."[e]
18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."[f]
19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to
those who are under the law, so that every mouth
may be silenced and the whole world held account-
able to God.
20 Therefore no one will be justified in His sight by
works of the law. For the law merely brings aware-
ness of sin.

Righteousness through Faith in Christ

(Philippians 3:1–11)

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of
God has been revealed, as attested by the Law and
the Prophets.
22 And this righteousness from God comes through
faith in Jesus Christ to all and upon all[g] who believe.
There is no distinction,
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
24 and are justified freely by His grace through the
redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
25 God presented Him as an atoning sacrifice[h] in His
blood through faith, in order to demonstrate His
righteousness, because in His forbearance He had
passed over the sins committed beforehand.
26 He did this to demonstrate His righteousness at the
present time, so as to be just and to justify the one
who has faith in Jesus.
27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what
principle? On that of works? No, but on that of faith.
28 Therefore[i] we maintain that a man is justified by
faith apart from works of the law.
29 Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of
Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,
30 since there is only one God, who will justify the
circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through
that same faith.
31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Certainly
not! Instead, we uphold the law.

4

Abraham Justified by Faith

(Genesis 15:1–7; Psalm 32:1–11; Hebrews 11:8–19)

1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather
according to the flesh, has discovered?
2 If Abraham was indeed justified by works, he had
something to boast about, but not before God.
3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed
God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."[j]
4 Now the wages of the worker are not credited as a
gift, but as an obligation.
5 However, to the one who does not work, but believes
in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited
as righteousness.
6 And David speaks likewise of the blessedness of the
man to whom God credits righteousness apart from
works:
7 "Blessed are they whose lawless acts are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never
count against him."[k]
9 Is this blessing only on the circumcised, or also
on the uncircumcised? We have been saying that
Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteous-
ness.
10 In what context was it credited? Was it after his cir-
cumcision, or before? It was not after, but before.[l]
11 And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of
the righteousness that he had by faith while he was
still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all
who believe but are not circumcised, in order that
righteousness might be credited to them as well.[m]
12 And he is also the father of the circumcised who
not only are circumcised, but who also walk in the
footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had
before he was circumcised.

Abraham Receives the Promise

(Genesis 15:8–21)

13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that
he would be heir of the world was not given through
the law, but through the righteousness that comes
by faith.
14 For if those who live by the law are heirs, faith is
useless and the promise is worthless,
15 because the law brings wrath. For[n] where there is
no law, there is no transgression.
16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it
may rest on grace and may be guaranteed to all
Abraham's offspring — not only to those who are
of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of
Abraham. He is the father of us all.
17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many
nations."[o] He is our father in the presence of God,

[a] **3:12** Psalm 14:1–3 and Psalm 53:1–3 (see also LXX)
[b] **3:13** Psalm 5:9
[c] **3:13** Psalm 140:3
[d] **3:14** Psalm 10:7 (see also LXX)
[e] **3:17** Isaiah 59:7–8 (see also LXX)
[f] **3:18** Psalm 36:1
[g] **3:22** CT does not include *and upon all.*
[h] **3:25** Or *as a propitiation*
[i] **3:28** CT *For*
[j] **4:3** Genesis 15:6
[k] **4:8** Psalm 32:1–2 (see also LXX)
[l] **4:10** Literally *How then was it reckoned—being in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.*
[m] **4:11** SBL, TH, and WH do not include *as well.*
[n] **4:15** CT *And*
[o] **4:17** Genesis 17:5

in whom he believed, the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not yet exist.
18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."[a]
19 Without weakening in his faith, he acknowledged neither[b] the decrepitness of his body (since he was about a hundred years old) nor[c] the lifelessness of Sarah's womb.
20 Yet he did not waver through disbelief in the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,
21 being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised.
22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."[d]
23 Now the words "it was credited to him" were written not only for Abraham,
24 but also for us, to whom righteousness will be credited— for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.
25 He was delivered over to death for our trespasses and was raised to life for our justification.

5

The Triumph of Faith

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have[e] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice[f] in the hope of the glory of God.
3 Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.
5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

Christ's Sacrifice for the Ungodly

(John 3:1–21)

6 For at the right time,[g] while we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.
8 But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
9 Therefore, since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from wrath through Him!
10 For if, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!
11 Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Death in Adam, Life in Christ

(Genesis 3:1–7)

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned.
13 For sin was in the world before the law was given; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law.
14 Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who did not sin in the way that Adam transgressed. He is a pattern of the One to come.
15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many!
16 Again, the gift is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment that followed one sin brought condemnation, but the gift that followed many trespasses brought justification.
17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!
18 So then, just as one trespass brought condemnation for all men, so also one act of righteousness brought justification and life for all men.
19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.
20 The law came in so that the trespass would increase; but where sin increased, grace increased all the more,
21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

(2 Corinthians 4:7–18)

1 What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may increase?
2 Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer?
3 Or aren't you aware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life.
5 For if we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.

[a] **4:18** Genesis 15:5
[b] **4:19** CT does not include *neither*.
[c] **4:19** CT *and*
[d] **4:22** Genesis 15:6
[e] **5:1** Or *let us have*
[f] **5:2** Or *exult*; also in verses 3 and 11
[g] **5:6** CT *just the right time*

6 We know that our old self was crucified with Him so
that the body of sin might be rendered powerless,
that we should no longer be slaves to sin.
7 For anyone who has died has been freed from sin.
8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will
also live with Him.
9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the
dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has do-
minion over Him.
10 The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but
the life He lives, He lives to God.
11 So you too must count yourselves dead to sin, but
alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.[a]
12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body
so that you obey it in its desires.[b]
13 Do not present the parts of your body to sin as
instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves
to God as those who have been brought from death
to life; and present the parts of your body to Him as
instruments of righteousness.
14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not
under law, but under grace.

The Wages of Sin

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under
law, but under grace? Certainly not!
16 Do you not know that when you offer yourselves as
obedient slaves, you are slaves to the one you obey,
whether you are slaves to sin leading to death, or to
obedience leading to righteousness?
17 But thanks be to God that, though you once were
slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form
of teaching to which you were committed.
18 You have been set free from sin and have become
slaves to righteousness.
19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weak-
ness of your flesh. Just as you used to offer the parts
of your body in slavery to impurity and to escalating
wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to right-
eousness leading to holiness.
20 For when you were slaves to sin, you were free of
obligation to righteousness.
21 What fruit did you reap at that time from the things
of which you are now ashamed? The outcome of
those things is death.
22 But now that you have been set free from sin and
have become slaves to God, the fruit you reap leads
to holiness, and the outcome is eternal life.
23 For the wages of sin is death,[c] but the gift of God is
eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7

Release from the Law

(Galatians 3:15–25)

1 Do you not know, brothers (for I am speaking to those
who know the law), that the law has authority over
a man only as long as he lives?
2 For instance, a married woman is bound by law to her
husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies,
she is released from the law of marriage.
3 So then, if she is joined to another man while her
husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress; but
if her husband dies, she is free from that law and is
not an adulteress if she marries another man.
4 Therefore, my brothers, you also died to the law
through the body of Christ, that you might belong to
another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in
order that we might bear fruit to God.
5 For when we lived according to the flesh, the sinful
passions aroused by the law were at work in our
bodies, bearing fruit for death.
6 But now, having died to what bound us, we have
been released from the law, so that we serve in the
new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the
written code.

God's Law Is Holy

7 What then shall we say? Is the law sin? Certainly not!
Indeed, I would not have been mindful of sin if not
for the law. For I would not have been aware of
coveting if the law had not said, "Do not covet."[d]
8 But sin, seizing its opportunity through the com-
mandment, produced in me every kind of covetous
desire. For apart from the law, sin is dead.
9 Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the
commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.
10 So I discovered that the very commandment that
was meant to bring life actually brought death.
11 For sin, seizing its opportunity through the com-
mandment, deceived me and through the command-
ment put me to death.
12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is
holy, righteous, and good.

Struggling with Sin

13 Has that which[e] is good, then, become death to me?
Certainly not! But in order that sin might be exposed
as sin, it produced death in me through what was
good, so that through the commandment sin might
become utterly sinful.
14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspir-
itual, sold as a slave to sin.
15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do,
I do not do. But what I hate, I do.
16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I admit that the
law is good.
17 In that case, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin
living in me that does it .
18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my
flesh; for I have the desire to do what is good, but I
cannot discover how to carry it out.[f]
19 For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep
on doing the evil I do not want to do.
20 And if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who
do it, but it is sin living in me that does it .
21 So this is the principle I have discovered: When I
want to do good, evil is right there with me.
22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law.

[a] **6:11** CT does not include *our Lord.*

[b] **6:12** CT *so that you obey its desires*

[c] **6:23** See Proverbs 10:16.

[d] **7:7** Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21

[e] **7:13** CT *Did that which*

[f] **7:18** CT *I cannot carry it out*

23 But I see another law at work in my body, warring
against the law of my mind and holding me captive
to the law of sin that dwells within me.[a]
24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me
from this body of death?
25 I thank God[b] through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then,
with my mind I serve the law of God, but with my
flesh I serve the law of sin.

8

Walking by the Spirit

(Ezekiel 36:16–38; Galatians 5:16–26)

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those
who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according
to the flesh but according to the Spirit.[c]
2 For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me
[d] free from the law of sin and death.
3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was
weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own
Son in the likeness of sinful man, as an offering for
sin.[e] He thus condemned sin in the flesh,
4 so that the righteous standard of the law might be
fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh
but according to the Spirit.
5 Those who live according to the flesh set their minds
on the things of the flesh; but those who live accord-
ing to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the
Spirit.
6 The mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the
Spirit is life and peace,
7 because the mind of the flesh is hostile to God: It does
not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
8 Those controlled by the flesh[f] cannot please God.
9 You, however, are controlled not by the flesh, but by
the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if
anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not
belong to Christ.
10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because
of sin, yet your spirit is alive[g] because of righteous-
ness.
11 And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the
dead is living in you, He who raised Christ[h] from the
dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through
His Spirit, who lives in you.

Heirs with Christ

12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is
not to the flesh, to live according to it.
13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die;
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the
body, you will live.
14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of
God.
15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that
returns you to fear, but you received the Spirit
of adoption to sonship, by whom we cry, "Abba!
Father!"
16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we
are God's children.
17 And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of
God and co-heirs with Christ — if indeed we suffer
with Him, so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Future Glory

(2 Corinthians 5:1–10)

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not com-
parable to the glory that will be revealed in us.
19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the rev-
elation of the sons of God.
20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its
own will, but because of the One who subjected it,
in hope
21 that the creation itself will be set free from its
bondage to decay and brought into the glorious free-
dom of the children of God.
22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning
together in the pains of childbirth until the present
time.
23 Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the
firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait
eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of
our bodies.
24 For in this hope we were saved; but hope that is seen
is no hope at all. Why would one hope for[i] what he
can already see?
25 But if we hope for what we do not yet see, we wait
for it patiently.
26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weak-
nesses.[j] For we do not know how we ought to pray,
but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us[k] with groans
too deep for words.
27 And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of
the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints
according to the will of God.

God Works in All Things

(Ephesians 1:3–14)

28 And we know that all things work together[l] for the
good of those who love Him, who are called accord-
ing to His purpose.
29 For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be
conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would
be the firstborn among many brothers.
30 And those He predestined, He also called; those He
called, He also justified; those He justified, He also
glorified.
31 What then shall we say in response to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?

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[a] **7:23** Literally *captive to the law of sin being in my members.*

[b] **7:25** CT *Thanks be to God*

[c] **8:1** CT does not include *who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

[d] **8:2** CT *you*

[e] **8:3** Literally *in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin*

[f] **8:8** Literally *Those being in the flesh*; similarly in verse 9

[g] **8:10** Or *yet the Spirit is life*

[h] **8:11** SBL and WH *Christ Jesus*

[i] **8:24** CT *Who hopes for*

[j] **8:26** CT *weakness*

[k] **8:26** CT literal does not include *for us*.

[l] **8:28** CT *that God works all things together*

32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him
up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him,
freely give us all things?
33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is
God who justifies.
34 Who is there to condemn us? For Christ,[a] who died,
and more than that was raised to life, is at the right
hand of God— and He is interceding for us.

More than Conquerors

(Psalm 44:1–26)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall trouble or distress or persecution or famine or
nakedness or danger or sword?
36 As it is written: "For Your sake we face death all
day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaugh-
tered."[b]
37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through Him who loved us.
38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nei-
ther angels nor principalities nor powers, neither
the present nor the future,[c]
39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of
God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

9

Paul's Concern for the Jews

1 I speak the truth in Christ; I am not lying, as con-
firmed by my conscience in the Holy Spirit.
2 I have deep sorrow and unceasing anguish in my
heart.
3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut
off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my own
flesh and blood,
4 the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons;
theirs the divine glory and the covenants; theirs
the giving of the law, the temple worship, and the
promises.
5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them proceeds
the human descent of Christ, who is God over all,
forever worthy of praise![d] Amen.

God's Sovereign Choice

(Genesis 25:19–28; Malachi 1:1–5)

6 It is not as though God's word has failed. For not all
who are descended from Israel are Israel.
7 Nor because they are Abraham's descendants are
they all his children. On the contrary, "Through Isaac
your offspring will be reckoned."[e]
8 So it is not the children of the flesh who are God's
children, but it is the children of the promise who
are regarded as offspring.
9 For this is what the promise stated: "At the appointed
time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."[f]
10 Not only that, but Rebecca's children were con-
ceived by one man, our father Isaac.
11 Yet before the twins were born or had done anything
good or evil,[g] in order that God's plan of election
might stand,
12 not by works but by Him who calls, she was told,
"The older will serve the younger."[h]
13 So it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."[i]
14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Certainly
not!
15 For He says to Moses: "I will have mercy on whom I
have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I
have compassion."[j]
16 So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort,
but on God's mercy.
17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up
for this very purpose, that I might display My power
in you, and that My name might be proclaimed in all
the earth."[k]
18 Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to
have mercy , and He hardens whom He wants to
harden .
19 One of you will say to me, "Why[l] does God still find
fault? For who can resist His will?"
20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall
what is formed say to Him who formed it, "Why did
You make me like this?"[m]
21 Does not the potter have the right to make from the
same lump of clay one vessel for special occasions
and another for common use?
22 What if God, intending to show His wrath and make
His power known, bore with great patience the ves-
sels of His wrath, prepared for destruction?
23 What if He did this to make the riches of His
glory known to the vessels of His mercy, whom He
prepared in advance for glory —
24 including us, whom He has called not only from the
Jews, but also from the Gentiles?
25 As He says in Hosea: "I will call them 'My People'
who are not My people, and I will call her 'My
Beloved' who is not My beloved,"[n]
26 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.'"[o]
27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the num-
ber of the Israelites is like the sand of the sea, only
the remnant will be saved.
28 For the Lord will carry out His sentence thoroughly
and decisively in righteousness, because He will cut
short the matter on the earth."[p]

[a] **8:34** NA and WH *Christ Jesus*

[b] **8:36** Psalm 44:22

[c] **8:38** CT *neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers*

[d] **9:5** Or *forever blessed*

[e] **9:7** Genesis 21:12

[f] **9:9** Genesis 18:14

[g] **9:11** CT *good or bad*

[h] **9:12** Genesis 25:23

[i] **9:13** Malachi 1:2–3

[j] **9:15** Exodus 33:19

[k] **9:17** Exodus 9:16 (see also LXX)

[l] **9:19** NA and SBL *Then why*

[m] **9:20** Isaiah 29:16; Isaiah 45:9

[n] **9:25** Hosea 2:23

[o] **9:26** Hosea 1:10

[p] **9:28** Isaiah 10:22–23 (see also LXX); CT *For the Lord will carry out His sentence on the earth thoroughly and decisively.*

29 It is just as Isaiah foretold: "Unless the Lord of Hosts had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have resembled Gomorrah."[a]

Israel's Unbelief

30 What then will we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;
31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.[b]
32 Why not? Because their pursuit was not by faith, but as if it were by works of the law.[c] For[d] they stumbled over the stumbling stone,
33 as it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense;[e] and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame."[f]

10

The Word Brings Salvation

(Isaiah 65:1–16)

1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is for their salvation.
2 For I testify about them that they are zealous for God, but not on the basis of knowledge.
3 Because they were ignorant of God's righteousness and sought to establish their own,[g] they did not submit to God's righteousness.
4 For Christ is the end of the law, to bring righteousness to everyone who believes.
5 For concerning the righteousness that is by the law, Moses writes: "The man who does these things will live by them."[h]
6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'[i] (that is, to bring Christ down)
7 or, 'Who will descend into the Abyss?'[j] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."
8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"[k] that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:
9 that if you confess[l] with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with your heart you believe and are justified, and with your mouth you confess and are saved.
11 It is just as the Scripture says: "Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame."[m]
12 For there is no difference between Jew and Greek: The same Lord is Lord of all, and gives richly to all who call on Him,
13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."[n]
14 How then will they call on the One in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how will they hear[o] without someone to preach?
15 And how will they preach[p] unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of peace,[q] who bring good news of good things!"[r]
16 But not all of them welcomed the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"[s]
17 Consequently, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.[t]
18 But I ask, did they not hear? Indeed they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."[u]
19 I ask instead, did Israel not understand? First, Moses says: "I will make you jealous by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation without understanding."[v]
20 And Isaiah boldly says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me."[w]
21 But as for Israel he says: "All day long I have held out My hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."[x]

11

A Remnant Chosen by Grace

1 I ask then, did God reject His people? Certainly not! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.
2 God did not reject His people, whom He foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says about Elijah, how he appealed to God against Israel, saying,[y]
3 "Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars. I am the only one left, and they are seeking my life as well "[z] ?

[a] **9:29** Isaiah 1:9 (see also LXX)
[b] **9:31** Literally *attained a law of righteousness*; CT literal *attained that law*
[c] **9:32** CT does not include *of the law*.
[d] **9:32** CT does not include *For*.
[e] **9:33** Isaiah 8:14
[f] **9:33** Isaiah 28:16 (see also LXX)
[g] **10:3** Literally *their own righteousness*; SBL and WH *their own*
[h] **10:5** Leviticus 18:5; see also Ezekiel 20:11, 13, and 21.
[i] **10:6** Deuteronomy 30:12
[j] **10:7** See Deuteronomy 30:13.
[k] **10:8** Deuteronomy 30:14
[l] **10:9** WH *confess the word*
[m] **10:11** Isaiah 28:16 (see also LXX)
[n] **10:13** Joel 2:32
[o] **10:14** CT *can they call… can they believe… can they hear*
[p] **10:15** CT *can they preach*
[q] **10:15** CT does not include *who bring good news of peace*.
[r] **10:15** Isaiah 52:7
[s] **10:16** Isaiah 53:1
[t] **10:17** CT *the word of Christ*
[u] **10:18** Psalm 19:4 (see also LXX)
[v] **10:19** Deuteronomy 32:21 (see also LXX)
[w] **10:20** Isaiah 65:1
[x] **10:21** Isaiah 65:2 (see also LXX)
[y] **11:2** CT does not include *saying*.
[z] **11:3** 1 Kings 19:10, 14

4 And what was the divine reply to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”[a]

5 In the same way, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.
6 And if it is by grace, then it is no longer by works. Otherwise, grace would no longer be grace. But if it is by works, then it is no longer by grace. Otherwise, work would no longer be work.[b]

7 What then? What Israel was seeking, it failed to obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened,
8 as it is written: “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see, and ears that could not hear, to this very day.”[c]

9 And David says: “May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution to them.
10 May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever.”[d]

The Ingrafting of the Gentiles

11 I ask then, did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?[e] Certainly not! However, because of their trespass, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous.
12 But if their trespass means riches for the world, and their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!
13 I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry
14 in the hope that I may provoke my own people to jealousy and save some of them.
15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?
16 If the first part of the dough is holy, so is the whole batch; if the root is holy, so are the branches.
17 Now if some branches have been broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others to share in the nourishment of the olive root,
18 do not boast over those branches. If you do, remember this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.
19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.”
20 That is correct: They were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid.
21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He will certainly not[f] spare you either.

22 Take notice, therefore, of the kindness and severity of God: severity to those who fell, but kindness to you, if you continue in His kindness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.
23 And if they also do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.
24 For if you were cut from a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into one that is cultivated, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

All Israel Will Be Saved

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not be conceited: A hardening in part has come to Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.
26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come from Zion; He will remove godlessness from Jacob.
27 And this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins.”[g]

28 Regarding the gospel, they are enemies on your account; but regarding election, they are loved on account of the patriarchs.
29 For God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable.
30 For just as you who formerly disobeyed God have now received mercy through their[h] disobedience,

31 so they too have now disobeyed, in order that they too may receive mercy through the mercy shown to you.[i]

32 For God has consigned everyone to disobedience so that He may have mercy on everyone.

A Hymn of Praise

(Isaiah 40:9–31)

33 O, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and untraceable His ways!
34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?”[j]

35 “Who has first given to God, that God should repay him?”[k]

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

12

Living Sacrifices

(1 Corinthians 3:16–23; 1 Corinthians 6:18–20)

1 Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.[l]

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.
3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,

[a] **11:4** 1 Kings 19:18

[b] **11:6** CT does not include *But if it is by works, then it is no longer by grace. Otherwise, work would no longer be work.*

[c] **11:8** See Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10.

[d] **11:10** Psalm 69:22–23 (see also LXX)

[e] **11:11** Or *did they stumble so as to lose their share?* Literally *did they stumble that they might fall?*

[f] **11:21** Or *He will perhaps not*; SBL, NE, and WH *He will not*

[g] **11:27** Isaiah 27:9 and Isaiah 59:20–21; see also LXX.

[h] **11:30** Or *as a result of*

[i] **11:31** Literally *may receive mercy through your mercy*; CT *may now receive mercy through the mercy shown to you.*

[j] **11:34** Isaiah 40:13 (see also LXX)

[k] **11:35** Job 41:11

[l] **12:1** Or *your reasonable service*

but think of yourself with sober judgment, according to the measure of faith God has given you.
4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function,
5 so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another.
6 We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one's gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith;
7 if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;
8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is giving, let him give generously; if it is leading, let him lead with diligence; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Love, Zeal, Hope, Hospitality

(John 13:31–35; 1 John 3:11–24)

9 Love must be sincere. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good.
10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Outdo yourselves in honoring one another.
11 Do not let your zeal subside; keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, persistent in prayer.
13 Share with the saints who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Forgiveness

(Matthew 18:21–35)

14 Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse.
15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but associate with the lowly. Do not be conceited.
17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Carefully consider what is right in the eyes of everybody.
18 If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone.
19 Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord."[a]
20 Therefore,[b] "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head."[c]
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

13

Submission to Authorities

(1 Peter 2:13–20)

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which is from God. The authorities that exist have been appointed by God.
2 Consequently, whoever resists authority is opposing what God has set in place, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.
3 For rulers are not a terror to good works,[d] but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the one in authority? Then do what is right, and you will have his approval.
4 For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not carry the sword in vain. He is God's servant, an agent of retribution to the wrongdoer.
5 Therefore it is necessary to submit to authority , not only to avoid punishment, but also as a matter of conscience.
6 This is also why you pay taxes. For the authorities are God's servants, who devote themselves to their work.
7 Therefore[e] pay everyone what you owe him: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Love Fulfills the Law

(Leviticus 19:9–18)

8 Be indebted to no one, except to one another in love. For he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.
9 The commandments "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet,"[f] and any other commandments, are summed up in this one decree: "Love your neighbor as yourself."[g]
10 Love does no wrong to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

The Day Is Near

11 And do this, understanding the occasion. The hour has come for us to wake up from our slumber,[h] for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.
12 The night is nearly over; the day has drawn near. So let us lay aside[i] the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.
14 Instead, clothe yourselves with[j] the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

14

The Law of Liberty

(Matthew 7:1–6; Luke 6:37–42)

1 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing

[a] **12:19** Deuteronomy 32:35 (see also LXX)
[b] **12:20** CT *On the contrary*
[c] **12:20** Proverbs 25:21–22 (see also LXX)
[d] **13:3** CT *good conduct*
[e] **13:7** CT does not include *Therefore*.
[f] **13:9** Exodus 20:13–17; Deuteronomy 5:17–21; ALT, F35, and TR *"Do not bear false witness," "Do not covet"*
[g] **13:9** Leviticus 19:18
[h] **13:11** CT *for you to wake up from your slumber*
[i] **13:12** SBL *cast aside*
[j] **13:14** Or *put on*; see verse 12.

judgment on his opinions.[a]
2 For one person has faith to eat all things, while another, who is weak, eats only vegetables.
3 The one who eats everything must not belittle the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted him.
4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for God[b] is able to make him stand.
5 One person regards a certain day above the others, while someone else considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.
6 He who observes a special day does so to the Lord. And he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.[c] He who eats does so to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.
7 For none of us lives to himself alone, and none of us dies to himself alone.
8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
9 For this reason Christ died and rose[d] and returned to life, that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.
10 Why, then, do you judge your brother? Or why do you belittle your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.[e]
11 It is written: "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will confess to God."[f]
12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.[g]

The Law of Love

(Ezekiel 14:1–11; 1 Corinthians 8:1–13)

13 Therefore let us stop judging one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.
14 I am convinced and fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.
15 If your brother is distressed by what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother, for whom Christ died.
16 Do not allow what you consider good, then, to be spoken of as evil.
17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.
18 For whoever serves Christ in these things[h] is pleasing to God and approved by men.
19 So then, let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to let his eating be a stumbling block.
21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything to cause your brother to stumble or to be hindered or weakened.[i]
22 Keep your belief about such matters between yourself and God.[j] Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves.
23 But the one who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that is not from faith is sin.

Doxology

(Jude 1:24–25)

24 Now to Him who is able to strengthen you by my gospel and by the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery concealed for ages past
25 but now revealed and made known through the writings of the prophets by the command of the eternal God, in order to lead all nations to the obedience that comes from faith[k] —
26 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.[l]

15

Accept One Another

1 We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves.
2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.
3 For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written: "The insults of those who insult You have fallen on Me."[m]
4 For what[n] was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.
5 Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you harmony with one another in Christ Jesus,
6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ the Servant of Jews and Gentiles

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, [o] in order to bring glory to God.

[a] **14:1** Or *without quarreling over disputable matters*

[b] **14:4** CT *the Lord*

[c] **14:6** CT does not include *And he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it*.

[d] **14:9** CT does not include *and rose*.

[e] **14:10** CT *of God*

[f] **14:11** Or *will give praise to God* or *will acknowledge God*; Isaiah 45:23 (see also LXX)

[g] **14:12** SBL does not include *to God*.

[h] **14:18** CT *in this way*

[i] **14:21** SBL, MT, and TR; other CT do not include *or to be hindered or weakened*.

[j] **14:22** Literally *Keep the faith that you have to yourself before God*

[k] **14:25** Literally *the obedience of faith*

[l] **14:26** Some manuscripts place the text of verses 24–26 after Romans 15:33 or after Romans 16:24.

[m] **15:3** Psalm 69:9

[n] **15:4** CT *For everything that*

[o] **15:7** ALT, F35, TR, and WH *us*

8 Now[a] I tell you that Christ Jesus[b] has become a
servant of the circumcised on behalf of God's truth,
to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs,
9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy. As
it is written: "Therefore I will praise You among the
Gentiles;[c] I will sing hymns to Your name."[d]
10 Again, it says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His peo-
ple."[e]
11 And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and
extol Him, all you peoples."[f]
12 And once more, Isaiah says: "The Root of Jesse will
appear, One who will arise to rule over the Gentiles;
in Him the Gentiles will put their hope."[g]
13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and
peace as you believe in Him, so that you may over-
flow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles

14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you your-
selves are full of goodness, brimming with knowl-
edge, and able to instruct others.[h]
15 However, brothers,[i] I have written you a bold re-
minder on some points, because of the grace God has
given me
16 to be a minister of Jesus Christ[j] to the Gentiles
in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that
the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to
God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
17 Therefore I exult in Christ Jesus in my service to God.
18 I will not presume to speak of anything except what
Christ has accomplished through me in leading the
Gentiles to obedience by word and deed,
19 by the power of signs and wonders, and by the
power of the Spirit of God.[k] So from Jerusalem all
the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed
the gospel of Christ.
20 In this way I have aspired to preach the gospel
where Christ was not known, so that I would not be
building on someone else's foundation.
21 Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told
about Him will see, and those who have not heard
will understand."[l]
22 That is why I have often been hindered from coming
to you.

Paul's Travel Plans

(1 Corinthians 16:5–9)

23 But now that there are no further opportunities for
me in these regions, and since I have longed for
many years to visit you,
24 I hope to come[m] to see you on my way to Spain. And
after I have enjoyed your company for a while, you
can equip me for my journey.
25 Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem to serve
the saints there.
26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make
a contribution for the poor among the saints in
Jerusalem.
27 They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe
it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their
spiritual blessings, they are obligated to minister to
them with material blessings.
28 So after I have completed this service and have
safely delivered this bounty to them, I will set off to
Spain by way of you.
29 I know that when I come to you, I will come in the
fullness of the blessing of the gospel[n] of Christ.
30 Now I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ
and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle
by praying to God for me.
31 Pray that I may be delivered from the unbelievers
in Judea, and that my service in Jerusalem may be
acceptable to the saints there,
32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and
together with you be refreshed.
33 The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.[o]

16

Personal Greetings and Love

1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant[p] of
the church in Cenchrea.
2 Welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the
saints, and assist her with anything she may need
from you. For she has been a great help to many
people, including me.
3 Greet Prisca[q] and Aquila, my fellow workers in
Christ Jesus,
4 who have risked their lives for me. Not only I but all
the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.
5 Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet
my beloved Epenetus, who was the first convert to
Christ in Achaia.[r]
6 Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for us.[s]
7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow countrymen
and fellow prisoners. They are outstanding among
the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

[a] **15:8** CT *For*
[b] **15:8** CT *Christ*; TR *Jesus Christ*
[c] **15:9** GOC and F35 include *O Lord*.
[d] **15:9** 2 Samuel 22:50; Psalm 18:49
[e] **15:10** Deuteronomy 32:43
[f] **15:11** Psalm 117:1
[g] **15:12** Isaiah 11:10 (see also LXX)
[h] **15:14** GOC, CT, and TR *one another*
[i] **15:15** CT does not include *brothers*.
[j] **15:16** CT *of Christ Jesus*
[k] **15:19** SBL *the power of the Spirit*; NE and WH *the power of the Holy Spirit*
[l] **15:21** Isaiah 52:15 (see also LXX)
[m] **15:24** CT does not include *to come*.
[n] **15:29** CT does not include *of the gospel*.
[o] **15:33** Some manuscripts do not include *Amen*.One early manuscript places the text of Romans 14:24–26 here.
[p] **16:1** Or *deaconess*
[q] **16:3** *Prisca* is a variant of *Priscilla*; GOC, ALT, and TR *Priscilla*; see Acts 18:2.
[r] **16:5** CT *in the province of Asia*
[s] **16:6** CT *for you*

8 Greet Amplias,[a] my beloved in the Lord.
9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my
beloved Stachys.
10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those
who belong to the household of Aristobulus.
11 Greet Herodion, my fellow countryman. Greet those
from the household of Narcissus who are in the
Lord.
12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, women who have
worked hard in the Lord. Greet my beloved Persis,
who has worked very hard in the Lord.
13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who
has been a mother to me as well.
14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Her-
mes,[b] and the brothers with them.
15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and
Olympas and all the saints with them.
16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches[c]
of Christ send you greetings.

Avoid Divisions

(Titus 3:9–11)

17 Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those
who create divisions and obstacles that are contrary
to the teaching you have learned. Turn away from
them.
18 For such people are not serving our Lord Jesus
Christ,[d] but their own appetites. By smooth talk and
flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.
19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I re-
joice over you. But I want you to be wise indeed[e]
about what is good and innocent about what is evil.
20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your
feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ[f] be with you.
[g]

Greetings from Paul's Fellow Workers

(Colossians 4:7–14)

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you greetings, as
do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow country-
men.
22 I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in
the Lord.
23 Gaius, who has hosted me and all the church, sends
you greetings. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you
greetings, as does our brother Quartus.
24 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
all. Amen.[h]

[a] **16:8** CT *Ampliatus*

[b] **16:14** CT *Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas*

[c] **16:16** CT *All the churches*

[d] **16:18** CT *our Lord Christ*

[e] **16:19** CT does not include *indeed.*

[f] **16:20** NA, NE, and WH *Lord Jesus*

[g] **16:20** Scrivener TR includes *Amen.*

[h] **16:24** SBL, MT, and TR; other CT do not include verse 24. Additionally, some manuscripts place the text of verses of Romans 14:24–26 here or after Romans 15:33.

1 Corinthians

First Epistle to the Corinthians

1

Greetings from Paul and Sosthenes

(Acts 18:1–11; 2 Corinthians 1:1–2)

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ[a] by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:[b]
3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

(Philippians 1:3–11; Colossians 1:3–14)

4 I always thank my[c] God for you because of the grace He has given you in Christ Jesus.
5 For in Him you have been enriched in every way, in all speech and all knowledge,
6 because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.
7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
8 He will sustain you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Unity in the Church

(Psalm 133:1–3; Ephesians 4:1–16)

10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree together, so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be united in mind and conviction.
11 My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.
12 What I mean is this: Individuals among you are saying, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Cephas,"[d] or "I follow Christ."
13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?
14 I thank God[e] that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,
15 so no one can say that I baptized[f] into my name.
16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that I do not remember if I baptized anyone else.
17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with words of wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The Message of the Cross

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."[g]
20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?[h]
21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.
22 Jews demand a sign[i] and Greeks search for wisdom,
23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Greeks,[j]
24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom,[k] and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Wisdom from God

26 Brothers, consider the time of your calling: Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were powerful; not many were of noble birth.
27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.
28 He chose the lowly and despised things of the world, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are,
29 so that no one may boast in His presence.
30 It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.
31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."[l]

2

Paul's Message by the Spirit's Power

1 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony[m] about God.
2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

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[a] **1:1** CT *of Christ Jesus*
[b] **1:2** Literally *both theirs and ours*
[c] **1:4** WH does not include *my*.
[d] **1:12** That is, Peter
[e] **1:14** SBL, TH, and WH *I am thankful*
[f] **1:15** CT *you were baptized*
[g] **1:19** Isaiah 29:14 (see also LXX)
[h] **1:20** CT *of the world*
[i] **1:22** CT *signs*
[j] **1:23** CT *to Gentiles*
[k] **1:25** Literally *than men*; twice in this verse
[l] **1:31** Jeremiah 9:24
[m] **2:1** NA and WH *the mystery*

4 My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human[a] wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,
5 so that your faith would not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Spiritual Wisdom

(Ephesians 1:15–23)

6 Among the mature, however, we speak a message of wisdom — but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.
7 No, we speak of the mysterious and hidden wisdom of God,[b] which He destined for our glory before time began.
8 None of the rulers of this age understood it. For if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
9 Rather, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him."[c]
10 But God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.[d] The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
11 For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him? So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
12 We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.
13 And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Holy Spirit,[e] expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.[f]
14 The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.
15 The spiritual man judges all things, but he himself is not subject to anyone's judgment.
16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to instruct Him?"[g] But we have the mind of Christ.

3

God's Fellow Workers

(Hebrews 5:11–14)

1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual, but as worldly — as infants in Christ.
2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for solid food. In fact, you are still not ready,
3 for you are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and dissension and division[h] among you, are you not worldly? Are you not walking in the way of man?
4 For when one of you says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not of the flesh?[i]
5 Who then is Paul? And who is Apollos?[j] They are servants through whom you believed, as the Lord has assigned to each his role .
6 I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.
7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.
8 He who plants and he who waters are one in purpose ,[k] and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.
9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Christ Our Foundation

(Isaiah 28:14–22; Ephesians 2:19–22; 1 Peter 2:1–8)

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds.
11 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw,
13 his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man's work.
14 If what he has built survives, he will receive a reward.
15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as if through the flames.

God's Temple and God's Wisdom

(Romans 12:1–8; 1 Corinthians 6:18–20)

16 Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in[l] you?
17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
18 Let no one deceive himself. If any of you thinks he is wise in this age, he should become a fool, so that he may become wise.
19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness."[m]
20 And again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."[n]
21 Therefore, stop boasting in men. All things are yours,
22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas[o] or the world or life or death or the present or the future. All of them belong to you,
23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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[a] **2:4** CT does not include *human*.
[b] **2:7** Or *we speak God's wisdom in a mystery*
[c] **2:9** Isaiah 64:4
[d] **2:10** CT *the Spirit*
[e] **2:13** CT *the Spirit*
[f] **2:13** Or *to spiritual people*
[g] **2:16** Isaiah 40:13 (see also LXX)
[h] **3:3** CT does not include *and division*.
[i] **3:4** CT *are you not mere men*
[j] **3:5** CT *What then is Apollos? And what is Paul?*
[k] **3:8** Literally *are one*
[l] **3:16** Or *among*
[m] **3:19** Job 5:13
[n] **3:20** Psalm 94:11
[o] **3:22** That is, Peter

4

Servants of Christ

1 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ
and stewards of the mysteries of God.
2 Now it is required of stewards that they be found
faithful.
3 I care very little, however, if I am judged by you or by
any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.
4 My conscience is clear, but that does not vindicate me.
It is the Lord who judges me.
5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time;
wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what
is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of
men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise
from God.
6 Brothers, I have applied these things to myself and
Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from
us not to think beyond[a] what is written. Then you
will not take pride in one man over another.
7 For who makes you so superior? What do you have
that you did not receive? And if you did receive it,
why do you boast as though you did not?
8 Already you have all you want. Already you have
become rich. Without us, you have become kings.
How I wish you really were kings, so that we might
be kings with you!
9 For it seems to me that God has displayed us apos-
tles at the end of the procession , like prisoners
appointed for death. We have become a spectacle to
the whole world, to angels as well as to men.
10 We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ.
We are weak, but you are strong. You are honored,
but we are dishonored.
11 To this very hour we are hungry and thirsty, we
are poorly clothed, we are brutally treated, we are
homeless.
12 We work hard with our own hands. When we are
vilified, we bless; when we are persecuted, we en-
dure it;
13 when we are slandered, we answer gently. Up to this
moment we have become the scum of the earth, the
refuse of the world.

Paul's Fatherly Warning

14 I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you
[b] as my beloved children.
15 Even if you have ten thousand guardians in Christ,
you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I
became your father through the gospel.
16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me.
17 That is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and
faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my
way of life in Christ,[c] which is exactly what I teach
everywhere in every church.
18 Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not
coming to you.
19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord is willing,
and then I will find out not only what these arrogant
people are saying, but what power they have.
20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but
of power.
21 Which do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod,
or in love and with a gentle spirit?

5

Immorality Rebuked

(Leviticus 20:10–21; Proverbs 5:1–23)

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality
among you, and of a kind that is not even named[d]
among pagans: A man has his father's wife.
2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been
stricken with grief and have removed from your
fellowship the man who did this?
3 Although I am absent from you in body, I am present
with you in spirit, and I have already pronounced
judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were
present.
4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ[e] and I am with you in spirit, along with
the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,[f]
5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the
flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the Day of
the Lord Jesus.[g]
6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a lit-
tle leaven works through the whole batch of dough?
7 Get rid of[h] the old leaven, that you may be a new
unleavened batch, as you really are. For Christ, our
Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.[i]
8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old bread,
leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the
unleavened bread of sincerity and of truth.

Expel the Immoral Brother

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually
immoral people.
10 I was not including the sexually immoral of this
world, or the greedy or[j] swindlers or idolaters. In
that case you would have to leave this world.
11 But now I am writing you not to associate with
anyone who claims to be a brother but is sexually
immoral or greedy, an idolater or a verbal abuser,
a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not
even eat.
12 What business of mine is it to judge those outside
the church ? Are you not to judge those inside?
13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man
from among you."[k]

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[a] **4:6** CT *not to go beyond*

[b] **4:14** Literally *but I am admonishing you*

[c] **4:17** CT *in Christ Jesus*

[d] **5:1** CT *that exists not even* or *that is intolerable*

[e] **5:4** Or *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are assembled*; CT *When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus*

[f] **5:4** CT *of our Lord Jesus*

[g] **5:5** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Jesus.*

[h] **5:7** TR *Therefore get rid of*

[i] **5:7** CT does not include *for us.*

[j] **5:10** CT *and*

[k] **5:13** Literally *Expel the evil from among you*; Deuteronomy 13:5, Deuteronomy 17:7, Deuteronomy 19:19, Deuteronomy 21:21, Deuteronomy 22:21, Deuteronomy 22:24, and Deuteronomy 24:7

6

Lawsuits among Believers

1 If any of you has a grievance against another, how
dare he go to law before the unrighteous instead of
before the saints!
2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?
And if you are to judge the world, are you not com-
petent to judge trivial cases?
3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How
much more the things of this life!
4 So if you need to settle everyday matters, do you
appoint as judges those of no standing in the church?
5 I say this to your shame. Is there really not even one
[a] among you wise enough to arbitrate between his
brothers?
6 Instead, one brother goes to law against another, and
this in front of unbelievers!
7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you
means that you are thoroughly defeated already.
Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be
cheated?
8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, even
against your own brothers![b]

Members of Christ

9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the
kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the
sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor
men who submit to or perform homosexual acts,
10 nor the covetous, nor thieves,[c] nor drunkards, nor
verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the king-
dom of God.
11 And that is what some of you were. But you were
washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in
the name of the Lord Jesus[d] and by the Spirit of our
God.
12 "Everything is permissible for me," but not every-
thing is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for
me," but I will not be mastered by anything.
13 "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food,"
but God will destroy them both. The body is not
intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and
the Lord for the body.
14 By His power God raised the Lord from the dead,
and He will raise us also.
15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of
Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and
unite them with a prostitute? Never!
16 Don't you know[e] that he who unites himself with a
prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The
two will become one flesh."[f]
17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with
Him in spirit.

The Temple of the Holy Spirit

(Romans 12:1–8; 1 Corinthians 3:16–23)

18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man
can commit is outside his body, but he who sins
sexually sins against his own body.
19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the
Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received
from God? You are not your own;
20 you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God
with your body and with your spirit, which belong
to God.[g]

7

Principles of Marriage

1 Now for the matters about which you wrote me:[h] It
is good to abstain from sexual relations.[i]
2 But because there is so much sexual immorality, each
man should have his own wife, and each woman her
own husband.
3 The husband should render the affection due[j] to his
wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.
4 The wife does not have authority over her own body,
but the husband. Likewise the husband does not
have authority over his own body, but the wife.
5 Do not deprive each other, except by mutual consent
and for a time, so you may devote yourselves to
fasting and[k] to prayer. Then come together again, so
that Satan will not tempt you through your lack of
self-control.
6 I say this as a concession, not as a command.
7 For[l] I wish that all men were as I am. But each
man has his own gift from God, one in this way and
another in that.[m]
8 Now to the unmarried and widows I say this: It is good
for them to remain unmarried, as I am.
9 But if they cannot control themselves, let them marry.
For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.
10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the
Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband.
11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else
be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must
not divorce his wife.
12 To the rest I say this(I, not the Lord): If a brother has
an unbelieving wife and she is willing to live with
him, he must not divorce her.
13 And if a woman has an unbelieving husband and he
is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.
14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through
his believing wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanc-
tified through her believing husband.[n] Otherwise
your children would be unclean, but now they are
holy.

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[a] **6:5** CT *no one*

[b] **6:8** Literally *do wrong, and these things to brothers!*

[c] **6:10** CT and TR *nor thieves, nor the covetous*

[d] **6:11** NA *the Lord Jesus Christ*; TH and WH *our Lord Jesus Christ*

[e] **6:16** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Or don't you know*

[f] **6:16** Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX)

[g] **6:20** CT does not include *and with your spirit, which belong to God.*

[h] **7:1** CT *the matters you wrote about*

[i] **7:1** Literally *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

[j] **7:3** CT *should render what is due* or *should fulfill his marital duty*

[k] **7:5** CT does not include *to fasting and.*

[l] **7:7** CT does not include *For.*

[m] **7:7** CT *one has this gift and another has that*

[n] **7:14** CT literal *brother*

15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let him go. The believing brother or sister is not bound in such cases. God has called us[a] to live in peace.

16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Live Your Calling

17 Regardless, each one should lead the life that God[b] has assigned to him and to which the Lord[c] has called him. This is what I prescribe in all the churches.
18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man still uncircumcised when called? He should not be circumcised.
19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commandments is what counts.
20 Each one should remain in the situation he was in when he was called.
21 Were you a slave when you were called? Do not let it concern you— but if you can gain your freedom, take the opportunity.
22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman. Conversely, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave.
23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.
24 Brothers, each one should remain in the situation he was in when God called him.

The Unmarried and Widowed

25 Now about virgins, I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.
26 Because of the present[d] crisis, I think it is good for a man to remain as he is.
27 Are you committed to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you free of commitment? Do not look for a wife.
28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned. And if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.
29 What I am saying, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none;
30 those who weep, as if they did not; those who are joyful, as if they were not; those who make a purchase, as if they had nothing;
31 and those who use the things of this world, as if not dependent on them. For this world in its present form is passing away.
32 I want you to be free from concern. The unmarried man is concerned about the work of the Lord, how he will please[e] the Lord.
33 But the married man is concerned about the affairs of this world, how he will please his wife.
34 And there is a difference between the wife and the virgin. The unmarried woman is concerned about the work of the Lord,[f] how she can be holy in both body and spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world, how she will please her husband.
35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but in order to promote proper decorum and undivided devotion to the Lord.
36 However, if someone thinks he is acting inappropriately toward his betrothed, and if she is beyond her youth[g] and they ought to marry,[h] let him do as he wishes; he is not sinning; they should get married.
37 But the man who is firmly established in his heart and under no constraint, with control over his will and resolve in his heart not to marry the virgin,[i] he will do well.
38 So then, he who marries her[j] does well, but he who does not marry her[k] does even better.
39 A wife is bound by law[l] to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, as long as he belongs to the Lord.[m]
40 In my judgment, however, she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

8

Food Sacrificed to Idols

(Ezekiel 14:1–11; Romans 14:13–23)

1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
2 The one who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.
3 But the one who loves God is known by God.
4 So about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no other[n] God but one.
5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many so-called gods and lords),
6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we exist. And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we exist.
7 But not everyone has this knowledge. Some people with consciousness of the idol still eat such food[o]

[a] **7:15** SBL, MT, and TR; NA and WH *you*

[b] **7:17** CT *the Lord*

[c] **7:17** CT *God*

[d] **7:26** Or *impending*

[e] **7:32** CT *can please*; also in verses 33 and 34

[f] **7:34** CT *And his interests are divided. The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the work of the Lord*

[g] **7:36** Or *of full age* or *past the bloom of youth*

[h] **7:36** Literally *and it ought to be so*

[i] **7:37** Literally *in his heart to keep the virgin* or *in his heart to keep the betrothed*

[j] **7:38** Or *gives her in marriage*; CT *marries the virgin* or *gives the virgin in marriage*

[k] **7:38** Or *does not give her in marriage*

[l] **7:39** CT does not include *by law*.

[m] **7:39** Literally *she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord*

[n] **8:4** CT does not include *other*.

[o] **8:7** CT *Some people are still so accustomed to idols that they eat such food*

as if it were sacrificed to an idol. And since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.
8 But food does not bring us closer to God: We are no better if we do not eat, and no worse[a] if we do.
9 Be careful, however, that your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.
10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you who are well informed eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged to eat food sacrificed to idols?
11 Should this weak brother, for whom Christ died, be destroyed by your knowledge?
12 By sinning against your brothers in this way and wounding their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to stumble.

9

The Rights of an Apostle

(Deuteronomy 18:1–8)

1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free?[b] Have I not seen Jesus Christ[c] our Lord? Are you yourselves not my workmanship in the Lord?
2 Even if I am not an apostle to others, surely I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.
3 This is my defense to those who scrutinize me:
4 Have we no right to food and to drink?
5 Have we no right to take along a believing wife,[d] as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?[e]
6 Or are Barnabas and I the only apostles who must work for a living?[f]
7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who[g] tends a flock and does not drink of its milk?
8 Do I say this from a human perspective? Doesn't the Law say the same thing?
9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."[h] Is it about oxen that God is concerned?
10 Isn't He actually speaking on our behalf? Indeed, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes , they should also expect to share in the harvest.
11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much for us to reap a material harvest from you?
12 If others have this right to your support, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not exercise this right. Instead, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.
13 Do you not know that those who work in the temple eat of its food, and those who serve at the altar partake of its offerings?
14 In the same way, the Lord has prescribed that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.
15 But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that something be done for me. Indeed, I would rather die than let anyone nullify my boast.
16 Yet when I preach the gospel, I have no reason to boast, because I am obligated to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
17 If my preaching is voluntary, I have a reward. But if it is not voluntary, I am still entrusted with a responsibility.
18 What then is my reward? That in preaching the gospel I may offer the gospel of Christ[i] free of charge, and so not use up my rights in preaching it.

Paul the Servant to All

19 Though I am free of obligation to anyone, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.
20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law, [j] to win those under the law.
21 To those without the law I became like one without the law(though I am not outside the law of God but am under the law of Christ), to win those without the law.
22 To the weak I became like one who is weak,[k] to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.
23 I do this[l] for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Run Your Race to Win

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way as to take the prize.
25 Everyone who competes in the games trains with strict discipline. They do it for a crown that is perishable, but we do it for a crown that is imperishable.
26 Therefore I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight like I am beating the air.
27 No, I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

10

Warnings from Israel's Past

(Numbers 16:41–50; Numbers 25:1–5)

1 Now[m] I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud, and that they all passed through the sea.

[a] **8:8** CT *We are no worse if we do not eat, and no better*

[b] **9:1** CT *Am I not free? Am I not an apostle?*

[c] **9:1** CT does not include *Christ*.

[d] **9:5** Literally *take along a sister—a wife—*

[e] **9:5** That is, Peter

[f] **9:6** Literally *Or is it only Barnabas and I who do not have authority not to work?*

[g] **9:7** SBL *Who*

[h] **9:9** Deuteronomy 25:4

[i] **9:18** CT does not include *of Christ*.

[j] **9:20** CT includes *(though I myself am not under the law).*

[k] **9:22** CT *To the weak I became weak*

[l] **9:23** CT *I do all this*

[m] **10:1** CT literal *For*

2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in
the sea.
3 They all ate the same spiritual food
4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank
from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and
that rock was Christ.
5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them,
for they were struck down in the wilderness.
6 These things took place as examples to keep us from
craving evil things as they did.
7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were. As it is
written: "The people sat down to eat and to drink,
and got up to indulge in revelry."[a]
8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of
them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand of
them died.
9 We should not test Christ,[b] as some of them also[c]
did, and were killed by snakes.
10 And do not complain, as also[d] some of them did, and
were killed by the destroying angel.[e]
11 Now all[f] these things happened to them as exam-
ples and were written down as warnings for us, on
whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.
12 So the one who thinks he is standing firm should be
careful not to fall.
13 No temptation has seized you except what is com-
mon to man. And God is faithful;[g] He will not let you
be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you
are tempted, He will also provide an escape, so that
you can stand up under it.

Flee from Idolatry

(Exodus 20:22–26)

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
15 I speak to reasonable people; judge for yourselves
what I say.
16 Is not the cup of blessing that we bless a participa-
tion in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that
we break a participation in the body of Christ?
17 Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one
body; for we all partake of the one loaf.
18 Consider the people of Israel: Are not those who eat
the sacrifices fellow partakers in the altar?
19 Am I suggesting, then, that an idol is anything, or
that food sacrificed to an idol is anything?[h]
20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to
demons, not to God. And I do not want you to be
participants with demons.
21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of
demons too; you cannot partake in the table of the
Lord and the table of demons too.
22 Are we trying to provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are
we stronger than He?

All to God's Glory

(1 Peter 4:1–11)

23 "Everything is permissible for me,"[i] but not every-
thing is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for
me," but not everything is edifying.
24 No one should seek his own good, but each one
should seek[j] the good of others.
25 Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising
questions of conscience,
26 for, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness
thereof."[k]
27 If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want
to go, eat anything set before you without raising
questions of conscience.
28 But if someone tells you, "This food was offered to
idols," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who
told you and for the sake of conscience — for the
earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof —[l]
29 the other one's conscience , I mean, not your own.
For why should my freedom be determined by some-
one else's conscience?
30 If I partake in the meal with thankfulness, why am I
denounced because of that for which I give thanks?
31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do
it all to the glory of God.
32 Do not become a stumbling block, whether to Jews
or Greeks or the church of God—
33 as I also try to please everyone in all I do. For I am
not seeking my own good, but the good of many, that
they may be saved.

11

Roles in Worship

1 You are to imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.
2 Now I commend you, brothers,[m] for remembering
me in everything and for maintaining the traditions,
just as I passed them on to you.
3 But I want you to understand that the head of every
man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man,
and the head of Christ is God.
4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head
covered dishonors his head.
5 And every woman who prays or prophesies with her
head uncovered dishonors her head, for it is just as
if her head were shaved.
6 If a woman does not cover her head, she should have
her hair cut off. And if it is shameful for a woman
to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover
her head.
7 A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the
image and glory of God; but woman[n] is the glory
of man.

[a] **10:7** Or *to play*; Exodus 32:6

[b] **10:9** WH, TH, NE, and Tischendorf *test the Lord*

[c] **10:9** CT does not include *also*.

[d] **10:10** CT does not include *also*.

[e] **10:10** Literally *the destroyer*

[f] **10:11** CT does not include *all*.

[g] **10:13** F35 *capable*

[h] **10:19** CT *that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything*

[i] **10:23** Or *"All things are lawful for me"*; CT does not include *for me*; twice in this verse.

[j] **10:24** CT does not contain *each one should seek*.

[k] **10:26** Psalm 24:1

[l] **10:28** CT does not include *for the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof—*

[m] **11:2** CT does not include *brothers*.

[n] **11:7** CT *the woman*

8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from
man.
9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for
man.
10 For this reason a woman ought to have a sign of
authority on[a] her head, because of the angels.
11 In the Lord, however, man is not independent of
woman, nor is woman independent of man.[b]
12 For just as woman came from man, so also man is
born of woman. But everything comes from God.
13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to
pray to God with her head uncovered?
14 Doesn't nature itself teach you that if a man has long
hair, it is a disgrace to him,
15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For
long hair is given[c] as a covering.
16 If anyone is inclined to dispute this, we have no
other practice, nor do the churches of God.

Sharing in the Lord's Supper

(Matthew 26:20–30; Mark 14:17–26; Luke 22:14–23)

17 In the following instructions I have no praise to
offer, because your gatherings do more harm than
good.
18 First of all, I hear that when you come together as a
church, there are divisions among you, and in part I
believe it.
19 And indeed, there must be differences among you to
show which of you are approved.
20 Now then, when you come together, it is not the
Lord's Supper you eat.
21 For as you eat, each of you goes ahead without shar-
ing his meal.[d] While one remains hungry, another
gets drunk.
22 Don't you have your own homes in which to eat
and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and
humiliate those who have nothing? What can I say
to you? Shall I praise you for this? No, I will not!
23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to
you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed,
took bread,
24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,
"Take and eat.[e] This is My body, which is broken[f]
for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
25 In the same way, after supper He took the cup, say-
ing, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do
this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
27 Therefore, whoever eats this bread[g] or drinks the
cup of the Lord in a manner unworthy of the Lord[h]
will be guilty of sinning against the[i] body and blood
of the Lord.
28 Each one must examine himself before he eats of the
bread and drinks of the cup.
29 For anyone who eats and drinks unworthily,[j] with-
out recognizing the body of the Lord,[k] eats and
drinks judgment on himself.
30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and
a number of you have fallen asleep.
31 Now if we judged ourselves properly, we would not
come under judgment.
32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are being
disciplined so that we will not be condemned with
the world.
33 So, my brothers, when you come together to eat,
wait for one another.
34 If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so
that when you come together it will not result in
judgment. And when I come, I will give instructions
about the remaining matters.

12

Spiritual Gifts

1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you
to be uninformed.
2 You know that when you were pagans, you were
influenced and led astray to mute idols.
3 Therefore I inform you that no one who is speaking
by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one
can call Jesus Lord,[l] except by the Holy Spirit.
4 There are different gifts, but the same Spirit.
5 There are different ministries, but the same Lord.
6 There are different ways of working, but the same
God works all things in all people.
7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is
given for the common good.
8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message
of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by
the same Spirit,
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of
healing by that same[m] Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another
prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits,
to another speaking in various tongues, and to still
another the interpretation of tongues.
11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit,
who apportions them to each one as He determines.

The Body of Christ

12 The body is a unit, though it is composed of many
parts. And although its parts are many, they all form
one body. So it is with Christ.
13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free, and we were
all given into[n] one Spirit to drink.
14 For the body does not consist of one part, but of
many.

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[a] **11:10** Or *have authority over*

[b] **11:11** CT *woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman*

[c] **11:15** GOC, NA, TR, and WH *given to her*

[d] **11:21** Literally *each one takes first his own meal.*

[e] **11:24** CT does not include *Take and eat.*

[f] **11:24** CT does not include *broken.*

[g] **11:27** CT *the bread*

[h] **11:27** CT and TR *in an unworthy manner*

[i] **11:27** Or *will be responsible for the*

[j] **11:29** CT does not include *unworthily.*

[k] **11:29** CT does not include *of the Lord.*

[l] **12:3** CT *says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord"*

[m] **12:9** CT *by that one*

[n] **12:13** CT does not include *into.*

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do
not belong to the body,” that would not make it any
less a part of the body.
16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye,
I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it
any less a part of the body.
17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the
sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear,
where would the sense of smell be?
18 But in fact, God has arranged the members of the
body, every one of them, according to His design.
19 If they were all one part, where would the body be?
20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.
21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you.”
Nor can the head say to the feet, “I do not need you.”
22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to
be weaker are indispensable,
23 and the parts we consider less honorable, we treat
with greater honor. And our unpresentable parts are
treated with special modesty,
24 whereas our presentable parts have no such need.
But God has composed the body and has given
greater honor to the parts that lacked it,
25 so that there should be no divisions[a] in the body,
but that its members should have mutual concern
for one another.
26 If one part suffers,[b] every part suffers with it; if one
part is honored, every part rejoices with it.[c]

The Greater Gifts

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a
member of it.
28 And in the church God has appointed first of
all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then
workers of miracles, and those with gifts of healing,
helping, administration, and various tongues.
29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?
Do all work miracles?
30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues?
Do all interpret?
31 But eagerly desire the better[d] gifts. And now I will
show you the most excellent way.

13

Love

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but
have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging
cymbal.
2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all
mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute
faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I
am nothing.
3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my
body to be burned,[e] but have not love, I gain noth-
ing.
4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does
not boast, it is not proud.
5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily
angered, it keeps no account of wrongs.
6 Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the
truth.
7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
endures all things.
8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies,
they will cease; where there are tongues, they will
be restrained; where there is knowledge, it will be
dismissed.
9 Now[f] we know in part and we prophesy in part,
10 but when the perfect comes, the partial passes away.
11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought
like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became
a man, I set aside childish ways.
12 Now we see but a dim reflection as in a mirror; then
we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I
shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
13 And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love;
but the greatest of these is love.

14

Prophecy and Tongues

1 Earnestly pursue love and eagerly desire spiritual
gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.
2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to
men, but to God. Indeed, no one understands him;
he utters mysteries in the Spirit.
3 But he who prophesies speaks to men for their edifi-
cation, encouragement, and comfort.
4 The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but
the one who prophesies edifies the church.
5 I wish that all of you could speak in tongues,
but I would rather have you prophesy. For[g] he
who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in
tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may
be edified.
6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues,
how will I benefit you, unless I bring you some reve-
lation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?
7 Even in the case of lifeless instruments, such as the
flute or harp, how will anyone recognize the tune
they are playing unless the notes are distinct?
8 Again, if the trumpet sounds a muffled call, who will
prepare for battle?
9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words
with your tongue, how will anyone know what you
are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.
10 Assuredly, there are many different languages in the
world, yet none of them is without meaning.
11 If, then, I do not know the meaning of someone’s
language, I am a foreigner[h] to the speaker, and he is
a foreigner to me.
12 It is the same with you. Since you are eager to have
spiritual gifts, strive to excel in gifts that build up
the church.

[a] **12:25** GOC, CT, F35, and TR *division*

[b] **12:26** F35 *should suffer*

[c] **12:26** F35 *should rejoice with it*

[d] **12:31** CT *greater*

[e] **13:3** GOC, ALT, F35, SBL, and TH; NA and WH *surrender my body that I may boast* or *exult in the surrender of my body*

[f] **13:9** CT and TR *For*

[g] **14:5** CT does not include *For*.

[h] **14:11** Literally *a barbarian*; twice in this verse

13 Therefore, the one who speaks in a tongue should
pray that he may interpret.
14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind
is unfruitful.
15 What then shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but
I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my
spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.
16 Otherwise, if you speak a blessing in spirit,[a] how
can someone who is uninstructed say “Amen” to
your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you
are saying?
17 You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other
one is not edified.
18 I thank my[b] God that I speak in tongues more than
all of you.
19 But in the church, I would rather speak five coherent
words to instruct others than ten thousand words in
a tongue.
20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to
evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.
21 It is written in the Law: “By strange tongues and
foreign lips I will speak to this people, but even then
they will not listen to Me, says the Lord.”[c]
22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers, but for
unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for believers, not
for unbelievers.
23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone
speaks in tongues, and some who are uninstructed
or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that
you are out of your minds?
24 But if an unbeliever or uninstructed person comes
in while everyone is prophesying, he will be con-
victed and called to account by all,
25 and so[d] the secrets of his heart will be made known.
So he will fall facedown and worship God, proclaim-
ing, “God is truly among you!”

Orderly Worship

26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come
together, each one of you has[e] a psalm or a teaching,
a tongue, a revelation,[f] or an interpretation. All of
these must be done to build up the church .
27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two, or at most three,
should speak in turn, and someone must interpret.
28 But if there is no interpreter, he should remain silent
in the church and speak only to himself and God.
29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others
should weigh carefully what is said.
30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is seated,
the first speaker should stop.
31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone
may be instructed and encouraged.
32 The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.
33 For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace— as in
all the churches of the saints.[g]
34 Your[h] women are to be silent in the churches. They
are not permitted to speak, but must be in submis-
sion, as the law says.
35 If they wish to inquire about something, they are to
ask their own husbands at home; for it is dishonor-
able for a woman to speak in the church.[i]
36 Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you
the only ones it has reached?
37 If anyone considers himself a prophet or spiritual
person, let him acknowledge that what I am writing
you is the Lord’s command.[j]
38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.[k]
39 So, brothers,[l] be eager to prophesy, and do not
forbid speaking in tongues.
40 But everything[m] must be done in a proper and or-
derly manner.

15

The Resurrection of Christ

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I
preached to you, which you received, and in which
you stand firm.
2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to
the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have
believed in vain.
3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first
importance: that Christ died for our sins according
to the Scriptures,
4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third
day according to the Scriptures,
5 and that He appeared to Cephas[n] and then to the
Twelve.
6 After that, He appeared to more than five hundred
brothers at once, most of whom are still living,
though some have fallen asleep.
7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.
8 And last of all He appeared to me also, as to one of
untimely birth.
9 For I am the least of the apostles and am unworthy to
be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church
of God.
10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace
to me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than all
of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was
with me.
11 Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we
preach, and this is what you believed.

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[a] **14:16** Or *in the Spirit*

[b] **14:18** CT does not include *my*.

[c] **14:21** Isaiah 28:11–12

[d] **14:25** CT does not include *and so*.

[e] **14:26** CT *everyone has*

[f] **14:26** CT *a revelation, a tongue*

[g] **14:33** Or *of peace. As in all the churches of the saints:* Thus, some translators begin the new paragraph after *peace*.

[h] **14:34** CT does not include *Your* .

[i] **14:35** Some manuscripts place verses 34–35 after verse 40.

[j] **14:37** Literally *are the Lord’s commandments*; NA, TH, and WH *is the Lord’s commandment*; SBL *is of the Lord*

[k] **14:38** CT *But if anyone ignores this, he himself will be ignored.*

[l] **14:39** CT *So, my brothers*

[m] **14:40** Literally *Everything*; CT *But everything*

[n] **15:5** That is, Peter

The Resurrection of the Dead

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from
the dead, how can some of you say that there is no
resurrection of the dead?
13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even
Christ has been raised.
14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is
worthless, and so is your[a] faith.
15 In that case, we are also exposed as false witnesses
about God. For we have testified about God that He
raised Christ from the dead, but He did not raise Him
if in fact the dead are not raised.
16 For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ
has been raised.
17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile;
you are still in your sins.
18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ
have perished.
19 If our hope in Christ is for this life alone, we are to
be pitied more than all men.

The Order of Resurrection

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead and
has become[b] the firstfruits of those who have fallen
asleep.
21 For since death came through a man, the resurrec-
tion of the dead comes also through a man.
22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made
alive.
23 But each in his own turn: Christ the firstfruits; then
at His coming, those who belong to Him.
24 Then the end will come, when He hands over the
kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all
dominion, authority, and power.
25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies
under His feet.
26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
27 For "God has put everything under His feet."[c] Now
when it says that everything has been put under
Him, this clearly does not include the One who put
everything under Him.
28 And when all things have been subjected to Him,
then the Son Himself will also[d] be made subject to
Him who put all things under Him, so that God may
be all in all.
29 If these things are not so,[e] what will those do who
are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised
at all, why are people baptized for the dead?[f]
30 And why do we endanger ourselves every hour?
31 I face death every day,[g] as surely as I boast about
you in Christ Jesus our Lord.
32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for human mo-
tives, what did I gain? If the dead are not raised, "Let
us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."[h]
33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good
character."[i]
34 Sober up as you ought, and stop sinning; for some of
you are ignorant of God. I say this to your shame.

The Resurrection Body

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised?
With what kind of body will they come?"
36 You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless
it dies.
37 And what you sow is not the body that will be, but
just a seed, perhaps of wheat or something else.
38 But God gives it a body as He has designed, and to
each kind of seed He gives its own body.
39 Not all flesh is the same: Men have one kind of
flesh, animals have another, fish another, and birds
another.[j]
40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies.
But the splendor of the heavenly bodies is of one
degree, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is of
another.
41 The sun has one degree of splendor, the moon an-
other, and the stars another; and star differs from
star in splendor.
42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead: What
is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable.
43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown
in weakness; it is raised in power.
44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.
There is a natural body; there is[k] also a spiritual
body.
45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living
being;"[l] the last Adam a life-giving spirit.
46 The spiritual, however, was not first, but the natural,
and then the spiritual.
47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second
man is the Lord[m] from heaven.
48 As was the earthly man, so also are those who are
of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are
those who are of heaven.
49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly
man, so also let us bear[n] the likeness of the heavenly
man.

Where, O Death, Is Your Victory?

(Hosea 13:9–14)

50 Now I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood
cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the
perishable inherit the imperishable.
51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but
we will all be changed —
52 in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last
trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will
be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

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[a] **15:14** WH *our*

[b] **15:20** CT does not include *and has become.*

[c] **15:27** Psalm 8:6

[d] **15:28** CT *will*

[e] **15:29** That is, *If there is no resurrection;* literally *Otherwise*

[f] **15:29** CT *for them*

[g] **15:31** CT includes *brothers.*

[h] **15:32** Isaiah 22:13

[i] **15:33** Probably a quote from the Greek comedy *Thais* by Menander

[j] **15:39** CT *birds another, and fish another*

[k] **15:44** CT *If there is a natural body, there is*

[l] **15:45** Genesis 2:7

[m] **15:47** CT does not include *is the Lord.*

[n] **15:49** GOC, NA, SBL, and TR *we shall bear*

[a] **15:53** Or *clothe itself*

53 For the perishable must be clothed[a] with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.
54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality,[b] then the saying that is written will come to pass: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”[c]
55 “Where, O Death, is your sting? Where, O Hades, is your victory?”[d]
56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!
58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

16

The Collection for the Saints

(2 Corinthians 9:1–15)

1 Now about the collection for the saints, you are to do as I directed the churches of Galatia:
2 On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a portion of his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will be needed.
3 Then, on my arrival, I will send letters with those you recommend to carry your gift to Jerusalem.
4 And if it is advisable for me to go also, they can travel with me.

Paul’s Travel Plans

(Romans 15:23–33)

5 After I go through Macedonia, however, I will come to you; for I will be going through Macedonia.
6 Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go.
7 For I do not want to see you now only in passing; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.
8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,[e]
9 because a great door for effective work has opened to me, even though many oppose me.

Timothy and Apollos

(Philippians 2:19–30)

10 If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, just as I am.
11 No one, then, should treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace so that he can return to me, for I am expecting him along with the brothers.
12 Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was not at all inclined to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

Concluding Exhortations

13 Be on the alert. Stand firm in the faith. Be men of courage. Be strong.
14 Do everything in love.
15 You know that Stephanas and his household were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. Now I urge you, brothers,
16 to submit to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.
17 I am glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you.
18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours as well. Show your appreciation, therefore, to such men.

Signature and Final Greetings

(Colossians 4:15–18; 2 Thessalonians 3:16–18)

19 The churches in the province of Asia[f] send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla[g] greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.
20 All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.
21 This greeting is in my own hand — Paul.
22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ,[h] let him be under a curse. Come, O Lord![i]
23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ[j] be with you.
24 My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.[k]

[a] **15:53** WH does not include *and the mortal with immortality*.

[b] **15:54** WH does not include *and the mortal with immortality*.

[c] **15:54** Isaiah 25:8

[d] **15:55** Hosea 13:14 (see also LXX); CT *“Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?”*

[e] **16:8** 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 Weeks* (see Exodus 34:22).

[f] **16:19** Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

[g] **16:19** CT *Prisca*; see Acts 18:2.

[h] **16:22** F35 *our Lord Jesus Christ*; CT does not include *Jesus Christ*.

[i] **16:22** Greek *Marana tha* from a transliteration of the Aramaic, an exclamation of approaching divine judgment

[j] **16:23** CT does not include *Christ*.

[k] **16:24** SBL, WH, and NA do not include *Amen*.

2 Corinthians

Second Epistle to the Corinthians

1

Paul Greets the Corinthians

(Acts 18:1–11; 1 Corinthians 1:1–3)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ[a] by the will of God,
and Timothy our brother, To the church of God
in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout
Achaia:
2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of All Comfort

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all
comfort,
4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can
comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we
ourselves have received from God.
5 For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so
also through Christ our comfort overflows.
6 If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation,
[b] which accomplishes in you patient endurance of
the same sufferings we experience. And our hope
for you is sure;[c] if we are comforted, it is for your
comfort and salvation,
7 because we know that just as you share in our suffer-
ings, so also you will share in our comfort.
8 We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the
hardships we encountered in the province of Asia.[d]
We were under a burden far beyond our ability to
endure, so that we despaired even of life.
9 Indeed, we felt we were under the sentence of death,
in order that we would not trust in ourselves, but in
God, who raises the dead.
10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and
He continues to deliver us.[e] In Him we have placed
our hope that He will yet again deliver us,
11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give
thanks on your behalf[f] for the favor shown us in
answer to their prayers .

Paul's Change of Plans

12 For this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that
we have conducted ourselves in the world, and
especially in relation to you, in the integrity[g] and
sincerity that are from God — not in worldly[h] wis-
dom, but in the grace of God.
13 For we do not write you anything that is beyond
your ability to read and understand. And I hope that
you will understand us completely,
14 as you have already understood us in part, that you
may boast of us just as we will boast of you in the
day of the Lord Jesus.[i]
15 Confident of this, I planned to visit you first, so that
you might receive a double blessing.
16 I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and
to return to you from Macedonia, and then to have
you help me on my way to Judea.
17 When I planned this, did I do it carelessly? Or do
I make my plans by human standards, so as to say
"Yes, yes" and also "No, no"?
18 But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you
was not[j] "Yes" and "No."
19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,[k] who was pro-
claimed among you by me and Silvanus[l] and Timo-
thy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in Him it has always
been "Yes."
20 For all the promises of God are "Yes" in Christ. And
so in Him,[m] our "Amen" is spoken to the glory of God.
21 Now it is God who establishes both us and you in
Christ. He anointed us,
22 placed His seal on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts
as a pledge of what is to come.
23 I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare
you that I did not return to Corinth.
24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow
workers with you for your joy, because it is by faith
that you stand firm.

2

Reaffirm Your Love

1 So I made up my mind not to make another painful
visit to you.
2 For if I grieve you, who is left to cheer me but those
whom I have grieved?
3 I wrote to you[n] as I did so that on my arrival I
would not be grieved by those who ought to make
me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you
would share my joy.
4 For through many tears I wrote you out of great dis-
tress and anguish of heart, not to grieve you but to
let you know how much I love you.
5 Now if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me
but all of you — to some degree, not to overstate it.
6 The punishment imposed on him by the majority is
sufficient for him.

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[a] **1:1** CT *of Christ Jesus*

[b] **1:6** CT includes here *if we are comforted, it is for your comfort*.

[c] **1:6** CT includes *And our hope for you is sure* with verse 7

[d] **1:8** Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

[e] **1:10** CT *He will deliver (us)*

[f] **1:11** GOC, CT, and TR *on our behalf*

[g] **1:12** SBL, TH, and WH *holiness*

[h] **1:12** Literally *fleshly*

[i] **1:14** CT *of our Lord Jesus*

[j] **1:18** CT *is not*

[k] **1:19** WH *Christ Jesus*

[l] **1:19** That is, Silas

[m] **1:20** CT *through Him*

[n] **2:3** CT does not include *to you*.

7 So instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him,
so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive
sorrow.
8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.
9 My purpose in writing you was to see if you would
stand the test and be obedient in everything.
10 If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And if
I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven it in the
presence of Christ for your sake,
11 in order that Satan should not outwit us. For we are
not unaware of his schemes.

Triumph in Christ

12 Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of
Christ and a door stood open for me in the Lord,
13 I had no peace in my spirit, because I did not find my
brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and
went on to Macedonia.
14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us tri-
umphantly as captives in Christ and through us
spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge
of Him.
15 For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ among
those who are being saved and those who are per-
ishing.
16 To the one we are an odor that brings death, to the
other a fragrance that brings life.[a] And who is qual-
ified for such a task?
17 For we are not like others,[b] who peddle the word of
God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak
before God with sincerity, as men sent from God.

3

Ministers of a New Covenant

1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Do
we need,[c] like some people, letters of recommenda-
tion to you or from you?[d]
2 You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts,
known and read by everyone.
3 It is clear that you are a letter from Christ, the result
of our ministry, written not with ink but with the
Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on
tablets of human hearts.
4 Such confidence before God is ours through Christ.
5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim that
anything comes from us, but our competence comes
from God.
6 And He has qualified us as ministers of a new
covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the
letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Glory of the New Covenant

(Exodus 34:10–35)

7 Now if the ministry of death, which was engraved
in letters on stone, came with such glory that the
Israelites could not gaze at the face of Moses because
of its fleeting glory,
8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glo-
rious?
9 For if the ministry of condemnation was glorious,
how much more glorious is the ministry of right-
eousness!
10 Indeed, what was once glorious has no glory now in
comparison to the glory that surpasses it.
11 For if what was fading away came with glory, how
much greater is the glory of that which endures!
12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very
bold.
13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his
face to keep the Israelites from gazing at the end of
what was fading away.
14 But their minds were closed. For to this day the same
veil remains at the reading of the old covenant. It
has not been lifted, because only in Christ can it be
removed.
15 And even to this day when Moses is read, a veil
covers their hearts.
16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is
taken away.
17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of
the Lord is, there is freedom.
18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the glory
of the Lord, are being transformed into His image
with intensifying glory, which comes from the Lord,
who is the Spirit.

4

The Light of the Gospel

1 Therefore, since God in His mercy has given us this
ministry,[e] we do not lose heart.
2 Instead, we have renounced secret and shameful
ways. We do not practice deceit, nor do we distort the
word of God. On the contrary, by open proclamation
of the truth, we commend ourselves to every man's
conscience in the sight of God.
3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those
who are perishing.
4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbe-
lievers, so that the light of the gospel of the glory
of Christ, who is the image of God, might not dawn
upon them.[f]
5 For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Christ Jesus[g]
as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus'
sake.
6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"[h]
made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light
of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of
Jesus Christ.[i]

[a] **2:16** Literally *To the one, indeed, an aroma from death to death; but to the other, an aroma from life to life.*

[b] **2:17** ALT, CT, and TR *so many others*

[c] **3:1** CT, Scrivener TR *Or do we need*

[d] **3:1** Literally *letters of recommendation to you or of recommendation from you*; CT *letters of recommendation to you or from you*

[e] **4:1** Literally *Therefore, having this ministry, as we have received mercy,*

[f] **4:4** CT *so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God*

[g] **4:5** NA *Jesus Christ*

[h] **4:6** Genesis 1:3

[i] **4:6** SBL, NE, and WH *in the face of Christ*

Treasure in Jars of Clay

(Romans 6:1–14)

7 Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us.
8 We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.
10 We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus,[a] so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.
11 For we who are alive are always consigned to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal body.
12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.
13 And in keeping with what is written, "I believed, therefore I have spoken,"[b] we who have the same spirit of faith also believe and therefore speak,
14 knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus[c] will also raise us through[d] Jesus and present us with you in His presence .
15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is extending to more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow, to the glory of God.
16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet the inner[e] self is being renewed day by day.
17 For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond comparison.
18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

5

Our Eternal Dwelling

(Romans 8:18–27)

1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is dismantled, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.
2 For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,
3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.
4 For while we are in this tent, we groan under our burdens, because we do not wish to be unclothed but clothed, so that our mortality may be swallowed up by life.
5 And it is God who has prepared us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of what is to come.
6 Therefore we are always confident, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord.
7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.
8 We are confident, then, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
9 So we aspire to please Him, whether we are at home in this body or away from it.
10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.

Ambassadors for Christ

11 Therefore, since we know what it means to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is clear to God, and I hope it is clear to your conscience as well.
12 For[f] we are not commending ourselves to you again. Instead, we are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you can answer those who take pride in appearances rather than in the heart.
13 If we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.
14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that if[g] One died for all, therefore all died.
15 And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them[h] and was raised again.
16 So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.
17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.[i] The old has passed away. Behold, all things have become new![j]
18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ[k] and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
19 that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
20 Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God.
21 For[l] God made Him who knew no sin to be sin[m] on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

6

Paul's Hardships and God's Grace

1 As God's fellow workers,[n] then, we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

[a] **4:10** CT *the death of Jesus*
[b] **4:13** Psalm 116:10 (see also LXX)
[c] **4:14** SBL *who raised Jesus*
[d] **4:14** CT *with*
[e] **4:16** CT *our inner*
[f] **5:12** CT does not include *For*.
[g] **5:14** CT does not include *if*.
[h] **5:15** F35 *all*
[i] **5:17** Or *a new creature*
[j] **5:17** CT *Behold, the new has come!*
[k] **5:18** CT *through Christ*
[l] **5:21** CT does not include *For*.
[m] **5:21** Or *a sin offering*
[n] **6:1** Literally *Now working together*
[a] **6:2** Isaiah 49:8 (see also LXX)

2 For He says: “In the time of favor I heard you, and in
the day of salvation I helped you.”[a] Behold, now is
the time of favor; now is the day of salvation!
3 We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no one
can discredit our ministry.
4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves
in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hard-
ships, and calamities;
5 in beatings, imprisonments, and riots; in labor, sleep-
less nights, and hunger;
6 in purity, knowledge, patience, and kindness; in the
Holy Spirit and in sincere love;
7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with the
weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in
the left;
8 through glory and dishonor, slander and praise;
viewed as imposters, yet genuine;
9 unknown, yet well-known; dying, and yet we live on;
punished, yet not killed;
10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making
many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing
everything.
11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians. Our
hearts are open wide.
12 It is not our affection, but yours, that is restrained.
13 As a fair exchange— I speak as to my children—
open wide your hearts also.

Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For
what partnership can righteousness have with
wickedness? Or what fellowship does light have
with darkness?
15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?
[b] Or what does a believer have in common with an
unbeliever?
16 What agreement can exist between the temple of
God and idols? For you[c] are the temple of the living
God. As God has said: “I will dwell with them and
walk among them, and I will be their God, and they
will be My people.”[d]
17 “Therefore come out from among them and be sep-
arate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I
will receive you.”[e]
18 And: “I will be a Father to you, and you will be My
sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”[f]

7

Paul’s Joy in the Corinthians

1 Therefore, beloved, since we have these promises,
let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles
body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of
God.
2 Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged
no one, we have corrupted no one, we have ex-
ploited no one.
3 I do not say this to condemn you. I have said before
that you so occupy our hearts that we live and die
together with you.
4 Great is my confidence in you; great is my pride in
you; I am filled with encouragement; in all our trou-
bles my joy overflows.
5 For when we arrived in Macedonia, our bodies had
no rest, but we were pressed from every direction —
conflicts on the outside, fears within.
6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us
by the arrival of Titus,
7 and not only by his arrival, but also by the comfort
he had received from you. He told us about your
longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me, so
that I rejoiced all the more.
8 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not
regret it. Although I did regret it— for I see that my
letter caused you sorrow, but only for a short time—
9 yet now I rejoice, not because you were made sorrow-
ful, but because your sorrow led you to repentance.
For you felt the sorrow that God had intended, and
so were not harmed in any way by us.
10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to sal-
vation without regret, but worldly sorrow brings
death.
11 Consider what this godly sorrow of yours[g] has
produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness
to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm,
what longing, what zeal, what vindication! In every
way you have proved yourselves to be innocent in
this matter.
12 So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account
of the one who did wrong or the one who was
harmed, but rather that your earnestness on our
behalf[h] would be made clear to you in the sight of
God.
13 On account of this, we are encouraged. And in your
encouragement,[i] we were even more delighted by
the joy of Titus. For his spirit has been refreshed by
all of you.
14 Indeed, I was not embarrassed by anything I had
boasted to him about you. But just as everything we
said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus has
proved to be true as well.
15 And his affection for you is even greater when he
remembers that you were all obedient as you wel-
comed him with fear and trembling.
16 I rejoice[j] that I can have complete confidence in
you.

8

Generosity Commended

(Philippians 4:10–20)

1 Now, brothers, we want you to know about[k] the
grace that God has given the churches of Macedonia.

[b] **6:15** Scrivener’s TR and GOC; many Greek sources *Beliar*

[c] **6:16** CT *we*

[d] **6:16** Leviticus 26:12; Jeremiah 32:38; Ezekiel 37:27

[e] **6:17** Isaiah 52:11; see also Ezekiel 20:34, including LXX.

[f] **6:18** See 2 Samuel 7:14.

[g] **7:11** CT does not include *of yours*.

[h] **7:12** Scrivener TR *our earnestness on your behalf*

[i] **7:13** CT *And in addition to our own encouragement*

[j] **7:16** Scrivener TR *I rejoice, therefore,*

[k] **8:1** GOC *I want you to know about*

2 In the terrible ordeal they suffered, their abundant
joy and deep poverty overflowed into rich generos-
ity.
3 For I testify that they gave according to their ability
and even beyond it. Of their own accord,
4 they earnestly pleaded with us for the privilege of
sharing in this service to the saints.
5 And not only did they do as we expected, but they
gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us,
through the will of God.
6 So we urged Titus to help complete your act of grace,
just as he had started it.
7 But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in
speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and
in your love for us[a] — see that you also excel in this
grace of giving.
8 I am not giving a command, but I am testing the sin-
cerity of your love through the earnestness of others.
9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that
though He was rich, yet for your sake[b] He became
poor, so that you through His poverty might become
rich.
10 And this is my opinion about what is helpful for you
in this matter: Last year you were the first not only
to give, but even to have such a desire.
11 Now finish the work, so that you may complete
it with the same eager desire, according to your
means.
12 For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable
according to what one has, not according to what he
does not have.
13 It is not our intention that others may be relieved
while you are burdened, but that there may be
equality.
14 At the present time, your surplus will meet their
need, so that in turn their surplus will meet your
need. This way there will be equality.
15 As it is written: “He who gathered much had no ex-
cess, and he who gathered little had no shortfall.”[c]

Titus Commended

(Titus 1:1–4)

16 But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus
the same devotion I have for you.
17 For not only did he welcome our appeal, but he is
eagerly coming to you of his own volition.
18 Along with Titus we are sending the brother who
is praised by all the churches for his work in the
gospel.
19 More than that, this brother was chosen by the
churches to accompany us with the gracious gift we
administer[d] to honor the Lord Himself and to show
our eagerness to help.
20 We want to avoid any criticism of the way we admin-
ister this generous gift .
21 We are taking great care to do[e] what is right, not
only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of
men.
22 And we are sending along with them our brother
who has proven his earnestness to us many times
and in many ways, and now even more so by his
great confidence in you.
23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker
among you. As for our brothers, they are messengers
[f] of the churches, the glory of Christ.
24 In full view of the churches, then, show these men
the proof of your love and the reason for our boast-
ing about you.

9

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

(1 Corinthians 16:1–4)

1 Now about the service to the saints, there is no need
for me to write to you.
2 For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been
boasting to the Macedonians that since last year you
in Achaia were prepared to give . And your zeal has
stirred most of them to do likewise .
3 But I am sending the brothers in order that our boast-
ing about you in this matter should not prove empty,
but that you will be prepared, just as I said.
4 Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and
find you unprepared, we — to say nothing of you —
would be ashamed of having been so confident in
our boasting.[g]
5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit
you beforehand and make arrangements for the
generous gift that was announced.[h] This way, your
gift will be prepared generously and not begrudg-
ingly.
6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also
reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will
also reap generously.
7 Each one should give what he decides[i] in his heart to
give , not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves
a cheerful giver.[j]
8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so
that in all things, at all times, having all that you
need, you will abound in every good work.
9 As it is written: “He has scattered abroad His gifts to
the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”[k]
10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower and
bread for food supply and multiply your store of
seed and increase[l] the harvest of your righteous-
ness.

[a] **8:7** NA, SBL, and WH *in the love we inspired in you*

[b] **8:9** F35 *our sake*

[c] **8:15** Exodus 16:18

[d] **8:19** See 1 Corinthians 16:3–4.

[e] **8:21** CT *For we are taking great care to do*

[f] **8:23** Or *apostles*

[g] **9:4** CT does not include *in our boasting*.

[h] **9:5** CT *you had promised*

[i] **9:7** CT *has decided*

[j] **9:7** See Proverbs 22:8, LXX addition.

[k] **9:9** Psalm 112:9

[l] **9:10** CT *Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your store of seed and will increase*

11 May you be enriched[a] in every way to be generous
on every occasion, so that through us your generosity may produce[b] thanksgiving to God.
12 For this ministry of service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanksgiving to God.
13 Because of the proof this ministry provides, the saints will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all the others.
14 And their prayers for you will express their affection for you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.
15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

10

Paul's Apostolic Authority

1 Now by the mildness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you — I, Paul, who am humble when face to face with you, but bold when away.
2 I beg you that when I come I may not need to be as bold as I expect toward those who presume that we live according to the flesh.
3 For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh.
4 The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the flesh. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
5 We demolish arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, as soon as your obedience is complete.
7 You are looking at outward appearances. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should remind himself that we belong to Christ just as much as he belongs to Christ.[c]
8 For even if I boast somewhat excessively about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed.
9 I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you by my letters.
10 For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but his physical presence is unimpressive, and his speaking is of no account."
11 Such people should consider that what we are in our letters when absent, we will be in our actions when present.
12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they show their ignorance.
13 We, however, will not boast beyond our limits, but only within the field of influence that God has assigned to us — a field that reaches even to you.
14 We are not overstepping our bounds, as if we had not come to you. Indeed, we were the first to reach you with the gospel of Christ.
15 Neither do we boast beyond our limits in the labors of others. But we hope that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you will greatly increase as well ,
16 so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. Then we will not be boasting in the work already done in another man's territory.
17 Rather, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."[d]
18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

11

Paul and the False Apostles

1 I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness, but you are already doing that.
2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
3 I am afraid, however, that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from the simplicity that is in Christ.[e]
4 For if someone comes and proclaims a Jesus other than the One we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit than the One you received, or a different gospel than the one you accepted, you put up with it very easily.
5 I consider myself in no way inferior to those "superapostles."
6 Although I am not a polished speaker, I am certainly not lacking in knowledge. We have been made known[f] to you in every way possible.
7 Was it a sin for me to humble myself in order to exalt you, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?
8 I robbed other churches by accepting their support in order to serve you.
9 And when I was with you and in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my needs. I have refrained from being a burden to you in any way, and I will continue to do so.
10 As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced[g] in the regions of Achaia.
11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!
12 But I will keep on doing what I am doing, in order to undercut those who want an opportunity to be regarded as our equals in the things of which they boast.
13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.
14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

[a] **9:11** CT *You will be enriched*

[b] **9:11** CT *will produce*

[c] **10:7** CT *we belong to Christ just as much as he does* or *just as he is Christ's, so too are we*

[d] **10:17** Jeremiah 9:24

[e] **11:3** CT *from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ*

[f] **11:6** CT *We have made this clear*

[g] **11:10** Stephanus TR *be stopped*

15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their actions.

Paul's Suffering and Service

(Colossians 1:24–29)

16 I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little.
17 In this confident boasting of mine, I am not speaking as the Lord would, but as a fool.
18 Since many are boasting according to the flesh, I too will boast.
19 For you gladly put up with fools, since you are so wise.
20 In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or exalts himself or strikes you in the face.
21 To my shame I concede that we were too weak for that! Speaking as a fool, however, I can match what anyone else dares to boast about.
22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.
23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am speaking as if I were out of my mind.) I am so much more: in harder labor, in worse beatings, in more imprisonments,[a] in frequent danger of death.
24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.
25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked. I spent a night and a day in the open sea.
26 In my frequent journeys, I have been in danger from rivers and from bandits, in danger from my countrymen and from the Gentiles, in danger in the city and in the country, in danger on the sea and among false brothers,
27 in labor and toil and often without sleep, in hunger and thirst and often without food, in cold and exposure.
28 Apart from these external trials, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.
29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not burn with grief?
30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.
31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ,[b] who is forever worthy of praise,[c] knows that I am not lying.
32 In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas secured the city of the Damascenes wishing[d] to arrest me.
33 But I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his grasp.

12

Paul's Revelation

1 Surely it is not beneficial for me to boast, yet[e] I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.
2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of it I do not know, but God knows.
3 And I know that this man— whether in the body or out of[f] it I do not know, but God knows—
4 was caught up to Paradise. The things he heard were inexpressible, things that man is not permitted to tell.

Paul's Thorn and God's Grace

5 I will boast about such a man, but I will not boast about myself, except in my weaknesses.
6 Even if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me,
7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. So to keep me from becoming conceited,[g] I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.
9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.
10 That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul's Concern for the Corinthians

11 I have become a fool in my boasting,[h] but you drove me to it. In fact, you should have commended me, since I am in no way inferior to those "super-apostles," even though I am nothing.
12 The marks of a true apostle — signs, wonders, and miracles — were performed among you with great perseverance.
13 In what way were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was not a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!
14 See, I am ready to come to you a third time, and I will not be a burden to you,[i] because I am not seeking your possessions, but you. For children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.
15 And for the sake of your souls, I will most gladly spend my money and myself, even if the more I love you, the less you love me.[j]

[a] **11:23** CT *in more imprisonments, in worse beatings*

[b] **11:31** CT *of the Lord Jesus*; TR and GOC *of our Lord Jesus Christ*

[c] **11:31** Or *forever blessed*

[d] **11:32** CT does not include *wishing.*

[e] **12:1** CT *I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to gain,*

[f] **12:3** NA, SBL, and WH *apart from*

[g] **12:7** Some translators end the previous paragraph after verse 6, and begin verse 7 with *So to keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations,*

[h] **12:11** CT does not include *in my boasting.*

[i] **12:14** CT does not include *to you.*

[j] **12:15** CT *myself. If I love you more, will you love me less?*

16 Be that as it may, I was not a burden to you; but crafty as I am, I caught you by trickery.
17 Did I exploit you by anyone I sent you?
18 I urged Titus to visit you, and I sent our brother with him. Did Titus exploit you in any way? Did we not walk in the same Spirit and follow in the same footsteps?[a]
19 Do you still think that we are making a defense to you?[b] We speak before God in Christ, and all of this, beloved, is to build you up.
20 For I am afraid that when I come, I may not find you as I wish, and you may not find me as you wish. I fear that there may be quarrels,[c] jealousies,[d] rage, rivalry, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder.
21 I am afraid that when I come again, my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of their acts of impurity, sexual immorality, and debauchery.

13

Examine Yourselves

1 This is the third time I am coming to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”[e]
2 I already warned you the second time I was with you. So now in my absence I write to warn[f] those who sinned earlier and everyone else: If I return, I will not spare anyone,
3 since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.
4 For although[g] He was indeed crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God’s power. For we are also weak in Him, yet by God’s power we will live with Him concerning you.
5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ[h] is in you — unless you actually fail the test?
6 And I hope you will realize that we have not failed the test.
7 Now I pray[i] to God that you will not do anything wrong — not that we will appear to have stood the test, but that you will do what is right, even if we appear to have failed.
8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.
9 In fact, we rejoice when we are weak but you are strong, and our prayer is for your perfection.
10 This is why I write these things while absent, so that when I am present I will not need to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

Benediction and Farewell

11 Finally, brothers, rejoice! Aim for perfect harmony, encourage one another,[j] be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.
12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.
13 All the saints send you greetings.
14 The grace of the[k] Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.[l]

[a] **12:18** Literally *Did we not walk in the same Spirit? Not in the same footsteps?*
[b] **12:19** CT *Have you been thinking all along that we were making a defense to you?*
[c] **12:20** NA, F35, SBL, and WH *quarreling*
[d] **12:20** CT *jealousy*
[e] **13:1** Deuteronomy 19:15
[f] **13:2** CT *in my absence I warn*
[g] **13:4** CT does not include *although*.
[h] **13:5** TH *Christ Jesus*
[i] **13:7** CT *we pray*
[j] **13:11** Or *listen to my appeal*
[k] **13:14** F35 *our*
[l] **13:14** Texts vary in verse numbering for the last three verses of this chapter. CT does not include *Amen*.

Galatians

Epistle to the Galatians

1

Paul's Greeting to the Galatians

1 Paul, an apostle — sent not from men nor by man, but
by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him
from the dead —
2 and all the brothers with me, To the churches of
Galatia:
3 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our
Lord Jesus Christ,[a]
4 who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the
present evil age, according to the will of our God and
Father,
5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

No Other Gospel

6 I am amazed how quickly you are deserting the One
who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning
to a different gospel —
7 which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people
are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of
Christ.
8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach
a gospel[b] contrary to the one we preached to you,
let him be under a curse!
9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone
is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you
received, let him be under a curse!

Paul Preaches the Gospel

10 Am I now seeking the approval of men, or of God? Or
am I striving to please men? For[c] if I were still trying
to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.
11 But[d] I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I
preached was not devised by man.[e]
12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it;
rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.[f]
13 For you have heard of my former way of life in
Judaism, how severely I persecuted the church of
God and tried to destroy it.
14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my
contemporaries and was extremely zealous for the
traditions of my fathers.
15 But when God, who set me apart from my mother's
womb and called me by His grace, was pleased
16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him
among the Gentiles, I did not rush to consult with
flesh and blood,
17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to the apostles who
came before me, but I went into Arabia and later
returned to Damascus.
18 Only after three years did I go up to Jerusalem to
confer with Peter,[g] and I stayed with him fifteen
days.
19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James,
the Lord's brother.
20 I assure you before God that what I am writing to
you is no lie.
21 Later I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia.
22 I was personally unknown, however, to the churches
of Judea that are in Christ.
23 They only heard the account: "The man who for-
merly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he
once tried to destroy."
24 And they glorified God because of me.

2

The Council at Jerusalem

(Acts 15:5–21)

1 Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem,
accompanied by Barnabas. I took Titus along also.
2 I went in response to a revelation and set before them
the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I
spoke privately to those recognized as leaders, for
fear that I was running or had already run in vain.
3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled
to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.
4 This issue arose because some false brothers had
come in under false pretenses to spy on our freedom
in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us.
5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the
truth of the gospel would remain with you.
6 But as for the highly esteemed— whatever they were
makes no difference to me; God does not show
favoritism[h] — those leaders added nothing to me.
7 On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted to
preach the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter
had been to the circumcised.
8 For the One who was at work in Peter's apostleship to
the circumcised was also at work in my apostleship
to the Gentiles.
9 And recognizing the grace that I had been given,
James, Cephas,[i] and John — those reputed to be
pillars — gave me and Barnabas the right hand of
fellowship, so that we should go to the Gentiles, and
they to the circumcised.
10 They only asked us to remember the poor, the very
thing I was eager to do.

Paul Confronts Cephas

11 When Peter[j] came to Antioch, however, I opposed
him to his face, because he stood condemned.
12 For before certain men came from James, he used
to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he

[a] **1:3** SBL, MT, and TR; NA and WH *God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*

[b] **1:8** ALT and HF *heaven preach a gospel*

[c] **1:10** CT does not include *For*.

[d] **1:11** CT *For*

[e] **1:11** Literally *not according to man*

[f] **1:12** F35 *from Christ*

[g] **1:18** CT *Cephas*

[h] **2:6** Literally *God does not accept the face of man*

[i] **2:9** That is, Peter

[j] **2:11** CT *Cephas*; also in verse 14

began to draw back and separate himself, for fear of those in the circumcision group .
13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.
14 When I saw that they were not walking in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter[a] in front of them all, “If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”[b]
15 We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile “sinners”
16 know that a man is not justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.[c] So we, too, have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.
17 But if, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we ourselves are found to be sinners, does that make Christ a minister of sin? Certainly not!
18 If I rebuild what I have already torn down, I prove myself to be a lawbreaker.
19 For through the law I died to the law so that I might live to God.
20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
21 I do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

3

Faith and Belief

(James 2:14–26)

1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you not to obey the truth?[d] Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you[e] as crucified.
2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?
3 Are you so foolish? After starting in the Spirit, are you now finishing in the flesh?
4 Have you suffered so much for nothing, if it really was for nothing?
5 Does God lavish His Spirit on you and work miracles among you because you practice the law, or because you hear and believe?
6 So also, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”[f]
7 Understand, then, that those who have faith are sons of Abraham.
8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and foretold the gospel to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”[g]
9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Christ Has Redeemed Us

10 All who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”[h]
11 Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.”[i]
12 The law, however, is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who[j] does these things will live by them.”[k]
13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”[l]
14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham[m] would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

The Purpose of the Law

(Romans 7:1–6)

15 Brothers, let me put this in human terms. Even a human covenant, once it is ratified, cannot be canceled or amended.
16 The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say, “and to seeds,” meaning many, but “and to your seed,”[n] meaning One, who is Christ.
17 What I mean is this: The law that came 430 years later does not revoke the covenant previously established by God in Christ,[o] so as to nullify the promise.
18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God freely granted it to Abraham through a promise.
19 Why then was the law given ? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the seed to whom the promise referred. It was administered through angels by a mediator.
20 A mediator is unnecessary, however, for only one party ; but God is one.
21 Is the law, then, opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come from the law.
22 But the Scripture pronounces all things confined by sin, so that by faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.
23 Before this faith came, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.
24 So the law became our guardian to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

[a] **2:14** CT literal *Cephas*
[b] **2:14** Some translators close this quotation after verse 16 or 21.
[c] **2:16** WH *Christ Jesus*
[d] **3:1** CT does not include *not to obey the truth*.
[e] **3:1** CT does not include *among you*.
[f] **3:6** Genesis 15:6
[g] **3:8** See Genesis 12:3, Genesis 18:18, and Genesis 22:18.
[h] **3:10** Deuteronomy 27:26 (see also LXX)
[i] **3:11** Habakkuk 2:4
[j] **3:12** CT literal *He who*
[k] **3:12** Leviticus 18:5; see also Ezekiel 20:11, 13, and 21.
[l] **3:13** Deuteronomy 21:23 (see also LXX)
[m] **3:14** Literally *the blessing of Abraham*
[n] **3:16** Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:15
[o] **3:17** CT does not include *in Christ*.

25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

Sons through Faith in Christ

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

4

Sons and Heirs

1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he is the owner of everything.
2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the date set by his father.
3 So also, when we were children, we were enslaved under the basic principles[a] of the world.
4 But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons.
6 And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into your[b] hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"
7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, you are also an heir of God through Christ.[c]

Paul's Concern for the Galatians

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.
9 But now that you know God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you are turning back to those weak and worthless principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?
10 You are observing special days and months and seasons and years!
11 I fear for you, that my efforts for you may have been in vain.
12 I beg you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.
13 You know that it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you.
14 And although my illness was a trial to me,[d] you did not despise or reject me. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus Himself.
15 What then has become of your blessing? For I can testify that, if it were possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.
16 Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?
17 Those people are zealous for you, but not in a good way. Instead, they want to isolate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them.
18 Nevertheless, it is good to be zealous if it serves a noble purpose — at any time, and not only when I am with you.
19 My little children,[e] for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,
20 how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

Hagar and Sarah

(Genesis 21:9–21)

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not understand what the law says?
22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.[f]
23 His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born through the promise.
24 These things serve as illustrations, for the women represent two[g] covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery: This is Hagar.
25 For[h] Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present-day Jerusalem, and[i] she is in slavery with her children.
26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is the mother of us all.[j]
27 For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have never travailed; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."[k]
28 Now we,[l] brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.
29 At that time, however, the son born by the flesh persecuted the son born by the Spirit. It is the same now.
30 But what does the Scripture say? "Expel the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son."[m]
31 Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

5

Freedom in Christ

1 In the freedom with which Christ has set us free,[n] stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery.
2 Take notice: I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.

[a] **4:3** Or *elemental forces*; similarly in verse 9
[b] **4:6** CT *our*
[c] **4:7** CT *an heir through God*
[d] **4:14** CT *to you*
[e] **4:19** NA and SBL *My children*
[f] **4:22** See Genesis 16:15 and Genesis 21:2–3.
[g] **4:24** TR *the two*
[h] **4:25** CT *Now*
[i] **4:25** CT *because*
[j] **4:26** CT *and she is our mother*
[k] **4:27** Isaiah 54:1
[l] **4:28** NA, SBL, and TH *you*
[m] **4:30** Genesis 21:10
[n] **5:1** CT *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*

3 Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.
4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been severed from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.
5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the hope of righteousness.
6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. All that matters is faith expressing itself through love.
7 You were running so well. Who has obstructed you from obeying the truth?
8 Such persuasion does not come from the One who calls you.
9 A little leaven works through the whole batch of dough.
10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is troubling you will bear the judgment, whoever he may be.
11 Now, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.
12 As for those who are agitating you, I wish they would proceed to emasculate themselves!
13 For you, brothers, were called to freedom; but do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh. Rather, serve one another in love.
14 The entire law is fulfilled in a single decree: "Love your neighbor as yourself."[a]
15 But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

Walking by the Spirit

(Ezekiel 36:16–38; Romans 8:9–11)

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
17 For the flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you want.
18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: adultery,[b] sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery;
20 idolatry and sorcery; hostilities,[c] quarrels,[d] jealousies,[e] and rage; rivalries, divisions, factions,
21 envy, and murders;[f] drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
24 Those who belong to Christ[g] have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in step with the Spirit.
26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying one another.

6

Carry One Another's Burdens

1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him with a spirit of gentleness. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.
2 Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
4 Each one should test his own work. Then he will have reason to boast in himself alone, and not in someone else.
5 For each one should carry his own load.
6 Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word must share in all good things with his instructor.
7 Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return.
8 The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
9 Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to the family of faith.

Final Warnings and Blessings

11 See what large letters I am using to write to you with my own hand!
12 Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They only do this to avoid persecution for the cross of Christ.[h]
13 For the circumcised do not even keep the law themselves, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.
14 But as for me, may I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which[i] the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
15 For in Christ Jesus[j] neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is a new creation.
16 Peace and mercy to all who walk by this rule, even to the Israel of God.
17 From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.[k]
18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

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[a] **5:14** Leviticus 19:18

[b] **5:19** CT does not include *adultery*.

[c] **5:20** Or *hatred*

[d] **5:20** CT and F35 *quarreling* or *discord*

[e] **5:20** CT *jealousy*

[f] **5:21** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *murders*.

[g] **5:24** NA, TH, and WH *Christ Jesus*

[h] **6:12** WH *Christ Jesus*

[i] **6:14** Or *through whom*

[j] **6:15** CT does not include *in Christ Jesus*.

[k] **6:17** CT *the marks of Jesus*

Ephesians

Epistle to the Ephesians

1

Paul's Greeting to the Ephesians

(Acts 19:8–12; Revelation 2:1–7)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ[a] by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus,[b] the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Blessings

(Romans 8:28–34)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

4 For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence. In love

5 He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will,

6 to the praise of His glorious grace, by which He has bestowed favor upon us[c] in the Beloved One.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

8 that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

9 And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ

10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.

11 In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will,

12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory.

13 And in Him you also— having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation— believed and were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.

Spiritual Wisdom

(1 Corinthians 2:6–16)

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.

18 I ask that the eyes of your heart[d] may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints,

19 and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength,

20 which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms,

21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

22 And God put everything under His feet and made Him head over everything for the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

2

Alive with Christ

(Colossians 2:6–23)

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath.

4 But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that in the coming ages He might display the surpassing riches of His grace, demonstrated by His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.[e]

One in Christ

(Philippians 2:1–4)

11 Therefore remember that formerly you who are Gentiles in the flesh and called uncircumcised by the so-called circumcision(that done in the body by human hands) —

12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

[a] **1:1** NA, SBL, and WH *Christ Jesus*

[b] **1:1** Some manuscripts do not include *in Ephesus*.

[c] **1:6** CT *grace, which He has freely given us*

[d] **1:18** TR *the eyes of your understanding*

[e] **2:10** Literally *which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two
one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility
15 by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments
and decrees. He did this to create in Himself one new
man out of the two, thus making peace
16 and reconciling both of them to God in one body
through the cross, by which He put to death their
hostility.
17 He came and preached peace to you[a] who were far
away and[b] to those who were near.
18 For through Him we both have access to the Father
by one Spirit.

Christ Our Cornerstone

(Isaiah 28:14–22; 1 Corinthians 3:10–15; 1 Peter 2:1–8)

19 Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreign-
ers, but fellow citizens with the saints and members
of God's household,
20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ[c] Himself as the cornerstone.
21 In Him the whole building is fitted together and
grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
22 And in Him you too are being built together into a
dwelling place for God in His Spirit.

3

The Mystery of the Gospel

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for
the sake of you Gentiles...[d]
2 Surely you have heard about the stewardship of God's
grace that was given to me for you,
3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation,
as I have already written briefly.
4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand
my insight into the mystery of Christ,
5 which was not made known to men in other gener-
ations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to
God's holy apostles and prophets.
6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles
are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and
fellow partakers of His[e] promise in Christ.[f]
7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's
grace, given me through the working of His power.
8 Though I am less than the least of all the saints, this
grace was given me: to preach among the Gentiles[g]
the unsearchable riches of Christ,
9 and to illuminate for everyone the stewardship[h] of
this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in
God, who created all things through Jesus Christ.[i]
10 His purpose was that now, through the church, the
manifold wisdom of God should be made known to
the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,
11 according to the eternal purpose that He accom-
plished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
12 In Him and through faith in Him[j] we may enter
God's presence with boldness and confidence.
13 So I ask you not to be discouraged because of my
sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

14 ... for this reason I bow my knees before the Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,[k]
15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth
derives its name.
16 I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may
strengthen you with power through His Spirit in
your inner being,
17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through
faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 will have power, together with all the saints, to com-
prehend the length and width and depth and height
[l]
19 of the love of Christ, and to know this love that
surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all
the fullness of God.
20 Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine, according to His power
that is at work within us,
21 to Him be the glory in the church in[m] Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

4

Unity in the Body

(Psalm 133:1–3; 1 Corinthians 1:10–17)

1 As a prisoner in the Lord, then, I urge you to walk in
a manner worthy of the calling you have received:
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bear-
ing with one another in love,
3 and with diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace.
4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were
called to one hope when you were called;
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through
all and in us all.[n]
7 Now to each one of us grace has been given according
to the measure of the gift of Christ.
8 This is why it says:[o] "When He ascended on high, He
led captives away, and gave gifts to men."[p]
9 What does "He ascended" mean, except that He also
descended first[q] to the lower parts of the earth?

[a] **2:17** F35 *to us*

[b] **2:17** CT *and peace*

[c] **2:20** CT *Christ Jesus*

[d] **3:1** This train of thought is continued in verse 14.

[e] **3:6** CT *of the*

[f] **3:6** CT *Christ Jesus*

[g] **3:8** CT *to the Gentiles*

[h] **3:9** NE and WH *and to illuminate the stewardship*; TR *and to illuminate for everyone the fellowship*

[i] **3:9** CT does not include *through Jesus Christ*.

[j] **3:12** Or *through His faithfulness*

[k] **3:14** CT does not include *of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

[l] **3:18** CT *and height and depth*

[m] **3:21** CT *and in*

[n] **4:6** CT *in all*; TR *in you all*

[o] **4:8** Or *He says*

[p] **4:8** Psalm 68:18

[q] **4:9** CT does not include *first*.

10 He who descended is the very One who ascended
above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.
11 And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some
to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to
be pastors and teachers,
12 to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build
up the body of Christ,
13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the
knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the
full measure of the stature of Christ.
14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by
the waves and carried around by every wind of
teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their
deceitful scheming.
15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all
things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head.
16 From Him the whole body, fitted and held together
by every supporting ligament, grows and builds it-
self up in love through the work of each individual
part.

New Life in Christ

(Colossians 3:1–17)

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you
must no longer walk as the other[a] Gentiles do, in the
futility of their thinking.
18 They are darkened in their understanding and
alienated from the life of God because of the igno-
rance that is in them due to the hardness of their
hearts.
19 Having lost all sense of shame, they have given
themselves over to sensuality for the practice of
every kind of impurity, with a craving for more.
20 But this is not the way you came to know Christ.
21 Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him—
in keeping with the truth that is in Jesus—
22 to put off your former way of life, your old self,
which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;
23 to be renewed in the spirit of your minds;
24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in
true righteousness and holiness.
25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and
speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all mem-
bers of one another.
26 "Be angry, yet do not sin."[b] Do not let the sun set
upon your anger,
27 and do not give the devil a foothold.
28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but
must work, doing good with his hands,[c] that he may
have something to share with the one in need.
29 Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths,
but only what is helpful for building up the one in
need and bringing grace to those who listen.
30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom
you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, outcry and
slander, along with every form of malice.
32 Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving
each other just as in Christ God forgave us.[d]

5

Imitators of God

1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children,
2 and walk in love, just as Christ loved us[e] and gave
Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to
God.
3 But among you, as is proper among the saints, there
must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of
any kind of impurity, or of greed.
4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or crude
joking, which are out of character, but rather thanks-
giving.
5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or
greedy person (that is, an idolater) has any inherit-
tance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for be-
cause of such things the wrath of God is coming on
the sons of disobedience.
7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Children of Light

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in
the Lord. Walk as children of light,
9 for the fruit of the Spirit[f] consists in all goodness,
righteousness, and truth.
10 Test and prove what pleases the Lord.
11 Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of dark-
ness, but rather expose them.
12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobe-
dient do in secret.
13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
[g] for everything that is illuminated becomes a light
itself.
14 So it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise up from the
dead, and Christ will shine on you."
15 Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as
unwise but as wise,
16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand[h] what
the Lord's will is.
18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless
indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.
19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spir-
itual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to
the Lord,
20 always giving thanks to God the Father for every-
thing in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wives and Husbands

(Song of Solomon 1:1–17; 1 Peter 3:1–7)

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.[i]
22 Wives, submit to your[j] husbands as to the Lord.
23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is
the head of the church, and He is the Savior of the

[a] **4:17** CT does not include *other*.

[b] **4:26** Or *"In your anger do not sin."*Psalm 4:4

[c] **4:28** NA, SBL, and TH *his own hands*

[d] **4:32** NA, F35, SBL, TR, and WH *you*

[e] **5:2** NE and WH *Christ loved you*

[f] **5:9** CT *the fruit of the light*

[g] **5:13** SBL begins verse 14 after *visible,*

[h] **5:17** Literally *but be understanding (of)*; CT *but understand*

[i] **5:21** Or *in the fear of Christ*; ALT, HF, F35, and TR *out of reverence for God*

[j] **5:22** TH *Wives must submit to their*

body.[a]
24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives
should submit to their husbands in everything.
25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the
church and gave Himself up for her
26 to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with
water through the word,
27 and to present her to Himself as a glorious church,
without stain or wrinkle or any such blemish, but
holy and blameless.
28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives
as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves
himself.
29 Indeed, no one ever hated his own body, but he
nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord[b] does
the church.
30 For we are members of His body— of His flesh and
of His bones.[c]
31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and
mother and be united to his wife, and the two will
become one flesh."[d]
32 This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about
Christ and the church.
33 Nevertheless, each one of you also must love his wife
as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her
husband.

6

Children and Parents

(Colossians 3:18–21)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is
right.
2 "Honor your father and mother" (which is the first
commandment with a promise),
3 "that it may go well with you and that you may have
a long life on the earth."[e]
4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath;
instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruc-
tion of the Lord.

Serving with Honor

(Colossians 3:22–25; 1 Timothy 6:1–2)

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and
fear and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey
Christ.
6 And do this not only to please them while they are
watching, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of
God from your heart.
7 Serve[f] with good will, as to the Lord and not to men,
8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one
for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or
free.
9 And masters, do the same for your slaves. Give up
your use of threats, because you know that your
Master[g] is in heaven, and there is no favoritism
with Him.

The Full Armor of God

10 Finally, my brothers,[h] be strong in the Lord and in
His mighty power.
11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make
your stand against the devil's schemes.
12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but
against the rulers, against the authorities, against
the powers of this world's darkness, and against the
spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
13 Therefore take up the full armor of God, so that
when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand
your ground, and having done everything, to stand.
14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled
around your waist, with the breastplate of right-
eousness arrayed,
15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness of the
gospel of peace.
16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with
which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of
the evil one.
17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of
the Spirit, which is the word of God.
18 Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of
prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all
perseverance in your prayers for all the saints.
19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth,
words may be given me so that I will boldly make
known the mystery of the gospel,
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I
may proclaim it fearlessly, as I should.

Final Greetings

(Philippians 4:21–23; 2 Timothy 4:19–22)

21 Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant
in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also
may know about me and what I am doing.
22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that
you may know about us, and that he may encourage
your hearts.
23 Peace to the brothers and love with faith from God
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
24 Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an
undying love. Amen.[i]

[a] **5:23** CT *the church, His body, of which He is the Savior*

[b] **5:29** CT *just as Christ*

[c] **5:30** CT does not include *—of His flesh and of His bones.*

[d] **5:31** Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX)

[e] **6:3** Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

[f] **6:7** F35 and Stephanus TR *Do so*

[g] **6:9** CT *He who is both their Master and yours*

[h] **6:10** CT does not include *my brothers.*

[i] **6:24** CT and Scrivener TR do not include *Amen.*

Philippians

Epistle to the Philippians

1

Greetings from Paul and Timothy

(Colossians 1:1–2; Philemon 1:1–3)

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ,[a] To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:
2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

(1 Corinthians 1:4–9; Colossians 1:3–14)

3 I thank my God every time I remember you.
4 In every prayer for all of you, I always pray with joy,
5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,
6 being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.[b]
7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart. For in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you are all partners in grace with me.
8 God is my witness how I long for all of you with the affection of Jesus Christ.
9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,
10 so that you may be able to test and prove what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
11 filled with the fruits of righteousness that come[c] through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's Trials Advance the Gospel

(James 1:2–12)

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that my circumstances have actually served to advance the gospel.
13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard[d] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.
14 And most of the brothers, confident in the Lord by my chains, now dare more greatly to speak the word [e] without fear.
15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.
16 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can add to the distress of my chains.[f]
17 The latter do so in love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.
18 What then is the issue ?[g] Just this: that in every way, whether by false motives or true, Christ is preached. And in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,
19 because I know that through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, my distress will turn out for my deliverance.
20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have complete boldness so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

To Live Is Christ

21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
22 But if I go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. So what shall I choose? I do not know.
23 I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.[h]
24 But it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.
25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,
26 so that through my coming to you again your exultation in Christ Jesus will resound on account of me.

Worthy of the Gospel

27 Nevertheless, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending side by side[i] for the faith of the gospel,
28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is indeed a clear sign[j] of their destruction but of your salvation, and it is from God.
29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him,
30 since you are encountering the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

2

One in Christ

(Ephesians 2:11–18)

1 Therefore if you have any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,
2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose.
3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.
4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

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[a] **1:1** CT *of Christ Jesus*; similarly in verse 8

[b] **1:6** GOC, F35, TR, and WH *Jesus Christ*

[c] **1:11** CT *the fruit of righteousness that comes*

[d] **1:13** Or *all the Praetorium*

[e] **1:14** NE and WH *the word of God*

[f] **1:16** CT reverses the order of verses 16 and 17.

[g] **1:18** Literally *What then?*

[h] **1:23** CT *far better indeed*

[i] **1:27** Or *striving together with one mind*

[j] **1:28** CT *This is a clear sign*

The Mind of Christ

(Isaiah 52:13–15)

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:
6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider
equality with God something to be grasped,[a]
7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death — even
death on a cross.
9 Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and
gave Him the name above all names,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in
heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Lights in the World

(Matthew 5:13–16)

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always
obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more
in my absence, continue to work out your salvation
with fear and trembling.
13 For it is God who works in you to will and to act on
behalf of His good purpose.
14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,
15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of
God without fault in a crooked and perverse generation,[b] in which you shine as lights in the world
16 as you hold forth the word of life, in order that I may
boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor
in vain.
17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am
glad and rejoice with all of you.
18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

(1 Corinthians 16:10–12)

19 Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you
soon, that I also may be cheered when I learn how
you are doing.
20 I have nobody else like him who will genuinely care
for your needs.
21 For all the others look after their own interests, not
those of Christ Jesus.[c]
22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, that as a
child with his father he has served with me to advance the gospel.
23 So I hope to send him as soon as I see what happens
with me.
24 And I trust in the Lord that I myself will come soon.
25 But I thought it necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow
soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to
my needs.
26 For he has been longing for[d] all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.
27 He was sick indeed, nearly unto death. But God had
mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me,
to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.
28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so
that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I
may be less anxious.
29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor
men like him,
30 because he nearly died for the work of Christ,[e]
disregarding[f] his life to make up for your deficit of
service to me.

3

Righteousness through Faith in Christ

(Romans 3:21–31)

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and
it is a safeguard for you.
2 Watch out for those dogs, those workers of evil, those
mutilators of the flesh!
3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God,[g] who glory in Christ Jesus,
and who put no confidence in the flesh —
4 though I myself could have such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the
flesh, I have more:
5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel,
of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to
the law, a Pharisee;
6 as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to righteousness
in the law, faultless.
7 But whatever was gain to me I count as loss for the
sake of Christ.
8 More than that, I count all things as loss compared
to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus
my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider
them rubbish, that I may gain Christ
9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that which is through faith
in Christ,[h] the righteousness from God on the basis
of faith.
10 I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being
conformed to Him in His death,
11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from
the dead.

Pressing on toward the Goal

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have
already been made perfect, but I press on to take
hold of that for which Christ Jesus[i] took hold of me.
13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet[j] to have
taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what
is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

[a] **2:6** Or *something to be exploited*
[b] **2:15** Deuteronomy 32:5
[c] **2:21** NA, SBL, and TH *Jesus Christ*
[d] **2:26** WH *longing to see*
[e] **2:30** WH *of the Lord*
[f] **2:30** CT *risking*
[g] **3:3** TR *God by the Spirit*
[h] **3:9** Or *through the faithfulness of Christ*
[i] **3:12** SBL *Christ*
[j] **3:13** Literally *consider myself*; GOC, ALT, F35, and WH *consider myself yet*

14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's
heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.
15 All of us who are mature should embrace this point
of view. And if you think differently about some
issue, God will reveal this to you as well.
16 Nevertheless, we must live up to the standard we
have already attained, being of the same mind.[a]

Citizenship in Heaven

17 Join one another in following my example, brothers,
and carefully observe those who walk according to
the pattern we set for you.
18 For as I have often told you before, and now say
again even with tears: Many live as enemies of the
cross of Christ.
19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and
their glory is in their shame. Their minds are set on
earthly things.
20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly
await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21 who, by the power that enables Him to subject all
things to Himself, will transform our lowly bodies to
be like His glorious body.

4

Rejoice in the Lord

1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my
joy and crown, that is how you must stand firm in
the Lord, my beloved.
2 I urge Euodia and Syntyche to agree with each other
in the Lord.
3 Yes, and[b] I ask you, my true yokefellow,[c] to help
these women who have contended side by side with
me for the gospel, along with Clement and the rest
of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book
of Life.
4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
5 Let your gentleness be apparent to all. The Lord is
near.
6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer
and petition, with thanksgiving, present your re-
quests to God.
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all under-
standing, will guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus.
8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is hon-
orable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, what-
ever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything
is excellent or praiseworthy — think on these things.
9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard
from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the
God of peace will be with you.

The Generosity of the Philippians

(2 Corinthians 8:1–15)

10 Now I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you
have revived your concern for me. You were indeed
concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.
11 I am not saying this out of need, for I have learned
to be content regardless of my circumstances.
12 I know how to live humbly, and I know how to
abound. In any and every situation I have learned
the secret of being filled and being hungry, of having
plenty and having need.
13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me
strength.[d]
14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share in my
affliction.
15 And as you Philippians know, in the early days of
the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church but
you partnered with me in the matter of giving and
receiving.
16 For even while I was in Thessalonica, you provided
for my needs again and again.
17 Not that I am seeking a gift, but I am looking for the
fruit that may be credited to your account.
18 I have all I need and more, now that I have received
your gifts from Epaphroditus. They are a fragrant of-
fering, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.
19 And my God will supply all your needs according to
His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Final Greetings

(Ephesians 6:21–24; 2 Timothy 4:19–22)

21 Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who
are with me send you greetings.
22 All the saints send you greetings, especially those
from the household of Caesar.
23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.[e]
Amen.[f]

[a] **3:16** CT *Nevertheless, we must live up to what we have already attained.*

[b] **4:3** TR *And also*

[c] **4:3** Or *I ask you, loyal Syzygus*

[d] **4:13** NA, SBL, NE, and WH *the One who gives me strength*

[e] **4:23** CT *with your spirit*

[f] **4:23** CT does not include *Amen.*

Colossians

Epistle to the Colossians

1

Greetings from Paul and Timothy

(Philippians 1:1–2; Philemon 1:1–3)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ[a] by the will of God,
and Timothy our brother,
2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.[b]

Thanksgiving and Prayer

(1 Corinthians 1:4–9; Philippians 1:3–11)

3 We always thank the God and Father[c] of our Lord Jesus Christ when we pray for you,
4 because we have heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all the saints —
5 the faith and love proceeding from the hope stored up for you in heaven, of which you have already heard in the word of truth, the gospel
6 that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing,[d] just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood the grace of God.
7 You also learned it[e] from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your[f] behalf,
8 and who also informed us of your love in the Spirit.
9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,
11 being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have full endurance and patience, and joyfully
12 giving thanks to the Father,[g] who has qualified us[h] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.
13 He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son,
14 in whom we have redemption,[i] the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of the Son

(Hebrews 1:1–14)

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
16 For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him.
17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
18 And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have preeminence.
19 For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,
20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.
21 Once you were alienated from God and were hostile in your minds, engaging in evil deeds.
22 But now He has reconciled you[j] by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy, unblemished, and blameless in His presence —
23 if[k] you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope of the gospel you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature[l] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Suffering for the Church

(2 Corinthians 11:16–33)

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, which is the church.
25 I became its servant by the commission God gave me to fully proclaim to you the word of God,
26 the mystery that was hidden for ages and generations but is now revealed to His saints.
27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
28 We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect[m] in Christ Jesus.[n]
29 To this end I also labor, striving with all His energy working powerfully within me.

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[a] **1:1** CT *of Christ Jesus*

[b] **1:2** CT does not include *and the Lord Jesus Christ*.

[c] **1:3** CT *We always thank God, the Father*

[d] **1:6** ALT and TR do not include *and growing*.

[e] **1:7** CT *You learned it*

[f] **1:7** SBL, TH, and WH *our*

[g] **1:12** GOC *our God and Father*

[h] **1:12** CT *you*

[i] **1:14** TR, ALT, and F35 include *through His blood*.

[j] **1:22** SBL *you have been reconciled*

[k] **1:23** CT *if indeed*

[l] **1:23** Or *in all creation*

[m] **1:28** Or *fully mature*

[n] **1:28** CT and F35 *in Christ*

2

Absent in Body, Present in Spirit

(Revelation 3:14–22)

1 For I want you to know how much I am struggling for
you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have
not met me face to face,
2 that they may be encouraged in heart, knit together
in love, and filled with the full riches of complete
understanding, so that they may know the mystery
of God, both of the Father and of Christ,[a]
3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and
knowledge.
4 I say this so that no one will deceive you by smooth
rhetoric.
5 For although I am absent from you in body, I am
present with you in spirit, and I delight to see your
orderly condition and firm faith in Christ.

Alive with Christ

(Ephesians 2:1–10)

6 Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as
Lord, continue to walk in Him,
7 rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith as
you were taught, and overflowing in it[b] with thank-
fulness.
8 See to it that no one takes you captive through
philosophy and empty deception, which are based
on human tradition and the spiritual forces of the
world rather than on Christ.
9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in
bodily form.
10 And you have been made complete in Christ, who is
the head over every ruler and authority.
11 In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting
off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision per-
formed by Christ[c] and not by human hands.
12 And having been buried with Him in baptism, you
were raised with Him through your faith in the
power of God, who raised Him from the dead.
13 When you were dead in your trespasses and in the
uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you
alive with Christ. He forgave us all our trespasses,
14 having canceled the debt ascribed to us in the de-
crees that stood against us. He took it away, nailing
it to the cross!
15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities,
He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing
over them by the cross.
16 Therefore let no one judge you by what you eat or
drink, or with regard to a feast, a New Moon, or a
Sabbath.
17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the
body that casts it belongs to Christ.[d]
18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and
the worship of angels disqualify you with specula-
tion about what he has not seen.[e] Such a person is
puffed up without basis by his unspiritual mind.
19 He has lost connection to the head, from whom the
whole body, supported and knit together by its joints
and ligaments, grows as God causes it to grow.
20 If[f] you have died with Christ to the spiritual forces
of the world, why, as though you still belonged to the
world, do you submit to its regulations:
21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"?
22 These will all perish with use, because they are
based on human commands and teachings.
23 Such restrictions indeed have an appearance of wis-
dom, with their self-prescribed worship, their false
humility, and their harsh treatment of the body; but
they are of no value against the indulgence of the
flesh.

3

Put On the New Self

(Ephesians 4:17–32)

1 Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ,
strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at
the right hand of God.
2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ
in God.
4 When Christ, who is our[g] life, appears, then you also
will appear with Him in glory.
5 Put to death, therefore, the components of your
earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust,
evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry.
6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming on the
sons of disobedience.[h]
7 When you lived among them, you also used to walk
in these ways.
8 But now you must put aside all such things as these:
anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language
from your lips.
9 Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the
old self with its practices,
10 and have put on the new self, which is being
renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncir-
cumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but
Christ is all and is in all.
12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kind-
ness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
13 Bear with one another and forgive any complaint
you may have against someone else. Forgive as
Christ[i] forgave you.
14 And over all these virtues put on love, which is the
bond of perfect unity.

[a] **2:2** NA, SBL, and WH *the mystery of God, namely Christ,*

[b] **2:7** NA, SBL, and TH do not include *in it*.

[c] **2:11** Literally *in the cutting away of the body of sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ*

[d] **2:17** Literally *but the body is of the Christ*

[e] **2:18** NA, SBL, WH, and TH *what he has seen*

[f] **2:20** GOC, F35, and TR *If then*

[g] **3:4** NA, SBL, and TH *your*

[h] **3:6** NE, WH, and Tischendorf do not include *on the sons of disobedience.*

[i] **3:13** CT *the Lord*

[a] **3:15** CT *of Christ*

15 Let the peace of God[a] rule in your hearts, for to this
you were called as members of one body. And be
thankful.
16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you
teach and admonish one another with all wisdom,
and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to the Lord.[b]
17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in
the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the
Father[c] through Him.

Christian Households

(Ephesians 6:1–4)

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the
Lord.
19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with
them.
20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this
is pleasing to the Lord.[d]
21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will
not become discouraged.

Serving with Honor

(Ephesians 6:5–9; 1 Timothy 6:1–2)

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not
only to please them while they are watching, but
with sincerity of heart and fear of God.[e]
23 And[f] whatever you do, work at it with your whole
being, as for the Lord and not for men,
24 because you know that you will receive an inheri-
tance from the Lord as your reward. For[g] it is the
Lord Christ you are serving.
25 But[h] whoever does wrong will be repaid for his
wrong, and there is no favoritism.

4

Prayerful Speech and Actions

1 Masters, supply your slaves with what is right and
fair, since you know that you also have a Master in
heaven.
2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and
thankful,
3 as you pray also for us, that God may open to us a door
for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery
of Christ, for which I am in chains.
4 Pray that I may declare it clearly, as I should.
5 Act wisely toward outsiders, redeeming the time.
6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with
salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Greetings from Paul's Fellow Workers

(Romans 16:21–23)

7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is
a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow
servant in the Lord.
8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that he
may know about you,[i] and that he may encourage
your hearts.
9 With him I am sending Onesimus, our faithful and
beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you
about everything here.
10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you greetings,
as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas. You have
already received instructions about him: If he comes
to you, welcome him.
11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings.
These are the only Jews among my fellow workers
for the kingdom of God, and they have been a com-
fort to me.
12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ,
[j] sends you greetings. He is always wrestling in
prayer for you, so that you may stand mature and
complete[k] in the full will of God.
13 For I testify about him that he has great zeal[l] for
you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.
14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas send you
greetings.

Signature and Final Instructions

(1 Corinthians 16:19–24; 2 Thessalonians 3:16–18)

15 Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas
and the church that meets at his house.[m]
16 After this letter has been read among you, make sure
that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans,
and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.
17 Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the min-
istry you have received in the Lord."
18 This greeting is in my own hand — Paul. Remember
my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.[n]

[b] **3:16** CT *to God*
[c] **3:17** Literally *to the God and Father*
[d] **3:20** Literally *in the Lord*
[e] **3:22** CT *of the Lord*
[f] **3:23** CT does not include *And* .
[g] **3:24** CT does not include *For*.
[h] **3:25** CT literal *For*
[i] **4:8** CT *you may know about us*
[j] **4:12** CT *of Christ Jesus*
[k] **4:12** CT *mature and fully assured*
[l] **4:13** CT *he goes to great pains*
[m] **4:15** NA, SBL, and WH *Nympha and the church that meets in her house*
[n] **4:18** CT does not include *Amen.*

1 Thessalonians

First Epistle to the Thessalonians

1

Greetings to the Thessalonians

(2 Thessalonians 1:1–4)

1 Paul, Silvanus,[a] and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.[b]
2 We always thank God for all of you, remembering you in our prayers
3 and continually recalling before our God and Father your work of faith, your labor of love, and your enduring hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
4 Brothers who are beloved by God, we know that He has chosen you,
5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with great conviction — just as you know we lived among you for your sake.
6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord when you welcomed the message with the joy of the Holy Spirit, in spite of your great suffering.
7 As a result, you have become examples[c] to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.
8 For not only did the message of the Lord ring out from you to Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone out to every place, so that we have no need to say anything more.
9 For they themselves report what kind of welcome you gave us, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God
10 and to await His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead — Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath.

2

Paul's Ministry

1 You yourselves know, brothers, that our visit to you was not in vain.
2 As you are aware, we had already endured suffering and shameful treatment in Philippi. But in the face of strong opposition, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God.
3 For our appeal does not arise from deceit or ulterior motives or trickery.
4 Instead, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, not in order to please men but God, who examines our hearts.
5 As you know, we never used words of flattery or any pretext for greed. God is our witness!
6 Nor did we seek praise from you or from anyone else, although as apostles of Christ we had authority to demand it.[d]
7 On the contrary, we were gentle among you,[e] like a nursing mother caring for her children.
8 We cared so deeply that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our own lives as well. That is how beloved you have become to us.
9 Surely you recall, brothers, our labor and toil. We worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to anyone while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.
10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous, and blameless our conduct was among you who believed.
11 For you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children—
12 encouraging you, comforting you, and urging you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
13 And we continually thank God because, when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God — the word which is now at work in you who believe.
14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Judea that are in Christ Jesus. You suffered from your own countrymen the very things they suffered from the Jews,
15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets,[f] and drove us out as well. They are displeasing to God and hostile to all men,
16 hindering us from telling the Gentiles how they may be saved. As a result, they continue to heap up their sins to full capacity; the utmost wrath has come upon them.[g]

Paul's Longing to Visit

17 Brothers, although we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in heart), our desire to see you face to face was even more intense.
18 Therefore[h] we wanted to come to you — indeed I, Paul, tried again and again — but Satan obstructed us.
19 After all, who is our hope, our joy, our crown of boasting, if it is not you yourselves in the presence of our Lord Jesus[i] at His coming?
20 You are indeed our glory and our joy.

3

Timothy's Visit

1 So when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left on our own in Athens.

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[a] **1:1** That is, Silas

[b] **1:1** CT does not include *from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*.

[c] **1:7** CT *an example*

[d] **2:6** Or *although as apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you*; SBL, NE, and WH include this phrase with verse 7.

[e] **2:7** WH and NA *we were like young children among you*

[f] **2:15** CT literal *the prophets*

[g] **2:16** Or *at last the wrath of God has come upon them.*

[h] **2:18** CT *For*

[i] **2:19** GOC and TR *our Lord Jesus Christ*

2 We sent Timothy, our brother and minister for God,
and our fellow worker[a] in the gospel of Christ, to
strengthen and encourage you in your faith,
3 so that none of you would be shaken by these trials.
For you know that we are destined for this.
4 Indeed, when we were with you, we kept warning
you that we would suffer persecution; and as you
know, it has come to pass.
5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent
to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter
had somehow tempted you and caused our labor to
be in vain.

Timothy's Encouraging Report

6 But just now, Timothy has returned from his visit
with the good news about your faith, your love, and
the fond memories you have preserved, longing to
see us just as we long to see you.
7 For this reason, brothers, in all our persecution and
distress,[b] we have been reassured about you, be-
cause of your faith.
8 For now we can go on living, as long as you are
standing firm in the Lord.
9 How can we adequately thank God for you in return
for our great joy over you in His presence?
10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may
see you face to face and supply what is lacking from
your faith.
11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord
Jesus Christ,[c] direct our way to you.
12 And may the Lord cause you to increase and over-
flow with love for one another and for everyone else,
just as our love for you overflows,
13 so that He may establish your hearts in blameless-
ness and holiness before our God and Father at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.[d]

4

Living to Please God

1 Finally, brothers, we ask and encourage you in the
Lord Jesus to live in a way that is pleasing to God,
just as you have received from us.[e] So you should
do so all the more.
2 For you know the instructions we gave you by the
authority of the Lord Jesus.
3 For it is God's will that you should be holy: You must
abstain from sexual immorality;
4 each of you must know how to control his own body
[f] in holiness and honor,
5 not in lustful passion like the Gentiles who do not
know God;
6 and no one should ever violate or exploit his brother
in this regard,[g] because the Lord will avenge all
such acts, as we have already told you and solemnly
warned you.
7 For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness.
8 Anyone, then, who rejects this command does not
reject man but God, the very One who has given[h]
you His Holy Spirit.
9 Now about brotherly love, you do not need anyone
to write to you, because you yourselves have been
taught by God to love one another.
10 And you are indeed showing this love to all the
brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you,
brothers, to excel more and more
11 and to aspire to live quietly, to attend to your own
matters, and to work with your own hands,[i] as we
instructed you.
12 Then you will behave properly toward outsiders,
without being dependent on anyone.

The Return of the Lord

13 Brothers, we do not want[j] you to be uninformed
about those who sleep in death ,[k] so that you will
not grieve like the rest, who are without hope.
14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those
who have fallen asleep in Him.
15 By the word of the Lord, we declare to you that
we who are alive and remain until the coming of
the Lord will by no means precede those who have
fallen asleep.
16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with
a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and
with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will
be the first to rise.
17 After that, we who are alive and remain will be
caught up together with them in the clouds to meet
the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with
the Lord.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

5

The Day of the Lord

(Zephaniah 1:7–18; Malachi 4:1–6; 2 Peter 3:8–13)

1 Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not
need to write to you.
2 For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night.
3 For[l] while people are saying, "Peace and security,"
destruction will come upon them suddenly, like la-
bor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not
escape.
4 But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this
day should overtake you like a thief.[m]
5 You[n] are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we
do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

---

[a] **3:2** Most CT *Timothy, our brother and fellow worker for God*

[b] **3:7** CT *distress and persecution*

[c] **3:11** CT *our Lord Jesus*; also in verse 13

[d] **3:13** NA includes *Amen.*

[e] **4:1** CT includes *This is how you already live.*

[f] **4:4** Literally *know how to possess his own vessel*

[g] **4:6** Or *no one should ever harm or cheat his brother in this matter*

[h] **4:8** NA, SBL, and WH *who gives*

[i] **4:11** SBL, TH, and WH *your hands*

[j] **4:13** TR *I do not want*

[k] **4:13** Literally *those who have fallen asleep*, as in verses 14 and 15

[l] **5:3** CT does not include *For*.

[m] **5:4** WH *like thieves*

[n] **5:5** CT *For you*

6 So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us
remain awake and sober.
7 For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who get
drunk, get drunk at night.
8 But since we[a] belong to the day, let us be sober,
putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the
helmet of our hope of salvation.
9 For God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to
obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or
asleep, we may live together with Him.
11 Therefore encourage and build one another up, just
as you are already doing.

Christian Living

12 But we ask you, brothers, to acknowledge those who
work diligently among you, who preside over you in
the Lord and give you instruction.
13 In love, hold them in highest regard because of their
work. Live in peace with one another.
14 And we urge you, brothers, to admonish the unruly,
encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be
patient with everyone.
15 Make sure that no one repays evil for evil. Always
pursue what is good for one another and for all
people.
16 Rejoice at all times.
17 Pray without ceasing.
18 Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's
will for you in Christ Jesus.
19 Do not extinguish the Spirit.
20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt,
21 but test all things. Hold fast to what is good.
22 Abstain from every form of evil.

Final Blessings and Instructions

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you
completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and
body be kept blameless[b] at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ.
24 The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.
25 Brothers, pray for us.[c]
26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.
27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read
to all the holy[d] brothers.
28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Amen.[e]

[a] **5:8** GOC *you*

[b] **5:23** Or *may your spirit, soul, and body be kept entirely blameless*

[c] **5:25** CT includes *as well.*

[d] **5:27** CT does not include *holy*.

[e] **5:28** CT does not include *Amen.*

2 Thessalonians

Second Epistle to the Thessalonians

1

Greetings to the Thessalonians

(1 Thessalonians 1:1–10)

1 Paul, Silvanus,[a] and Timothy, To the church of the
Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:
2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father[b] and
the Lord Jesus Christ.
3 We are obligated to thank God for you all the time,
brothers, as is fitting, because your faith is growing
more and more, and your love for one another is
increasing.
4 That is why we boast among God's churches about
your perseverance and faith in the face of all the
persecution and affliction you are enduring.

Christ's Coming

5 All this is clear evidence of God's righteous judgment.
And so you will be counted worthy of the kingdom
of God, for which you are suffering.
6 After all, it is only right for God to repay with afflic-
tion those who afflict you,
7 and to grant relief to you who are oppressed and to
us as well. This will take place when the Lord Jesus
is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels
8 in blazing fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do
not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord
Jesus.[c]
9 They will suffer the penalty of eternal destruction,
separated from the presence of the Lord and the
glory of His might,
10 on the day He comes to be glorified in His saints
and regarded with wonder by all who have believed,
including you who have believed our testimony.
11 To this end, we always pray for you, that our God
will count you worthy of His calling, and that He will
powerfully fulfill your every good desire and work
of faith,
12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus[d] will be glorified
in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our
God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.[e]

2

The Man of Sin

1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you,
brothers,
2 not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit
or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging
that the Day of Christ[f] has already come.
3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come
until the rebellion occurs and the man of sin[g] — the
son of destruction — is revealed.
4 He will oppose and exalt himself above every so-
called god or object of worship. So he will seat
himself as God[h] in the temple of God, proclaiming
himself to be God.
5 Do you not remember that I told you these things
while I was still with you?
6 And you know what is now restraining him, so that
he may be revealed at the proper time.
7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but
the one who now restrains it will continue until he
is taken out of the way.
8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the
Lord will consume[i] with the breath of His mouth
and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival.
9 The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied
by the working of Satan, with every kind of power,
sign, and false wonder,
10 and with every wicked deception directed against
those who are perishing, because they refused the
love of the truth that would have saved them.
11 For this reason God will send them a powerful delu-
sion so that they believe the lie,
12 in order that judgment may come upon all who have
disbelieved the truth and delighted in wickedness.

Stand Firm

13 But we should always thank God for you, brothers
who are loved by the Lord, because God has chosen
you from the beginning[j] to be saved by the sancti-
fication of the Spirit and by faith in the truth.
14 To this He called you through our gospel, so that you
may share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
15 Therefore, brothers, stand firm and cling to the
traditions we taught you, whether by speech or by
letter.
16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and our God
and Father,[k] who by grace has loved us and given
us eternal comfort and good hope,
17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every
good word and deed.

3

Request for Prayer

1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the
Lord may spread quickly and be held in honor, just
as it was with you.
2 And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and
evil men; for not everyone holds to the faith.
3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you

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[a] **1:1** That is, Silas

[b] **1:2** SBL, NE, and WH *God the Father*

[c] **1:8** GOC, ALT, HF, F35, and TR *our Lord Jesus Christ*

[d] **1:12** GOC, ALT, F35, and TR *the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*

[e] **1:12** Or *the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

[f] **2:2** CT *Day of the Lord*

[g] **2:3** CT *the man of lawlessness*

[h] **2:4** CT does not include *as God.*

[i] **2:8** CT *the Lord Jesus will slay*

[j] **2:13** NA and SBL *God has chosen you as the firstfruits*

[k] **2:16** CT *and God our Father*

and guard you from the evil one.[a]
4 And we have confidence in the Lord that you are
doing and will continue to do what we command
you.[b]
5 May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and
Christ's perseverance.

A Warning against Idleness

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from any brother
who leads an undisciplined life that is not in keeping
with the tradition you received[c] from us.
7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate
us, because we were not undisciplined among you,
8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it.
Instead, in labor and toil, we worked night and day
so that we would not be a burden to any of you.
9 Not that we lack this right, but we wanted to offer
ourselves as an example for you to imitate.
10 For even while we were with you, we gave you this
command: "If anyone is unwilling to work, he shall
not eat."
11 Yet we hear that some of you are leading undisci-
plined lives and accomplishing nothing but being
busybodies.
12 We command and urge such people by our Lord
Jesus Christ to begin working quietly to earn their
own living.
13 But as for you, brothers, do not grow weary in well-
doing.
14 Take note of anyone who does not obey the instruc-
tions we have given in this letter. Do not associate
with him, so that he may be ashamed.
15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as
a brother.

Signature and Final Greetings

(1 Corinthians 16:19–24; Colossians 4:15–18)

16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace
at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all
of you.
17 This greeting is in my own hand — Paul. This is my
mark in every letter; it is the way I write.
18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.
Amen.[d]

[a] **3:3** Or *from evil*

[b] **3:4** CT *what we command*

[c] **3:6** Or *they received*

[d] **3:18** CT does not include *Amen.*

1 Timothy

First Epistle to Timothy

1

Paul's Greeting to Timothy

(2 Timothy 1:1–2)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ[a] by the command of
God our Savior and of the Lord Jesus Christ[b] our
hope,
2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy,
and peace from God our Father[c] and Christ Jesus[d]
our Lord.

Correcting False Teachers

(Titus 1:10–16)

3 As I urged you on my departure to Macedonia, you
should stay on at Ephesus to instruct certain men not
to teach false doctrines
4 or devote themselves to myths and endless genealo-
gies, which promote speculation rather than the
stewardship of God's work, which is by faith.[e]
5 The goal of our instruction is the love that comes from
a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a sincere faith.
6 Some have strayed from these ways and turned aside
to empty talk.
7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not
understand what they are saying or that which they
so confidently assert.
8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legit-
imately.
9 We realize that law is not enacted for the righteous,
but for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly
and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for killers of
father or mother, for murderers,
10 for the sexually immoral, for homosexuals, for slave
traders[f] and liars and perjurers, and for anyone
else who is averse to sound teaching
11 that agrees with the glorious gospel of the blessed
God, with which I have been entrusted.

God's Grace to Paul

12 And[g] I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has
strengthened me, that He considered me faithful
and appointed me to service.
13 I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a
violent man; yet because I had acted in ignorance
and unbelief, I was shown mercy.
14 And the grace of our Lord overflowed to me, along
with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
15 This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full accep-
tance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save
sinners, of whom I am the worst.
16 But for this very reason I was shown mercy, so that
in me, the worst of sinners , Jesus Christ[h] might
display all His patience[i] as an example to those who
would believe in Him for eternal life.
17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, and invisible,
the only wise God,[j] be honor and glory forever and
ever. Amen.
18 Timothy, my child, I entrust you with this command
in keeping with the previous prophecies about you,
so that by them you may fight the good fight,
19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which
some have rejected and thereby shipwrecked their
faith.
20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom
I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to
blaspheme.

2

A Call to Prayer

1 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, inter-
cessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone
—
2 for kings and all those in authority— so that we may
lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and
dignity.
3 For[k] this is good and pleasing in the sight of God our
Savior,
4 who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.
5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator be-
tween God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all — the testimony
that was given at just the right time.
7 For this reason I was appointed as a preacher, an
apostle, and a faithful and true teacher of the Gen-
tiles. I am telling the truth in Christ;[l] I am not lying
about anything .
8 Therefore I want the men everywhere[m] to pray, lift-
ing up holy hands, without anger or dissension.

Instructions to Women

9 Likewise, I want the women to adorn themselves with
respectable apparel, with modesty, and with self-
control, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or
expensive clothes,
10 but with good deeds, as is proper for women who
profess to worship God.
11 A woman[n] must learn in quietness and full submis-
siveness.

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[a] **1:1** CT *of Christ Jesus*

[b] **1:1** CT *and of Christ Jesus*

[c] **1:2** CT *God the Father*

[d] **1:2** Scrivener TR *Jesus Christ*

[e] **1:4** Literally *rather than the stewardship of God in faith*

[f] **1:10** Or *for kidnappers*

[g] **1:12** CT does not include *And* .

[h] **1:16** NA, SBL, and WH *Christ Jesus*

[i] **1:16** CT *might display His perfect patience*

[j] **1:17** CT *the only God*

[k] **2:3** CT does not include *For*.

[l] **2:7** CT does not include *in Christ*.

[m] **2:8** Or *in every place (of worship)*

[n] **2:11** Or *wife* ; also in verse 12

12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise
authority over a man;[a] she is to remain quiet.
13 For Adam was formed first, and then Eve.
14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the
woman who was deceived and fell into transgression.
15 Women, however, will be saved[b] through child-
bearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness,
with self-control.

3

Qualifications for Overseers

(Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4)

1 This is a trustworthy saying: If anyone aspires to be
an overseer, he desires a noble task.
2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the hus-
band of but one wife,[c] temperate, self-controlled,
respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
3 not dependent on wine, not violent, not greedy for
money,[d] but gentle, peaceable, and free of the love
of money.
4 An overseer must manage his own household well
and keep his children under control, with complete
dignity.
5 For if someone does not know how to manage his own
household, how can he care for the church of God?
6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become
conceited and fall under the same condemnation as
the devil.
7 Furthermore, he must have a good reputation with
outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and
into the snare of the devil.

Qualifications for Deacons

(Acts 6:1–7)

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-
tongued or given to much wine or greedy for money.
9 They must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear
conscience.
10 Additionally, they must first be tested. Then, if they
are above reproach, let them serve as deacons.
11 In the same way, the women[e] must be dignified, not
slanderers, but temperate and faithful in all things.
12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife, a
good manager of his children and of his own house-
hold.
13 For those who have served well as deacons acquire
for themselves a high standing and great confidence
in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The Mystery of Godliness

14 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing
you these things
15 in case I am delayed, so that you will know how
each one must conduct himself in God's household,
which is the church of the living God, the pillar and
foundation of the truth.
16 By common confession, the mystery of godliness is
great: God appeared[f] in the flesh, was vindicated
by the Spirit,[g] was seen by angels, was proclaimed
among the nations, was believed in throughout the
world, was taken up in glory.

4

A Warning against Apostasy

1 Now the Spirit expressly states that in later times
some will abandon the faith to follow deceitful spir-
its and the teachings of demons,
2 influenced by the hypocrisy of liars, whose con-
sciences are seared with a hot iron.
3 They will prohibit marriage and require abstinence
from certain foods that God has created to be re-
ceived with thanksgiving by those who believe and
know the truth.
4 For every creation of God is good, and nothing that is
received with thanksgiving should be rejected,
5 because it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

A Good Servant of Jesus Christ

6 By pointing out these things to the brothers, you will
be a good servant of Jesus Christ,[h] nourished by the
words of faith and sound instruction that you have
followed.
7 But reject irreverent, silly myths. Instead, train your-
self for godliness.
8 For physical exercise is of limited value, but godliness
is valuable in every way, holding promise[i] for the
present life and for the one to come.
9 This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full accep-
tance.
10 To this end we both labor and suffer reproach,[j] be-
cause we have set our hope on the living God, who is
the Savior of everyone, and especially of those who
believe.
11 Command and teach these things.
12 Let no one despise your youth, but set an example
for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in
spirit,[k] in faith, in purity.
13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading
of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching.
14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given
you through the prophecy spoken over you at the
laying on of the hands of the elders.
15 Be diligent in these matters and absorbed in them,
so that your progress will be evident to all.
16 Pay close attention to your life and to your teaching.
Persevere in these things, for by so doing you will
save both yourself and those who hear you.

[a] **2:12** Or *over her husband*

[b] **2:15** Literally *She, however, will be saved*

[c] **3:2** Or *faithful to his wife*; also in verse 12

[d] **3:3** CT does not include *not greedy for money*.

[e] **3:11** Or *their wives*

[f] **3:16** CT *He appeared*

[g] **3:16** Or *vindicated in spirit*

[h] **4:6** CT *of Christ Jesus*

[i] **4:8** GOC and F35 *promises*

[j] **4:10** SBL, MT, and TR; NA, TH, and WH *we labor and strive*

[k] **4:12** CT does not include *in spirit*.

5

Reproof and Respect

1 Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to him as to
a father. Treat younger men as brothers,
2 older women as mothers, and younger women as
sisters, with absolute purity.

Honoring True Widows

(Ruth 1:1–5)

3 Honor the widows who are truly widows.
4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they
must first learn to show godliness to their own fam-
ily and repay their parents, for this is pleasing[a] in
the sight of God.
5 The widow who is truly in need and left all alone puts
her hope in God and continues night and day in her
petitions and prayers.
6 But she who lives for pleasure is dead even while she
is still alive.
7 Give these instructions to the believers, so that they
will be above reproach.
8 If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially
his own household, he has denied the faith and is
worse than an unbeliever.
9 A widow should be enrolled if she is at least sixty
years old, faithful to her husband,
10 and well known for good deeds such as bringing up
children, entertaining strangers, washing the feet
of the saints, imparting relief to the afflicted, and
devoting herself to every good work.
11 But refuse to enroll younger widows. For when their
passions draw them away from Christ, they will
want to marry,
12 and thus will incur judgment because they are set-
ting aside their first faith.
13 At the same time they will also learn to be idle, going
from house to house and being not only idle, but
also gossips and busybodies, discussing things they
should not mention .
14 So I advise the younger widows to marry, have
children, and manage their households, denying the
adversary occasion for slander.
15 For some have already turned aside to follow Satan.
16 If any believing man or believing woman has depen-
dent widows, they must assist[b] them and not allow
the church to be burdened, so that it can help the
widows who are truly in need .

Honoring Elders

17 Elders who lead effectively are worthy of double
honor, especially those who work hard at preaching
and teaching.
18 For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while
it is treading out the grain,”[c] and, “The worker is
worthy of his wages.”[d]
19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder,
except on the testimony of two or three witnesses.
20 Those who[e] persist in sin should be rebuked in
front of everyone, so that the others will stand in
fear of sin.

A Charge to Timothy

21 I solemnly charge you before God and the Lord
Jesus Christ[f] and the elect angels to maintain these
principles without bias, and to do nothing out of
partiality.
22 Do not be too quick in the laying on of hands and
thereby share in the sins of others. Keep yourself
pure.
23 Stop drinking only water and use a little wine
instead, because of your stomach and your frequent
ailments.
24 The sins of some men are obvious, going ahead of
them to judgment; but the sins of others do not
surface until later.
25 In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even
the ones that are inconspicuous cannot remain hid-
den.

6

Serving with Honor

(Ephesians 6:5–9; Colossians 3:22–25)

1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should regard
their masters as fully worthy of honor, so that God’s
name and our teaching will not be discredited.
2 Those who have believing masters should not show
disrespect because they are brothers, but should
serve them all the more, since those receiving their
good service are beloved believers. Teach and en-
courage these principles.

Reject False Doctrines

3 If anyone teaches another doctrine and disagrees
with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and
with godly teaching,
4 he is conceited and understands nothing. Instead, he
has an unhealthy interest in controversies and dis-
putes about words, out of which come envy, strife,
abusive talk, evil suspicions,
5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind
who are devoid of the truth. These men regard god-
liness as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from
such.[g]

Godliness with Contentment

6 Of course, godliness with contentment is great gain.
7 For we brought nothing into the world, so certainly[h]
we cannot carry anything out of it.
8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content
with these.
9 Those who want to be rich, however, fall into temp-
tation and become ensnared by many foolish and
harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and de-
struction.

[a] **5:4** GOC and TR *good and pleasing*

[b] **5:16** CT *If any believing woman has dependent widows, she must assist*

[c] **5:18** Deuteronomy 25:4

[d] **5:18** Luke 10:7; see also Leviticus 19:13 and Deuteronomy 24:14–15.

[e] **5:20** CT *But those who*

[f] **5:21** CT *and Christ Jesus*

[g] **6:5** CT does not include *Withdraw yourself from such.*

[h] **6:7** CT does not include *certainly*.

10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.
By craving it, some have wandered away from the
faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Fight the Good Fight

11 But you, O man of God, flee from these things and
pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perse-
verance, and gentleness.
12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the
eternal life to which you were called when you made
the good confession before many witnesses.
13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life
to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who made the good
confession in His testimony before Pontius Pilate:
14 Keep this commandment without stain or reproach
until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ,
15 which the blessed and only Sovereign One— the
King of kings and Lord of lords— will bring about in
His own time.
16 He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable
light. No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see
Him. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

A Charge to the Rich

(Proverbs 23:1–5; James 5:1–6)

17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to
be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncer-
tainty of wealth, but in the living God,[a] who richly
provides all things for us to enjoy.
18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works,
and to be generous and ready to share,
19 treasuring up for themselves a firm foundation for
the future, so that they may take hold of eternal life.
[b]

Guard the Faith

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you.
Avoid irreverent, empty chatter and the opposing
arguments of so-called “knowledge,”
21 which some have professed and thus swerved away
from the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.[c]

[a] **6:17** CT *but in God*

[b] **6:19** CT *of that which is truly life*

[c] **6:21** CT does not include *Amen.*

2 Timothy

Second Epistle to Timothy

1

Paul's Greeting to Timothy

(1 Timothy 1:1–2)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ[a] by the will of God,
according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,
2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and
peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Faithfulness under Persecution

(Matthew 10:16–25)

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience
as did my forefathers, as I constantly remember you
night and day in my prayers.
4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be
filled with joy.
5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first dwelt
in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice,
and I am convinced is in you as well.
6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift
of God, which is in you through the laying on of my
hands.
7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear,[b] but of
power, love, and self-control.
8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,
or of me, His prisoner. Instead, join me in suffering
for the gospel by the power of God.
9 He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not
because of our works, but by His own purpose and
by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before
time began.[c]
10 And now He has revealed this grace through the
appearing of our Savior, Jesus Christ,[d] who has
abolished death and illuminated the way to life and
immortality through the gospel,
11 to which I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle,
and a teacher of the Gentiles.[e]
12 For this reason, even though I suffer as I do, I am
not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and
I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have
entrusted to Him[f] for that day.

Holding to Sound Teaching

13 Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching[g] you have
heard from me, with the faith and love that are in
Christ Jesus.
14 Guard the treasure entrusted to you,[h] with the help
of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.
15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia
[i] has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermo-
genes.
16 May the Lord grant mercy to the household of One-
siphorus, because he has often refreshed me and
was unashamed of my chains.
17 Indeed, when he arrived in Rome, he searched very
diligently[j] until he found me.
18 May the Lord grant Onesiphorus His mercy on that
day. You know very well how much he ministered to
me in Ephesus.

2

Grace and Perseverance

(Hebrews 12:1–3)

1 You therefore, my child, be strong in the grace that is
in Christ Jesus.
2 And the things that you have heard me say among
many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who
will be qualified to teach others as well.
3 Endure hardship, therefore,[k] like a good soldier of
Jesus Christ.[l]
4 A soldier refrains from entangling himself in civilian
affairs, in order to please the one who enlisted him.
5 Likewise, a competitor does not receive the crown
unless he competes according to the rules.
6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to par-
take of the crops.
7 Consider what I am saying, for the Lord will give you
insight into all things.
8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, de-
scended from David, as proclaimed by my gospel,
9 for which I suffer to the extent of being chained like
a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained!
10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of the
elect, so that they too may obtain the salvation that
is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.
11 This is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we
will also live with Him;
12 if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny
Him, He will also deny us;
13 if we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot[m]
deny Himself.

The Lord's Approved Workman

14 Remind the believers of these things, charging them
before the Lord[n] to avoid quarreling over words,
which succeeds only in leading the listeners to ruin.
15 Make every effort to present yourself approved to
God, an unashamed workman who accurately han-
dles the word of truth.

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[a] **1:1** GOC, CT, and HF *of Christ Jesus*

[b] **1:7** Or *timidity* or *cowardice*

[c] **1:9** Literally *before times eternal*

[d] **1:10** NA and WH *Christ Jesus*

[e] **1:11** CT does not include *of the Gentiles.*

[f] **1:12** Or *what He has entrusted to me*

[g] **1:13** Literally *sound words*

[h] **1:14** Or *the good deposit entrusted to you*

[i] **1:15** Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

[j] **1:17** CT *he searched diligently*

[k] **2:3** CT *Join me in suffering*

[l] **2:3** CT *of Christ Jesus*

[m] **2:13** NA, TH, and WH *for He cannot*

[n] **2:14** SBL, MT, and TR; NA and WH *before God*

16 But avoid irreverent, empty chatter, which will only
lead to more ungodliness,
17 and the talk of such men will spread like gangrene.
Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,
18 who have deviated from the truth. They say that the
resurrection has already occurred, and they under-
mine the faith of some.
19 Nevertheless, God's firm foundation stands, bearing
this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His,"[a] and,
"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord[b] must
turn away from iniquity."
20 A large house contains not only vessels of gold and
silver, but also of wood and clay. Some indeed are for
honorable use, but others are for common use.
21 So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit,[c] he
will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the
Master, and prepared for every good work.
22 Flee from youthful passions and pursue righteous-
ness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who
call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
23 But reject foolish and ignorant speculation, for you
know that it breeds quarreling.
24 And a servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome,
but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and
forbearing.
25 He must gently reprove those who oppose him, in
the hope that God may grant them repentance lead-
ing to a knowledge of the truth.
26 Then they will come to their senses and escape the
snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to his
will.

3

Evil in the Last Days

1 But understand this: In the last days terrible times
will come.
2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money,
boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their par-
ents, ungrateful, unholy,
3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-con-
trol, brutal, without love of good,
4 traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure
rather than lovers of God,
5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.
Turn away from such as these!
6 They are the kind who worm their way[d] into house-
holds and captivate vulnerable women who are
weighed down with sins and led astray by various
passions,
7 who are always learning but never able to come to a
knowledge of the truth.
8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses,[e] so also
these men oppose the truth. They are depraved in
mind and disqualified from the faith.
9 But they will not advance much further. For just
like Jannes and Jambres, their folly will be plain to
everyone.

All Scripture Is God-Breathed

(Hebrews 4:12–16)

10 You, however, have observed my teaching, my con-
duct, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love,
my perseverance,
11 my persecutions, and the sufferings that came upon
me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecu-
tions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all
of them.
12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ
Jesus will be persecuted,
13 while evil men and imposters go from bad to worse,
deceiving and being deceived.
14 But as for you, continue in the things you have
learned and firmly believed, since you know from
whom you have learned them.
15 From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.
16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for
instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for
training in righteousness,
17 so that the man of God may be complete, fully
equipped for every good work.

4

Preach the Word

1 I charge you, therefore, in the presence of God and
of the Lord Jesus Christ,[f] who will judge the living
and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His
kingdom:
2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of
season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every
form of patient instruction.
3 For the time will come when men will not tolerate
sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will
gather around themselves teachers to suit their own
desires.
4 So they will turn their ears away from the truth and
turn aside to myths.
5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do
the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offer-
ing, and the time of my departure is at hand.
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
8 From now on there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge,
will award to me on that day — and not only to me,
but to all who crave His appearing.

Personal Concerns

9 Make every effort to come to me quickly,
10 because Demas, in his love of this world, has de-
serted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has
gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.
11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with
you, because he is useful to me in the ministry.

[a] **2:19** Numbers 16:5 (see also LXX)

[b] **2:19** TR *of Christ*

[c] **2:21** Literally *cleanses himself of these*

[d] **3:6** F35 *who press*

[e] **3:8** See Jasher 79:27. *The Book of Jashar* or *the Book of the Upright One* is often cited as *Jasher*.

[f] **4:1** CT *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus*

12 Tychicus, however, I have sent to Ephesus.
13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with
Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.
14 Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me.
May the Lord repay[a] him according to his deeds.
15 You too should beware of him, for he has vigorously
opposed our message.

The Lord Remains Faithful

16 At my first defense, no one stood with me, but
everyone deserted me. May it not be charged against
them.
17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me,
so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles would hear it. So I was
delivered from the mouth of the lion.
18 And the Lord will rescue me from every evil action
and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To
Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

(Ephesians 6:21–24; Philippians 4:21–23)

19 Greet Prisca[b] and Aquila, as well as the household
of Onesiphorus.
20 Erastus has remained at Corinth, and Trophimus I
left sick in Miletus.
21 Make every effort to come to me before winter.
Eubulus sends you greetings, as do Pudens, Linus,
Claudia, and all the brothers.
22 The Lord Jesus Christ[c] be with your spirit. Grace be
with you all. Amen.[d]

[a] **4:14** CT *The Lord will repay*

[b] **4:19** *Prisca* is a variant of *Priscilla*; see Acts 18:2.

[c] **4:22** CT *The Lord*

[d] **4:22** CT does not include *Amen.*

Titus

Epistle to Titus

1

Paul's Greeting to Titus

(2 Corinthians 8:16–24)

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ
for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the
truth that leads to godliness,
2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie,
promised before time began.[a]
3 In His own time He has made His word evident in the
proclamation entrusted to me by the command of
God our Savior.
4 To Titus, my true child in our common faith: Grace,
mercy,[b] and peace from God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.[c]

Appointing Elders on Crete

(1 Timothy 3:1–7; 1 Peter 5:1–4)

5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you would set
in order what was unfinished and appoint elders in
every town, as I directed you.
6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one
wife,[d] having children who are believers and who
are not open to accusation of indiscretion or insub-
ordination.
7 As God's steward, an overseer must be above re-
proach — not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not
given to drunkenness, not violent, not greedy for
money.
8 Instead, he must be hospitable, a lover of good, self-
controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.
9 He must hold firmly to the faithful word as it was
taught, so that he can encourage others by sound
teaching and refute those who contradict it.

Correcting False Teachers

(1 Timothy 1:3–11)

10 For many are rebellious and full of empty talk and
deception, especially those of the circumcision,
11 who must be silenced. For the sake of dishonorable
gain, they undermine entire households and teach
things they should not.
12 As one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are
always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."[e]
13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them
sternly, so that they will be sound in the faith
14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the
commands of men who have rejected the truth.
15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to the defiled
and unbelieving, nothing is pure. Indeed, both their
minds and their consciences are defiled.
16 They profess to know God, but by their actions they
deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient, and
unfit for any good deed.

2

Teaching Sound Doctrine

1 But as for you, speak the things that are consistent
with sound doctrine.
2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-con-
trolled, and sound in faith, love, and perseverance.
3 Older women, likewise, are to be reverent in their
behavior, not slanderers or addicted to much wine,
but teachers of good.
4 In this way they can train the young women to love
their husbands and children,
5 to be self-controlled, pure, managers of their house-
holds, kind, and submissive to their own husbands,
so that the word of God will not be discredited.
6 In the same way, urge the younger men to be self-
controlled.
7 In everything, show yourself to be an example by
doing good works. In your teaching show integrity,
dignity, incorruptibility,[f]
8 and wholesome speech that is above reproach, so that
anyone who opposes us will be ashamed, having
nothing bad to say about us.[g]
9 Slaves are to submit to their own masters in every-
thing, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,
10 not stealing from them, but showing all good faith,
so that in every respect they will adorn the teaching
about God our Savior.

God's Grace Brings Salvation

11 For the saving grace of God has appeared to every-
one.[h]
12 It instructs us to renounce ungodliness and worldly
passions, and to live sensible, upright, and godly
lives in the present age,
13 as we await the blessed hope and glorious appear-
ance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.[i]
14 He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all law-
lessness and to purify for Himself a people for His
own possession, zealous for good deeds.
15 Speak these things as you encourage and rebuke
with all authority. Let no one despise you.

3

Heirs of Grace

1 Remind the believers to submit to rulers and author-
ities, to be obedient and ready for every good work,
2 to malign no one, and to be peaceable and gentle,
showing full consideration to everyone.
3 For at one time we too were foolish, disobedient, mis-
led, and enslaved to all sorts of desires and pleasures

[a] **1:2** Literally *before times eternal*

[b] **1:4** CT does not include *mercy*.

[c] **1:4** CT *and Christ Jesus our Savior*

[d] **1:6** Or *faithful to his wife*

[e] **1:12** This quote, also known as the Epimenides paradox, has been attributed to the Cretan philosopher Epimenides of Knossos.

[f] **2:7** CT does not include *incorruptibility*.

[g] **2:8** TR *about you*

[h] **2:11** CT *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone*

[i] **2:13** WH *Christ Jesus*

— living in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.
4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,
5 He saved us, not by the righteous deeds we had done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of new birth[a] and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
6 This is the Spirit He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
7 so that, having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs with the hope of eternal life.
8 This saying is trustworthy. And I want you to emphasize these things, so that those who have believed God will take care to devote themselves to good deeds. These things are excellent and profitable for the people.

Avoid Divisions

(Romans 16:17–20)

9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, arguments, and quarrels about the law, because these things are pointless and worthless.
10 Reject a divisive man after a first and second admonition,
11 knowing that such a man is corrupt and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Final Remarks and Greetings

12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.
13 Do your best to equip Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so that they will have everything they need.
14 And our people must also learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet the pressing needs of others, so that they will not be unfruitful.
15 All who are with me send you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you. Amen.[b]

[a] **3:5** Or *of regeneration*

[b] **3:15** CT does not include *Amen.*

Philemon

Epistle to Philemon

1

Greetings from Paul and Timothy

(Philippians 1:1–2; Colossians 1:1–2)

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,[a] and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker,
2 to Apphia our beloved,[b] to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets at your[c] house:
3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Faith and Love

4 I always thank my God, remembering you in my prayers,
5 because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.
6 I pray that your partnership in the faith may become effective as you fully acknowledge every good thing that is ours in Christ Jesus.[d]
7 We take[e] great joy and encouragement in your love, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

8 So although in Christ I am bold enough to order you to do what is proper,
9 I prefer to appeal on the basis of love. For I, Paul, am now aged, and a prisoner of Jesus Christ[f] as well.
10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus,[g] whose father I became while I was in my[h] chains.
11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.
12 I am sending back for you to receive[i] him who is my very heart.
13 I would have liked to keep him with me, so that on your behalf he could minister to me in my chains for the gospel.
14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your goodness will not be out of compulsion, but by your own free will.
15 For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for good —
16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a beloved brother. He is especially beloved to me, but even more so to you, both in person and in the Lord.
17 So if you consider me a partner, receive him as you would receive me.
18 But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to my account.
19 I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I will repay it — not to mention that you owe me your very self.
20 Yes, brother, let me have some benefit[j] from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in the Lord.[k]
21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.
22 In the meantime, prepare a guest room for me, because I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

Additional Greetings

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings,
24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.
25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ[l] be with your spirit. Amen.[m]

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[a] **1:1** F35 *Jesus Christ*

[b] **1:2** CT *our sister*

[c] **1:2** *You* and *Your* are singular throughout this letter, except in verses 3, 22, and 25.

[d] **1:6** CT *in Christ*

[e] **1:7** CT *I take*

[f] **1:9** CT *of Christ Jesus*

[g] **1:10** *Onesimus* means *useful* (see verse 11) or *beneficial* (see verse 20).

[h] **1:10** CT does not include *my*.

[i] **1:12** CT *I am sending back to you*

[j] **1:20** Greek *onaimēn*, a play on the name *Onesimus*

[k] **1:20** CT *in Christ*

[l] **1:25** NA, SBL, and WH *of the Lord Jesus Christ*; F35 *of our Lord Jesus*

[m] **1:25** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Amen.*

Hebrews

Epistle to the Hebrews

1

The Supremacy of the Son

(Colossians 1:15–23)

1 On many past occasions and in many different ways,
God spoke to our fathers through the prophets.
2 But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son,
[a] whom He appointed heir of all things, and through
whom He made the universe.[b]
3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact
representation of His nature, upholding all things by
His powerful word. After He had provided purifica-
tion for our sins,[c] He sat down at the right hand of
the Majesty on high.
4 So He became as far superior to the angels as the
name He has inherited is excellent beyond theirs.
5 For to which of the angels did God ever say: "You
are My Son; today I have become Your Father"[d] ? Or
again: "I will be His Father, and He will be My Son"[e] ?
6 And again, when God brings His firstborn into the
world, He says: "Let all God's angels worship Him."[f]
7 Now about the angels He says: "He makes His angels
winds, His servants flames of fire."[g]
8 But about the Son He says: "Your throne, O God,
endures forever and ever, and justice is the scepter
of Your kingdom.[h]
9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, Your God, has anointed You above
Your companions with the oil of joy."[i]
10 And: "In the beginning, O Lord, You laid the founda-
tions of the earth, and the heavens are the work of
Your hands.
11 They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear
out like a garment.
12 You will roll them up like a robe; they will be
changed;[j] but You remain the same, and Your years
will never end."[k]
13 Yet to which of the angels did God ever say: "Sit at
My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool
for Your feet"[l] ?
14 Are not the angels[m] ministering spirits sent to serve
those who will inherit salvation?

[a] **1:2** Or *in His Son*

[b] **1:2** Or *the world*; literally *the ages*

[c] **1:3** CT *for sins*

[d] **1:5** Psalm 2:7; literally *today I have begotten You*

[e] **1:5** 2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chronicles 17:13

[f] **1:6** Deuteronomy 32:43 (see DSS and LXX)

[g] **1:7** Psalm 104:4 (see also LXX)

[h] **1:8** Literally *the scepter of justice is the scepter of Your kingdom*

[i] **1:9** Psalm 45:6–7

[j] **1:12** NA, SBL, and WH *like a garment they will be changed*

[k] **1:12** Psalm 102:25–27

[l] **1:13** Psalm 110:1

[m] **1:14** Literally *Are they not all*

2

Salvation Confirmed

1 We must pay closer attention, therefore, to what we
have heard, so that we do not drift away.
2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and
every transgression and disobedience received its
just punishment,
3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salva-
tion? This salvation was first announced by the Lord,
was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,
4 and was affirmed by God through signs, wonders,
various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distrib-
uted according to His will.

Jesus like His Brothers

5 For it is not to angels that He has subjected the world
to come, about which we are speaking.
6 But somewhere it is testified in these words: "What is
man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man
that You care for him?
7 You made him a little lower[n] than the angels; You
crowned him with glory and honor,[o]
8 and placed everything under his feet."[p] When God
subjected all things to him, He left nothing outside of
his control. Yet at present we do not see everything
subject to him.
9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the
angels, now crowned with glory and honor because
He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He
might taste death for everyone.
10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting for
God, for whom and through whom all things exist, to
make the author[q] of their salvation perfect through
suffering.
11 For both the One who sanctifies and those who are
sanctified are of the same family. So Jesus is not
ashamed to call them brothers.
12 He says: "I will proclaim Your name to My brothers;
I will sing Your praises in the assembly."[r]
13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him."[s] And once
again: "Here am I, and the children God has given
Me."[t]
14 Now since the children have flesh and blood, He too
shared in their humanity, so that by His death He
might destroy him who holds the power of death,
that is, the devil,
15 and free those who all their lives were held in slav-
ery by their fear of death.
16 For surely it is not the angels He helps, but the
descendants of Abraham.

[n] **2:7** Or *a little while lower* ; also in verse 9

[o] **2:7** WH and TR include *and set him over the works of Your hands.*

[p] **2:8** Psalm 8:4–6 (see also LXX)

[q] **2:10** Or *pioneer* or *founder*

[r] **2:12** Psalm 22:22 (see also LXX)

[s] **2:13** Isaiah 8:17

[t] **2:13** Isaiah 8:18

17 For this reason He had to be made like His brothers
in every way, so that He might become a merciful
and faithful high priest in service to God, in order to
make atonement[a] for the sins of the people.
18 Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted,
He is able to help those who are being tempted.

3

Jesus Our Apostle and High Priest

1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly
calling, set your focus on Jesus Christ,[b] the apostle
and high priest whom we confess.
2 He was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just
as Moses was faithful in all God's house.[c]
3 For Jesus has been counted worthy of greater glory
than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater
honor than the house itself.
4 And every house is built by someone, but God is the
builder of everything.
5 Now Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's
house,[d] testifying to what would be spoken later.
6 But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And
we are His house, if we hold firmly to the end[e] our
confidence and the hope of which we boast.

Do Not Harden Your Hearts

(Psalm 95:1–11)

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear
His voice,
8 do not harden your hearts, as you did in the rebellion,
in the day of testing in the wilderness,
9 where your fathers tested and tried Me, and for forty
years saw My works.
10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, and I
said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they
have not known My ways.'
11 So I swore on oath in My anger, 'They shall never
enter My rest.'"[f]

The Peril of Unbelief

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a wicked
heart of unbelief that turns away from the living
God.
13 But exhort one another daily, as long as it is called
today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's
deceitfulness.
14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly to
the end the assurance we had at first.
15 As it has been said: "Today, if you hear His voice,
do not harden your hearts, as you did in the rebel-
lion."[g]
16 For some heard and rebelled, but not all those Moses
led out of Egypt.[h]
17 And with whom was God angry for forty years? Was
it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the
wilderness?
18 And to whom did He swear that they would never
enter His rest? Was it not to those who disobeyed?
19 So we see that it was because of their unbelief that
they were unable to enter.

4

The Sabbath Rest

(Genesis 2:1–3; Exodus 16:22–30)

1 Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still
stands, let us be careful that none of you be deemed
to have fallen short of it.
2 For we also received the good news just as they did;
but the message they heard was of no value to them,
since they did not share the faith of those who com-
prehended it.[i]
3 Now we who have believed enter that rest. As for the
others, it is just as God has said: "So I swore on oath
in My anger, 'They shall never enter My rest.'"[j] And
yet His works have been finished since the founda-
tion of the world.
4 For somewhere He has spoken about the seventh day
in this manner: "And on the seventh day God rested
from all His works."[k]
5 And again, as He says in the passage above: "They
shall never enter My rest."
6 Since, then, it remains for some to enter His rest, and
since those who formerly heard the good news did
not enter because of their disobedience,
7 God again designated a certain day as "Today," when
a long time later He spoke through David as was just
stated: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden
your hearts."[l]
8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have
spoken later about another day.
9 There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of
God.
10 For whoever enters God's rest also rests from his
own work, just as God did from His.
11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that
rest, so that no one will fall by following the same
pattern of disobedience.

The Living Word

(2 Timothy 3:10–17)

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper
than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to di-
viding soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges
the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight;
everything is uncovered and exposed before the
eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has
passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let
us hold firmly to what we profess.

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[a] **2:17** Or *to make propitiation*

[b] **3:1** CT *on Jesus*; TR *on Christ Jesus*

[c] **3:2** Literally *just as Moses in all His house*; SBL *just as Moses in His house*

[d] **3:5** Numbers 12:7

[e] **3:6** NE, WH, MT, and TR; other CT do not include *the end.*

[f] **3:11** Psalm 95:7–11 (see also LXX)

[g] **3:15** Psalm 95:7–8

[h] **3:16** CT, GOC, ALT, and F35 *For who were the ones who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?*

[i] **4:2** Literally *not having been united in the faith of those who heard*

[j] **4:3** Psalm 95:11; also in verse 5

[k] **4:4** Genesis 2:2

[l] **4:7** Psalm 95:7–8

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to
sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one
who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was
without sin.
16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confi-
dence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help us in our time of need.

5

The Perfect High Priest

(Psalm 110:1–7)

1 Every high priest is appointed from among men to
represent them in matters relating to God, to offer
gifts and sacrifices for sins.
2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant
and misguided, since he himself is beset by weak-
ness.
3 That is why he is obligated to offer sacrifices for his
own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.
4 No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be
called by God, just as Aaron was.
5 So also Christ did not take upon Himself the glory
of becoming a high priest, but He was called by the
One who said to Him: "You are My Son; today I have
become Your Father."[a]
6 And in another passage God says: "You are a priest
forever in the order of Melchizedek."[b]
7 During the days of Jesus' earthly life, He offered up
prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the
One who could save Him from death, and He was
heard because of His reverence.
8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from
what He suffered.
9 And having been made perfect, He became the source
of eternal salvation to all who obey Him
10 and was designated by God as high priest in the
order of Melchizedek.

Milk and Solid Food

(1 Corinthians 3:1–9)

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to
explain, because you are dull of hearing.
12 Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you
need someone to reteach you the basic principles of
God's word.[c] You need milk, not solid food!
13 For everyone who lives on milk is still an infant,
inexperienced in the message of righteousness.
14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use
have trained their senses to distinguish good from
evil.

6

A Call to Maturity

1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about
Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the
foundation of repentance from dead works,[d] and of
faith in God,
2 instruction about baptisms,[e] the laying on of hands,
the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
3 And this we will do, if God permits.
4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlight-
ened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have
shared in the Holy Spirit,
5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and
the powers of the coming age —
6 and then have fallen away — to be restored to repen-
tance, because they themselves are crucifying the
Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to open
shame.
7 For land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and
that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is
tended receives the blessing of God.
8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worth-
less, and its curse is imminent. In the end it will be
burned.
9 Even though we speak like this, beloved, we are con-
vinced of better things in your case— things that
accompany salvation.
10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget your work
and the labor of love[f] you have shown for His name
as you have ministered to the saints and continue to
do so.
11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to
the very end, in order to make your hope sure.
12 Then you will not be sluggish, but will imitate those
who through faith and patience inherit what has
been promised.

God's Unchangeable Promise

13 When God made His promise to Abraham, since He
had no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself,
14 saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply your
descendants."[g]
15 And so Abraham, after waiting patiently, obtained
the promise.
16 Men indeed[h] swear by someone greater than them-
selves, and their oath serves as a confirmation to end
all argument.
17 So when God wanted to make the unchanging na-
ture of His purpose very clear to the heirs of the
promise, He guaranteed it with an oath.
18 Thus by two unchangeable things in which it is
impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take
hold of the hope set before us may be strongly en-
couraged.
19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm
and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the
curtain,
20 where Jesus our forerunner has entered on our
behalf. He has become a high priest forever in the
order of Melchizedek.

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[a] **5:5** Psalm 2:7; literally *today I have begotten You*

[b] **5:6** Psalm 110:4

[c] **5:12** Or *of the oracles of God*

[d] **6:1** Or *from acts that lead to death*

[e] **6:2** Or *cleansing rites*

[f] **6:10** CT *your work and the love*

[g] **6:14** Genesis 22:17

[h] **6:16** CT does not include *indeed.*

7

Melchizedek and Abraham

(Genesis 14:17–24)

1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High.[a] He met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
2 and Abraham apportioned to him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness." Then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace."
3 Without father or mother or genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God, he remains a priest for all time.
4 Consider how great Melchizedek was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder.
5 Now the law commands the sons of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people — that is, from their brothers — though they too are descended from Abraham.
6 But Melchizedek, who did not trace his descent from Levi, collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.
7 And indisputably, the lesser is blessed by the greater.
8 In the case of the Levites, mortal men collect the tenth; but in the case of Melchizedek, it is affirmed that he lives on.
9 And so to speak, Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham.
10 For when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the loin of his ancestor.

A Superior Priesthood

11 Now if perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on this basis the people received the law), why was there still need for another priest to appear — one in the order of Melchizedek and not in the order of Aaron?
12 For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed as well.
13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.
14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, a tribe as to which Moses said nothing about priesthood.[b]
15 And this point is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,
16 one who has become a priest not by a law of succession, but by the power of an indestructible life.
17 For it is testified:[c] "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."[d]
18 So the former commandment is set aside because it was weak and useless
19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.
20 And none of this happened without an oath. For others became priests without an oath,
21 but Jesus became a priest with an oath by the One who said to Him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind: 'You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.'"[e]
22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.
23 Now there have been many other priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office.
24 But because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood.
25 Therefore He is able to save completely[f] those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.
26 Such a high priest truly befits us — One who is holy, innocent, undefiled, set apart from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
27 Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer daily sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people; He sacrificed for sin once for all when He offered up Himself.
28 For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

8

Christ's Eternal Priesthood

1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,
2 and who ministers in the sanctuary and true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.
3 And since every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, it was necessary for this One also to have something to offer.
4 For[g] if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer gifts according to the law.
5 The place where they serve is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."[h]

The New Covenant

(Jeremiah 31:26–40)

6 Now, however, Jesus has received a much more excellent ministry, just as the covenant He mediates is better and is founded on better promises.
7 For if that first covenant had been without fault, no place would have been sought for a second.
8 But God found fault with the people and said: "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.
9 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, because they did not abide by My covenant, and I disregarded them, declares the Lord.

[a] **7:1** Genesis 14:18

[b] **7:14** CT *about priests*

[c] **7:17** Literally *For He testifies*; CT *For it is testified (of Him)*

[d] **7:17** Psalm 110:4

[e] **7:21** Psalm 110:4; CT does not include *in the order of Melchizedek*.

[f] **7:25** Or *forever*

[g] **8:4** CT *Now*

[h] **8:5** Exodus 25:40; see also Exodus 26:30.

10 For this is the covenant I will make with the house of
Israel after those days, declares the Lord. I will put
My laws in their minds and inscribe them on their
hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My
people.
11 No longer will each one teach his neighbor[a] or his
brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will
all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.
12 For I will forgive their iniquities and will remember
their sins and lawless acts[b] no more."[c]
13 By speaking of a new covenant,[d] He has made the
first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging
will soon disappear.

9

The Earthly Tabernacle

(Exodus 40:1–33; Acts 7:44–47)

1 Now even[e] the first covenant[f] had regulations for
worship and also an earthly sanctuary.
2 A tabernacle was prepared. In its first room were the
lampstand, the table, and the consecrated bread.[g]
This was called the Holy Place.
3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most
Holy Place,[h]
4 containing the golden altar of incense and the gold-
covered ark of the covenant. Inside the ark were the
gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded,
and the stone tablets of the covenant.
5 Above the ark were the cherubim of glory, overshad-
owing the mercy seat.[i] But we cannot discuss these
things in detail now.
6 When everything had been prepared in this way,
the priests entered regularly into the first room to
perform their sacred duties.
7 But only the high priest entered the second room,
and then only once a year, and never without blood,
which he offered for himself and for the sins the
people had committed in ignorance.
8 By this arrangement the Holy Spirit was showing that
the way into the Most Holy Place[j] had not yet been
disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still
standing.
9 It is an illustration for the present time, because the
gifts and sacrifices being offered were unable to
cleanse the conscience of the worshiper.
10 They consist only in food and drink and special
washings and[k] external regulations imposed until
the time of reform.

Redemption through His Blood

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good
things to come,[l] He went through the greater and
more perfect tabernacle that is not made by hands
and is not a part of this creation.
12 He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but
He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His
own blood, thus securing eternal redemption.
13 For if the blood of bulls and goats[m] and the ashes
of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially
unclean sanctify them so that their bodies are clean,
14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who
through the eternal Spirit[n] offered Himself unblem-
ished to God, purify your[o] consciences from works
of death, so that we may serve the living God!
15 Therefore Christ is the mediator of a new covenant,
so that those who are called may receive the
promised eternal inheritance, now that He has died
to redeem them from the transgressions committed
under the first covenant.
16 In the case of a will,[p] it is necessary to establish the
death of the one who made it,
17 because a will does not take effect until the one who
made it has died; it cannot be executed while he is
still alive.
18 That is why even the first covenant was not put into
effect without blood.
19 For when Moses had proclaimed every command-
ment of the law to all the people, he took the blood
of calves and goats,[q] along with water, scarlet wool,
and hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the
people,
20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God
has commanded you to keep."[r]
21 In the same way, he sprinkled with blood the taber-
nacle and all the vessels used in worship.
22 According to the law, in fact, nearly everything must
be purified with blood, and without the shedding of
blood there is no forgiveness.
23 So it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly
things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the
heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices
than these.
24 For Christ did not enter a man-made copy of the
true sanctuary, but He entered heaven itself, now to
appear on our behalf in the presence of God.
25 Nor did He enter heaven to offer Himself again and
again, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place
every year with blood that is not his own.

[a] **8:11** Or *his fellow citizen*

[b] **8:12** CT does not include *and lawless acts*.

[c] **8:12** Jeremiah 31:31–34 (see also LXX)

[d] **8:13** Literally *In saying new*; here and in Hebrews 9:1 and 18, *covenant* is included for clarity but is not contained in the Greek. A broader interpretation could also include *priesthood* or *tabernacle*.

[e] **9:1** SBL *Now*

[f] **9:1** Literally *the first*; also in verse 18; see the footnote for Hebrews 8:13.

[g] **9:2** Or *the Bread of the Presence*

[h] **9:3** Or *the Holy of Holies*

[i] **9:5** Or *atonement cover*

[j] **9:8** Or *the Holy Place*; also in verses 12 and 25

[k] **9:10** CT does not include *and*.

[l] **9:11** NA, SBL, and WH *that have come*

[m] **9:13** CT *of goats and bulls*

[n] **9:14** F35 *the Holy Spirit*

[o] **9:14** NA, SBL, and WH *our*

[p] **9:16** Greek *diathēkē* is also translated as *covenant* throughout this chapter.

[q] **9:19** SBL does not include *and goats*.

[r] **9:20** Exodus 24:8

26 Otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
27 Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment,
28 so also Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him.

10

Christ's Perfect Sacrifice

(Psalm 40:1–17)

1 For the law is only a shadow of the good things to come, not the realities themselves. The same sacrifices offered year after year can never[a] make perfect those who draw near to worship .
2 If it could, would not the offerings have ceased? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt the guilt of their sins.
3 Instead, those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins,
4 because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said:
"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for Me.
6 In burnt offerings and sin offerings You took no delight.
7 Then I said, 'Here I am, it is written about Me in the scroll: I have come to do Your will, O God.'"[b]
8 In the passage above He says, "Sacrifice and offering,[c] burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not desire, nor did You delight in them" (although they are offered according to the law).
9 Then He adds, "Here I am, I have come to do Your will, O God.[d] " He takes away the first to establish the second.
10 And by that will, we have been sanctified through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
11 Day after day every priest stands to minister and to offer again and again the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
12 But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God.
13 Since that time, He waits for His enemies to be made a footstool for His feet,
14 because by a single offering He has made perfect for all time those who are being sanctified.
15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says:
16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord. I will put My laws in their hearts and inscribe them on their minds."[e]
17 Then He adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."[f]
18 And where these have been forgiven, an offering for sin is no longer needed .

A Call to Persevere

(Jude 1:17–23)

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place[g] by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body,[h]
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
23 Let us hold resolutely to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.
24 And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds.
25 Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
26 If we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins remains,
27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume all adversaries.
28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.
29 How much more severely do you think one deserves to be punished who has trampled on the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and insulted the Spirit of grace?
30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord,"[i] and again, "The Lord will judge His people."[j]
31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
32 Remember the early days that you were in the light.[k] In those days, you endured a great conflict in the face of suffering.
33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to ridicule and persecution; at other times you were partners with those who were so treated.
34 You sympathized with me in my chains[l] and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property,

[a] **10:1** GOC, NA, F35, SBL, and TR *It can never, by the same sacrifices offered year after year,*
[b] **10:7** Psalm 40:6–8 (see also LXX)
[c] **10:8** CT *Sacrifices and offerings*
[d] **10:9** CT does not include *O God.*
[e] **10:16** Jeremiah 31:33
[f] **10:17** Jeremiah 31:34
[g] **10:19** Or *the Holy Place*
[h] **10:20** Literally *through the veil that is His flesh*
[i] **10:30** Deuteronomy 32:35 (see also LXX); CT does not include *says the Lord.*
[j] **10:30** Deuteronomy 32:36; Psalm 135:14
[k] **10:32** Or *Remember when you were first enlightened.*
[l] **10:34** CT *with those in prison*

knowing that you yourselves had a better and permanent possession in heaven.[a]
35 So do not throw away your confidence; it holds a great reward.
36 You need to persevere, so that after you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.
37 For, “In just a little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay.
38 But the righteous will live by faith;[b] and if he shrinks back, I will take no pleasure in him.”[c]
39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

11

Faith and Assurance

(Genesis 1:1–2; John 1:1–5)

1 Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see.
2 This is why the ancients were commended.
3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

The Faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah

(Genesis 4–9)

4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous when God gave approval to his gifts. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.
5 By faith Enoch was taken up[d] so that he did not see death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.”[e] For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.
6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in godly fear built an ark to save his family. By faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

The Faith of Abraham and Sarah

(Genesis 15–22; Romans 4:1–12)

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to the place[f] he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, without knowing where he was going.
9 By faith he dwelt in the promised land as a stranger in a foreign country. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.
10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
11 By faith Sarah, even though she was beyond the proper age, received power and[g] was enabled to conceive a child, because she considered Him faithful who had promised.
12 And so from one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.
13 All these people died in faith, without having received the things they were promised. However, they saw them and welcomed them from afar. And they acknowledged[h] that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
14 Now those who say such things show that they are seeking a country of their own.
15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.
16 Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac on the altar . He who had received the promises was ready to offer his one and only son,[i]
18 even though God had said to him, “Through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned.”[j]
19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and in a sense, he did receive Isaac back from death.

The Faith of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

(Genesis 27–50)

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning the future.
21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.
22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his bones.

The Faith of Moses

(Exodus 2–15; Acts 7:20–22)

23 By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after his birth, because they saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were unafraid of the king’s edict.
24 By faith Moses, when he was grown, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.
25 He chose to suffer oppression with God’s people rather than to experience the fleeting enjoyment of sin.
26 He valued disgrace for Christ above the treasures of Egypt,[k] for he was looking ahead to his reward.
27 By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.
28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch Israel’s own firstborn .

[a] **10:34** CT does not include *in heaven.*
[b] **10:38** CT *But My righteous one will live by faith.*
[c] **10:38** Habakkuk 2:3–4 (see also LXX)
[d] **11:5** Literally *transferred* or *translated*
[e] **11:5** Genesis 5:24 (see also LXX)
[f] **11:8** CT *a place*
[g] **11:11** CT *even though she was barren and beyond the proper age,*
[h] **11:13** TR includes *and confessed.*
[i] **11:17** Or *only begotten son* or *unique son*
[j] **11:18** Genesis 21:12
[k] **11:26** TR *in Egypt*

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to follow,[a] they were drowned.

The Faith of Many

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.
31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies in peace, did not perish with those who were disobedient.
32 And what more shall I say? Time will not allow me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets,
33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,
34 quenched the raging fire, and escaped the edge of the sword; who gained strength from weakness, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight.
35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused their release, so that they might gain a better resurrection.
36 Still others endured mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.
37 They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were put to the test,[b] they were put to death by the sword. They went around in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, oppressed, and mistreated.
38 The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and hid in caves and holes in the ground.
39 These were all commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised.
40 God had planned something better for us, so that together with us they would be made perfect.

12

A Call to Endurance

(2 Timothy 2:1–13)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race set out for us.
2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author[c] and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
3 Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

God Disciplines His Sons

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
5 And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not take lightly the discipline of the Lord, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you.
6 For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastises every son He receives."[d]
7 Endure suffering as discipline;[e] God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?
8 If you do not experience discipline like everyone else, then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.
9 Furthermore, we have all had earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not much more submit to the Father of our spirits and live?
10 Our fathers disciplined us for a short time as they thought best, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may share in His holiness.
11 No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields a harvest of righteousness and peace[f] to those who have been trained by it.
12 Therefore strengthen your limp hands and weak knees.[g]
13 Make straight paths for your feet,[h] so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

A Call to Holiness

(1 Peter 1:13–21)

14 Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.
15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God, and that no root of bitterness[i] springs up to cause trouble and defile many.
16 See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his birthright.
17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected. He could find no ground for repentance, though he sought the blessing with tears.

An Unshakable Kingdom

(Exodus 20:18–21; Deuteronomy 5:22–33)

18 For you have not come to a mountain that[j] can be touched and that is burning with fire; to blackness, darkness,[k] and storm;
19 to a trumpet blast or to a voice that made its hearers beg that no further word be spoken.
20 For they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."[l]
21 The sight was so terrifying that even Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."[m]

[a] **11:29** Literally *made an attempt*
[b] **11:37** NE, MT, and TR; NA and SBL do not include *they were put to the test*.
[c] **12:2** Or *pioneer* or *founder*
[d] **12:6** Literally *and He flogs every son He receives*; Proverbs 3:11–12 (see also LXX)
[e] **12:7** GOC, ALT, F35, and TR *If you are enduring discipline*
[f] **12:11** Or *it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness*
[g] **12:12** Isaiah 35:3
[h] **12:13** Proverbs 4:26 (see also LXX)
[i] **12:15** See Deuteronomy 29:18.
[j] **12:18** CT literal *to something that*
[k] **12:18** CT *gloom*
[l] **12:20** Exodus 19:12–13; TR includes *or shot through with an arrow*.
[m] **12:21** Deuteronomy 9:19

22 Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city
of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have
come to myriads of angels
23 in joyful assembly, to the congregation of the first-
born, enrolled in heaven. You have come to God
the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made
perfect,
24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the
sprinkled blood that speaks a better word[a] than the
blood of Abel.
25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For
if the people did not escape when they refused Him
who warned them on earth, how much less will we
escape if we reject Him who warns us from heaven?
26 At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He
has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the
earth, but heaven as well."[b]
27 The words "Once more" signify the removal of what
can be shaken — that is, created things — so that the
unshakable may remain.
28 Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable
kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude, and so wor-
ship God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.[c]
29 "For our God is a consuming fire."[d]

13

Brotherly Love

1 Continue in brotherly love.
2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for
by so doing some people have entertained angels
without knowing it.
3 Remember those in prison as if you were bound with
them, and those who are mistreated as if you were
suffering with them.
4 Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage
bed kept undefiled; but[e] God will judge the sexually
immoral and adulterers.

Christ's Unchanging Nature

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and
be content with what you have, for God has said:
"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."[f]
6 So we say with confidence: "The Lord is my helper; I
will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"[g]
7 Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God
to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and
imitate their faith.
8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and
forever.
9 Do not be carried away[h] by all kinds of strange teach-
ings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by
grace and not by foods of no value to those devoted
to them.
10 We have an altar from which those who serve at the
tabernacle have no right to eat.
11 Although the high priest brings the blood of animals
into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, the bodies
are burned outside the camp.
12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate, to
sanctify the people by His own blood.
13 Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp, bearing
the disgrace He bore.
14 For here we do not have a permanent city, but we
are looking for the city that is to come.

Sacrifice, Obedience, and Prayer

15 Through Jesus, therefore,[i] let us continually offer to
God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess
His name.
16 And do not neglect to do good and to share with
others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they
watch over your souls as those who must give an
account. To this end, allow them to lead with joy and
not with grief, for that would be of no advantage to
you.
18 Pray for us; we are convinced that we have a clear
conscience and desire to live honorably in every
way.
19 And I especially urge you to pray that I may be
restored to you soon.

Benediction and Farewell

20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood
of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead
our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,
21 equip you with every good work[j] to do His will. And
may He accomplish in you[k] what is pleasing in His
sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever
and ever.[l] Amen.
22 I urge you, brothers, to bear with my word of exhor-
tation, for I have only written to you briefly.
23 Be aware that our brother Timothy has been re-
leased. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to
see you.
24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from
Italy send you greetings.
25 Grace be with all of you. Amen.[m]

[a] **12:24** TR *better things*
[b] **12:26** Haggai 2:6
[c] **12:28** CT *godly fear and awe*
[d] **12:29** Deuteronomy 4:24
[e] **13:4** CT *for*
[f] **13:5** Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5
[g] **13:6** Psalm 118:6 (see also LXX)
[h] **13:9** TR *carried about*
[i] **13:15** WH does not include *therefore*.
[j] **13:21** CT *every good thing*
[k] **13:21** CT *us*
[l] **13:21** SBL does not include *and ever*.
[m] **13:25** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *Amen.*

James

Epistle of James

1

A Greeting from James

(Jude 1:1–2)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes of the Dispersion:[a] Greetings.

Rejoicing in Trials

(Philippians 1:12–20)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds,
3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
4 Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
5 Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.
6 But he must ask in faith, without doubting, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.
7 That man should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.
8 He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
9 The brother in humble circumstances should exult in his high position.
10 But the one who is rich should exult in his low position, because he will pass away like a flower of the field.
11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its flower falls and its beauty is lost. So too, the rich man will fade away in the midst of his pursuits.
12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that the Lord[b] has promised to those who love Him.

Good and Perfect Gifts

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone.
14 But each one is tempted when by his own evil desires he is lured away and enticed.
15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.
16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.
17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow.[c]
18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we would be a kind of firstfruits of His creation.[d]

Hearing and Doing

19 So then, my beloved brothers, everyone[e] should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger,
20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteousness that God desires.
21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and every expression of evil, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save your souls.
22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.
23 For anyone who hears the word[f] but does not carry it out is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror,
24 and after observing himself goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.
25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom, and continues to do so — not being a forgetful hearer, but an effective doer — he will be blessed in what he does.
26 If anyone among you[g] considers himself religious and yet does not bridle his tongue, he deceives his heart and his religion is worthless.
27 Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

2

A Warning against Favoritism

1 My brothers, as you hold out your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, do not show favoritism.
2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting[h] wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.
3 If you lavish attention on the man in fine clothes and say, "Here is a seat of honor," but say to the poor man, "You must stand" or "Sit here under my footstool,"[i]
4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?
5 Listen, my beloved brothers: Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him?
6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you and drag you into court?
7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the noble name by which you have been called?[j]
8 If you really fulfill the royal law stated in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself,"[k] you are doing well.

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[a] **1:1** Literally *To the twelve tribes in the Diaspora*. Originally referring to the Jewish people living outside the land of Israel, *the Diaspora* is applied here to the Jewish believers scattered abroad.

[b] **1:12** CT *He*

[c] **1:17** Or *no change or shadow of turning.*

[d] **1:18** Or *of His creatures.*

[e] **1:19** CT *My beloved brothers, understand this: Everyone*

[f] **1:23** F35 *law*

[g] **1:26** CT does not include *among you*.

[h] **2:2** Greek *your synagogue*

[i] **2:3** CT *"Sit at my feet"*

[j] **2:7** Or *the noble name invoked upon you* or *the noble name of Him to whom you belong*

[k] **2:8** Leviticus 19:18

9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted
by the law as transgressors.
10 Whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles at just
one point is guilty of breaking all of it.
11 For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,”[a] also
said, “Do not murder.”[b] If you do not commit adul-
tery, but do commit murder, you have become a
lawbreaker.
12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged
by the law that gives freedom.
13 For judgment without mercy will be shown to any-
one who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs
over judgment.

Faith and Works

(Galatians 3:1–9)

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone claims to
have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save
him?
15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and
daily food.
16 If one of you tells him, “Go in peace; stay warm
and well fed,” but does not provide for his physical
needs, what good is that ?
17 So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action,[c]
is dead.
18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have
deeds.” Show me your faith apart from your deeds,
[d] and I will show you my faith by my deeds.
19 You believe that God is one.[e] Good for you! Even the
demons believe that — and shudder.
20 O foolish man, do you want evidence that faith
without deeds is dead?[f]
21 Was not our father Abraham justified by what he did
when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?
22 You see that his faith was working with his actions,
and his faith was perfected by what he did.
23 And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham
believed God, and it was credited to him as right-
eousness,”[g] and he was called a friend of God.[h]
24 As you can see, then,[i] a man is justified by his deeds
and not by faith alone.
25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute
justified by her actions when she welcomed the spies
[j] and sent them off on another route?
26 For as[k] the body without the spirit is dead, so faith
without deeds is dead.

3

Taming the Tongue

(Psalm 64:1–10)

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my broth-
ers, because you know that we who teach will be
judged more strictly.
2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at
fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to
control his whole body.
3 Indeed, when[l] we put bits into the mouths of horses
to make them obey us, we can guide the whole
animal.
4 Consider ships as well. Although they are so large and
are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a
very small rudder wherever the pilot is inclined.
5 In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body,
but it boasts of great things. Consider how small a
spark sets a great forest ablaze.
6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of wickedness among
the parts of the body. It pollutes the whole person,
sets the course of his life on fire, and is itself set on
fire by hell.[m]
7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and creatures of
the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by
man,
8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil,
[n] full of deadly poison.
9 With the tongue we bless our God[o] and Father, and
with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s
likeness.
10 Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing.
My brothers, this should not be!
11 Can both fresh water and salt water[p] flow from the
same spring?
12 My brothers, can a fig tree grow olives, or a
grapevine bear figs? In the same way, no spring can
produce both salt water and fresh water.[q]

The Wisdom from Above

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him
show it by his good conduct, by deeds done in the
humility that comes from wisdom.
14 But if you harbor bitter jealousy and selfish ambi-
tion in your hearts, do not boast in it or deny the
truth.
15 Such wisdom does not come from above, but is
earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there
will be disorder and every evil practice.
17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then
peace-loving, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy
and good fruit, impartial, and sincere.
18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap the fruit of

[a] **2:11** Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18
[b] **2:11** Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17
[c] **2:17** Literally *if it does not have works*
[d] **2:18** Literally *Show me your faith from your deeds*; CT *Show me your faith without deeds*; TR *Show me your faith without your deeds*
[e] **2:19** Or *that there is one God*
[f] **2:20** CT *is worthless*
[g] **2:23** Genesis 15:6
[h] **2:23** See Isaiah 41:8.
[i] **2:24** CT does not include *then.*
[j] **2:25** Literally *messengers*
[k] **2:26** CT *As*
[l] **3:3** CT *When* or *If*
[m] **3:6** Greek *Gehenna*
[n] **3:8** CT *a restless evil*
[o] **3:9** CT *our Lord*
[p] **3:11** Literally *Can both fresh and bitter*
[q] **3:12** CT *Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water*

righteousness.[a]

4

A Warning against Pride

1 What causes conflicts and quarrels among you? Don't they come from the passions at war within you?[b]
2 You crave what you do not have; you kill and covet, but are unable to obtain it. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask.
3 And when you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may squander it on your pleasures.
4 You adulterers and adulteresses![c] Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever chooses to be a friend of the world renders himself[d] an enemy of God.
5 Or do you think the Scripture says without reason that the Spirit[e] who dwells[f] in us yearns with envy?
6 But He gives us more grace. This is why it says: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."[g]

Drawing Near to God

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
9 Grieve, mourn, and weep. Turn your laughter to mourning, and your joy to gloom.
10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.
11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother and[h] judges him speaks against the law and judges it. And if you judge the law, you are not a practitioner of the law, but a judge of it.
12 There is only one Lawgiver,[i] the One who is able to save and destroy. But who are you to judge the other?[j]

Do Not Boast about Tomorrow

(Proverbs 27:1)

13 Come now, you who say, "Today and[k] tomorrow let us go[l] to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make a profit."
14 You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.
15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord is willing, let us live[m] and do this or that."
16 As it is, you boast in your proud intentions. All such boasting is evil.
17 Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do, yet fails to do it, is guilty of sin.

5

A Warning to the Rich

(Proverbs 23:1–5; 1 Timothy 6:17–19)

1 Come now, you who are rich, weep and wail over the misery to come upon you.
2 Your riches have rotted and moths have eaten your clothes.
3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and consume your flesh like fire. You have hoarded treasure in the last days.
4 Look, the wages you withheld from the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts.
5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts as[n] in the day of slaughter.
6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous, who did not resist you.

Patience in Suffering

(Job 1:1–5)

7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer awaits the precious fruit of the soil — how patient he is for the fall and spring rains.[o]
8 You, too, be patient and strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.
9 Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged.[p] Look, the Judge is standing at the door!
10 My brothers,[q] as an example of patience in affliction, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
11 See how blessed we consider those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen the outcome from the Lord. He is[r] full of compassion and mercy.
12 Above all, my brothers, do not swear, not by heaven or earth or by any other oath. Simply let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, so that you will not fall into hypocrisy.[s]

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[a] **3:18** Literally *But the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those making peace.*
[b] **4:1** Literally *passions warring among your members?*
[c] **4:4** See Hosea 3:1; CT *You adulteresses!*
[d] **4:4** Or *is appointed*
[e] **4:5** Or *the spirit*
[f] **4:5** CT *He caused to dwell*
[g] **4:6** Proverbs 3:34 (see also LXX)
[h] **4:11** CT *or*
[i] **4:12** CT, F35, and GOC include *and Judge.*
[j] **4:12** CT *to judge your neighbor?*
[k] **4:13** CT and Scrivener TR *or*
[l] **4:13** CT, GOC, and Scrivener TR *we will go*
[m] **4:15** GOC, CT, and Scrivener TR *we will live*
[n] **5:5** CT does not include *as.*
[o] **5:7** Literally *for it until it receives the early and the late rain*
[p] **5:9** TR *condemned*
[q] **5:10** CT and F35 *Brothers*
[r] **5:11** CT and TR *The Lord is*
[s] **5:12** CT and Scrivener TR *under judgment*

The Prayer of Faith

13 Is any one of you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises.
14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.
15 And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.
16 Confess your trespasses[a] to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail.
17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.
18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.

Restoring a Sinner

19 Brothers,[b] if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,
20 consider this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul[c] from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

[a] **5:16** CT *Therefore confess your sins*

[b] **5:19** CT *My brothers*

[c] **5:20** CT *his soul*

1 Peter

First Epistle of Peter

1

A Greeting from Peter

(2 Peter 1:1–2)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the elect who are exiles of the Dispersion throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen[a]

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

A Living Hope

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us new birth[b] into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who through faith are shielded by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials

7 so that the proven character of your faith — more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may result in praise, honor, and glory [c] at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

8 Though you have not known[d] Him, you love Him; and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9 now that you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who foretold the grace to come to you searched and investigated carefully,

11 trying to determine the time and setting to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you,[e] when they foretold the things now announced by those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

A Call to Holiness

(Hebrews 12:14–17)

13 Therefore prepare your minds for action.[f] Be sober-minded. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance.

15 But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do,

16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."[g]

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each one's work impartially, conduct yourselves in reverent fear during your stay as foreigners.

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life you inherited from your forefathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot.

20 He was known before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in the last times for your sake.

21 Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him; and so your faith and hope are in God.

The Enduring Word

(Isaiah 40:6–8)

22 Since you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth through the Spirit[h] so that you have a genuine love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from a pure heart.[i]

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and forever[j] enduring word of God.

24 For, "All flesh is like grass, and all the glory of man [k] like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

25 but the word of the Lord stands forever."[l] And this is the word that was proclaimed to you.

2

The Living Stone and Chosen People

(Isaiah 28:14–22; 1 Corinthians 3:10–15; Ephesians 2:19–22)

1 Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow,[m]

3 if indeed[n] you have tasted that the Lord is good.

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[a] **1:1** Literally *To the elect sojourners of the Diaspora of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.* These provinces were located in what is now Turkey.

[b] **1:3** Or *has caused us to be born again* or *has begotten us again*

[c] **1:7** CT and F35 *praise, glory, and honor*

[d] **1:8** CT and TR *have not seen*

[e] **1:12** TR *us*

[f] **1:13** Literally *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind*

[g] **1:16** Leviticus 11:44–45; Leviticus 19:2

[h] **1:22** CT does not include *through the Spirit*.

[i] **1:22** SBL, NE, and WH *from the heart*

[j] **1:23** CT does not include *forever*.

[k] **1:24** CT *and all its glory*

[l] **1:25** Isaiah 40:6–8

[m] **2:2** GOC, CT, and F35 include *in your salvation*.

[n] **2:3** CT *now that*

4 As you come to Him, the living stone, rejected by men
but chosen and precious in God's sight,
5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house,[a] a holy priesthood, offering spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
6 For it stands in Scripture: "See, I lay in Zion a stone, a
chosen and precious cornerstone; and the one who
believes in Him will never be put to shame."[b]
7 To you who believe, then, this stone is precious. But to
those who are disobedient,[c] "The stone the builders
rejected has become the cornerstone,"[d]
8 and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."[e]
They stumble because they disobey the word— and
to this they were appointed.
9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a
holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to
proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of
darkness into His marvelous light.
10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the
people of God; once you had not received mercy, but
now you have received mercy.[f]
11 Beloved, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from the desires of the flesh, which war against
your soul.
12 Conduct yourselves with such honor among the
Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers,
they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the
day He visits us.

Submission to Authorities

(Romans 13:1–7)

13 Therefore[g] submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to
every human institution, whether to the king as the
supreme authority,
14 or to governors as those sent by him to punish those
who do wrong and to praise those who do right.
15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should
silence the ignorance of foolish men.
16 Live in freedom, but do not use your freedom as a
cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.
17 Treat everyone with high regard: Love the brotherhood of believers,[h] fear God, honor the king.
18 Servants, submit yourselves to your masters with all
respect,[i] not only to those who are good and gentle,
but even to those who are unreasonable.
19 For if anyone endures the pain of unjust suffering
because he is conscious of God, this is to be commended.
20 How is it to your credit if you are beaten for doing
wrong and you endure it? But if you suffer for doing
good and you endure it, this is commendable before
God.

Christ's Example of Suffering

(Isaiah 53:1–8)

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also
suffered for us,[j] leaving you an example, that you
should follow in His footsteps:
22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in
His mouth."[k]
23 When they heaped abuse on Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats, but
entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.
24 He Himself bore our sins[l] in His body on the tree,
so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
"By His stripes you are healed."[m]
25 For "you were like sheep going astray,"[n] but now
you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of
your[o] souls.

3

Wives and Husbands

(Song of Solomon 1:1–17; Ephesians 5:22–33)

1 Wives, in the same way, submit yourselves to your
husbands, so that even if they refuse to believe the
word, they will be won over without words by the
behavior of their wives
2 when they see your pure and reverent demeanor.
3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair or gold jewelry or fine
clothes,
4 but from the inner disposition of your heart, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet[p] spirit, which is
precious in God's sight.
5 For this is how the holy women of the past adorned
themselves. They put their hope in God and were
submissive to their husbands,
6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord.
And you are her children if you do what is right and
refuse to give way to fear.
7 Husbands, in the same way, dwell with your wives in
an understanding manner. Treat them with honor as
a delicate vessel and as fellow heirs of the gracious
gift of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Turning from Evil

8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded and sympathetic,
love as brothers, be tenderhearted and courteous.[q]
9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but
with blessing, knowing that[r] to this you were called
so that you may inherit a blessing.
10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days
must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from
deceitful speech.

[a] **2:5** CT *house to be*
[b] **2:6** Isaiah 28:16 (see also LXX)
[c] **2:7** CT *to those who do not believe*
[d] **2:7** Psalm 118:22
[e] **2:8** Isaiah 8:14
[f] **2:10** Hosea 2:23
[g] **2:13** CT does not include *Therefore* .
[h] **2:17** Literally *Love the brotherhood*
[i] **2:18** Or *in all fear*
[j] **2:21** CT *for you*
[k] **2:22** Isaiah 53:9
[l] **2:24** Isaiah 53:4 (see also LXX)
[m] **2:24** Isaiah 53:5
[n] **2:25** Isaiah 53:6
[o] **2:25** F35 *our*
[p] **3:4** WH *quiet and gentle*
[q] **3:8** CT *and humble*
[r] **3:9** CT *blessing, because*

11 He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek
peace and pursue it.
12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and
His ears are inclined to their prayer. But the face of
the Lord is against those who do evil."[a]
13 Who can harm you if you are imitators of[b] what is
good?

Suffering for Righteousness

14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you
are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be
shaken."[c]
15 But in your hearts sanctify the Lord God.[d] Always
be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks
you the reason for the hope that is in you. But
respond with gentleness and respect,
16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who slan-
der you as evildoers[e] may be put to shame by your
good behavior in Christ.
17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing
good than for doing evil.
18 For Christ also suffered[f] for sins once for all, the
righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you[g] to God.
He was put to death in the body but made alive in
the Spirit,
19 in whom[h] He also went and preached to the spirits
in prison
20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently
in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.
In the ark a few people, only eight souls, were saved
through water.
21 And this water symbolizes the baptism that now
saves us also[i] — not the removal of dirt from the
body, but the pledge of[j] a clear conscience toward
God — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand
of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject
to Him.

4

Living for God's Glory

(1 Corinthians 10:23–33)

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us[k] in His body,
arm yourselves with the same resolve, because any-
one who has suffered in his body is done with sin.
2 Consequently, he does not live out his remaining time
on earth for human passions, but for the will of God.
3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime[l] car-
rying out the same desires as the Gentiles: living
in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing,
and detestable idolatry.
4 Because of this, they consider it strange of you not
to plunge with them into the same flood of reckless
indiscretion, and they heap abuse on you.
5 But they will have to give an account to Him who is
ready to judge the living and the dead.
6 That is why the gospel was preached even to those
who are now dead,[m] so that they might be judged
as men in the flesh, but live according to God in the
spirit.
7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-
minded and sober, so that you can pray.[n]
8 Above all, love one another deeply, because love will
cover over[o] a multitude of sins.[p]
9 Show hospitality to one another without complain-
ing.
10 As good stewards of the manifold grace of God, each
of you should use whatever gift he has received to
serve one another.
11 If anyone speaks, he should speak as one conveying
the words of God. If anyone serves, he should serve
with the strength God provides, so that in all things
God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom
be the glory and the power forever and ever.[q]
Amen.

Suffering as Christians

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial that
has come upon you, as though something strange
were happening to you.
13 But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ,
so that you may be overjoyed at the revelation of His
glory.
14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are
blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests
on you. Indeed, on their part He is blasphemed, but
on your part He is glorified.[r]
15 Indeed, none of you should suffer as a murderer or
thief or wrongdoer, or even as a meddler.
16 But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed,
but glorify God in this matter.[s]
17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of
God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome
be for those who disobey the gospel of God?
18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what
will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"[t]

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[a] **3:12** Psalm 34:12–16 (see also LXX)

[b] **3:13** CT *zealous for*

[c] **3:14** Or *"Do not fear their threats; do not be shaken."*Isaiah 8:12

[d] **3:15** CT *But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.*This sentence may also be included with the quotation from the previous verse; see Isaiah 8:13.

[e] **3:16** CT does not include *as evildoers.*

[f] **3:18** NE and WH *died*

[g] **3:18** GOC, F35, and TR *us*

[h] **3:19** Or *in the Spirit,* **19**in which

[i] **3:21** CT *you also*

[j] **3:21** Or *appeal for*

[k] **4:1** CT does not include *for us.*

[l] **4:3** CT *For you have spent enough time in the past*

[m] **4:6** Or *to those who are dead*

[n] **4:7** Literally *for the sake of your prayers*

[o] **4:8** CT and F35 *covers over*

[p] **4:8** See Proverbs 10:12.

[q] **4:11** F35 does not include *and ever*.

[r] **4:14** CT does not include *Indeed, on their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

[s] **4:16** NA28, MT, and TR; NA27, SBL, TH, and WH *glorify God in that name* or *glorify God that you bear that name*

[t] **4:18** Proverbs 11:31 (see also LXX)

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will
should entrust their souls to their faithful Creator
and continue to do good.

5

Instructions to Elders

(1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9)

1 As a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings, and
a partaker of the glory to be revealed, I appeal to the
elders[a] among you:
2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is among you, watch-
ing over them[b] not out of compulsion, but willingly;
[c] not out of greed, but out of eagerness;
3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being
examples to the flock.
4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will re-
ceive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Cast Your Cares on Him

5 Young men, in the same way, submit yourselves to
your elders. And all of you, clothe yourselves with
humility, being subject to one another,[d] because,
"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the hum-
ble."[e]
6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty
hand, so that in due time He may exalt you.
7 Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for
you.
8 Be sober-minded and alert.[f] Your adversary the
devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking
someone to devour.
9 Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the
knowledge that your brothers throughout the world
are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

Benediction and Farewell

10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the
God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal
glory in Christ Jesus,[g] will Himself restore you, se-
cure you, strengthen you, and establish you.
11 To Him be the glory and[h] the power forever and
ever.[i] Amen.
12 Through Silvanus,[j] whom I regard as a faithful
brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging
you and testifying that this is the true grace of God.
Stand firm in it.
13 The church in Babylon,[k] chosen together with you,
sends you greetings, as does my son Mark.
14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of
you who are in Christ Jesus.[l] Amen.[m]

[a] **5:1** NA27, SBL, TH, NE, and WH *I appeal therefore to the elders*

[b] **5:2** NE and WH do not include *watching over them*.

[c] **5:2** WH, MT, and TR; NA, SBL, and TH *but willingly, as God would have you*

[d] **5:5** CT *with humility toward one another*

[e] **5:5** Proverbs 3:34 (see also LXX)

[f] **5:8** F35 and TR *alert, because*

[g] **5:10** CT *in Christ*

[h] **5:11** CT does not include *the glory and*.

[i] **5:11** NA and WH do not include *and ever*.

[j] **5:12** That is, Silas

[k] **5:13** Literally *She in Babylon*

[l] **5:14** NA, SBL, TH, and WH *in Christ*

[m] **5:14** CT does not include *Amen*.

2 Peter

Second Epistle of Peter

1

A Greeting from Peter

(1 Peter 1:1–2)

1 Simon[a] Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To
those who through the righteousness of our God and
Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious
as ours:
2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the
knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Partakers of the Divine Nature

3 His divine power has given us everything we need
for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him
who called us by His own[b] glory and excellence.
4 Through these He has given us His precious and mag-
nificent[c] promises, so that through them you may
become partakers of the divine nature, now that you
have escaped the corruption in the world caused by
evil desires.
5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your
faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge;
6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control,
perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;
7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly
kindness, love.
8 For if you possess these qualities and continue to
grow in them, they will keep you from being inef-
fective and unproductive in your knowledge of our
Lord Jesus Christ.
9 But whoever lacks these traits is nearsighted to the
point of blindness, having forgotten that he has been
cleansed from his past sins.
10 Therefore, brothers, strive to make your calling and
election sure. For if you practice these things you
will never stumble,
11 and you will receive a lavish reception into the eter-
nal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
12 Therefore I will not neglect to[d] remind you of these
things, even though you know them and are estab-
lished in the truth you now have.
13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as
I live in the tent of my body ,[e]
14 because I know that this tent will soon be laid aside,
as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.
15 And I will make every effort to ensure that after my
departure, you will be able to recall these things at
all times.

Eyewitnesses of His Majesty

(Matthew 17:1–13; Mark 9:1–13; Luke 9:28–36)

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when
we made known to you the power and coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of
His majesty.
17 For He received honor and glory from God the Fa-
ther when the voice came to Him from the Majestic
Glory, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am
well pleased.”[f]
18 And we ourselves heard this voice from heaven
when we were with Him on the holy mountain.
19 We also have the word of the prophets as confirmed
beyond doubt. And you will do well to pay attention
to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the
day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of
Scripture comes from one’s own interpretation.
21 For no such prophecy was ever brought forth by the
will of man, but holy[g] men of God spoke as they
were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2

Deliverance from False Prophets

(Jude 1:3–16)

1 Now there were also false prophets among the peo-
ple, just as there will be false teachers among you.
They will secretly introduce destructive heresies,
even denying the Master who bought them — bring-
ing swift destruction on themselves.
2 Many will follow in their depravity,[h] and because of
them the way of truth will be defamed.
3 In their greed, these false teachers will exploit you
with deceptive words. The longstanding verdict
against them remains in force, and their destruction
will not sleep.[i]
4 For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned,
but cast them deep into hell,[j] placing them in chains
[k] of darkness to be held for judgment;
5 if He did not spare the ancient world when He
brought the flood on its ungodly people, but pre-
served Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among
the eight;
6 if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah
to destruction,[l] reducing them to ashes as an exam-
ple of what is coming on the ungodly;[m]
7 and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by
the depraved conduct of the lawless
8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after
day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the
lawless deeds he saw and heard)—

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[a] **1:1** Literally *Simeon* ; Scrivener TR *Simon*

[b] **1:3** Or *to His own*

[c] **1:4** TR *magnificent and precious*

[d] **1:12** CT *I will always*

[e] **1:13** Literally *as long as I am in this tent*

[f] **1:17** Matthew 17:5; see also Mark 9:7 and Luke 9:35.

[g] **1:21** CT does not include *holy*.

[h] **2:2** TR *destructive ways*

[i] **2:3** NA, SBL, TH, TR, and WH *does not sleep*

[j] **2:4** Greek *cast them into Tartarus*; see the First Book of Enoch (1 Enoch 13:1–11 and 1 Enoch 20:1–4).

[k] **2:4** TH and WH *in pits*

[l] **2:6** WH does not include *to destruction*.

[m] **2:6** Or *on future generations of the ungodly*

9 if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue
the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for
punishment on the day of judgment.
10 Such punishment is specially reserved for those who
indulge the corrupt desires of the flesh and despise
authority. Bold and self-willed, they are unafraid to
slander glorious beings.[a]
11 Yet not even angels, though greater in strength
and power, dare to bring such slanderous charges
against them before the Lord.[b]
12 These men are like irrational animals, creatures of
instinct, born to be captured and destroyed. They
blaspheme in matters they do not understand, and
like such creatures, they will be destroyed.[c]
13 They will receive the wages[d] of their wickedness.
They consider it a pleasure to carouse in broad day-
light. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their
deception as they feast with you.
14 Their eyes are full of adultery; their desire for sin is
never satisfied; they seduce the unstable. They are
accursed children with hearts trained in greed.
15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to
follow the way of Balaam son of Bosor,[e] who loved
the wages of wickedness.
16 But he was rebuked for his transgression by a don-
key, otherwise without speech, that spoke with a
man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.
17 These men are springs without water and clouds
[f] driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is forever[g]
reserved for them.
18 With lofty but empty words, they appeal to the sen-
sual passions of the flesh and entice those who have
truly escaped[h] from others who live in error.
19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves
are slaves to depravity. For a man is a slave to what-
ever has mastered him.
20 If indeed they have escaped the corruption of the
world through the knowledge of the[i] Lord and Sav-
ior Jesus Christ, only to be entangled and overcome
by it again, their final condition is worse than it was
at first.
21 It would have been better for them not to have
known the way of righteousness than to have known
it and then to turn away from the holy command-
ment passed on to them.
22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its
vomit,"[j] and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her
wallowing in the mud."

3

The Coming Judgment

(Genesis 7:1–24; Jude 1:17–23)

1 Beloved, this is now my second letter to you. Both of
them are reminders to stir you to wholesome think-
ing
2 by recalling what was foretold by the holy prophets
and commanded by our Lord and Savior through
your apostles.
3 Most importantly, you must understand that in the
last days scoffers will come, following[k] their own
evil desires.[l]
4 "Where is the promise of His coming?" they will ask.
"Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything con-
tinues as it has from the beginning of creation."
5 But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago
by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was
formed out of water and by water,
6 through which[m] the world of that time perished in
the flood.
7 And by His word,[n] the present heavens and earth are
reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment
and destruction of ungodly men.

The Day of the Lord

(Zephaniah 1:7–18; Malachi 4:1–6; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11)

8 Beloved, do not let this one thing escape your notice:
With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a
thousand years are like a day.[o]
9 The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some
understand slowness, but is patient with us,[p] not
wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to
repentance.
10 But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night.[q] The heavens will disappear with a roar, the
elements will be destroyed[r] by fire, and the earth
and its works will be burned up.[s]
11 Since everything will be destroyed, then,[t] what
kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct
yourselves in holiness and godliness
12 as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day
of God, when the heavens will be destroyed by fire
and the elements will melt in the heat.
13 But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking
forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where
righteousness dwells.

[a] **2:10** Or *to blaspheme angelic majesties*

[b] **2:11** SBL does not include *before the Lord.*

[c] **2:12** CT and HF *they too will be destroyed*

[d] **2:13** NA, SBL, and WH *The harm they will suffer is the wages*

[e] **2:15** NA, SBL, MT, and TR; WH *Beor*

[f] **2:17** CT *mists*

[g] **2:17** CT does not include *forever*.

[h] **2:18** CT *who are just escaping*

[i] **2:20** Some CT *our*

[j] **2:22** Proverbs 26:11

[k] **3:3** CT *scoffing (and) following*

[l] **3:3** See Jude 1:18.

[m] **3:6** NA *through whom*

[n] **3:7** CT and Scrivener TR *by that same word*

[o] **3:8** See Psalm 90:4.

[p] **3:9** CT *with you*

[q] **3:10** CT does not include *in the night*.

[r] **3:10** Or *dissolved*; also in verses 11 and 12

[s] **3:10** Some CT *will be laid bare* or *will be exposed* or *will be disclosed*; SBL, NE, and WH *will be found*, i.e., *will be unable to hide.*

[t] **3:11** CT *destroyed in this way*

Final Exhortations

14 Therefore, beloved, as you anticipate these things,
make every effort to be found at peace— spotless
and blameless in His sight.[a]
15 Consider also that our Lord's patience brings salva-
tion, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you
with the wisdom God gave him.
16 He writes this way in all his letters,[b] speaking in
them about such matters. Some parts of his letters
are hard to understand, which ignorant and unsta-
ble people distort,[c] as they do the rest of the Scrip-
tures, to their own destruction.
17 Therefore, beloved, since you already know these
things, be on your guard so that you will not be car-
ried away by the error of the lawless and fall from
your secure standing.
18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both
now and to the day of eternity. Amen.[d]

[a] **3:14** Or *to be found by Him in peace, without spot and without blemish.*

[b] **3:16** Or *in all the letters*

[c] **3:16** NA28 *will distort*

[d] **3:18** NE, WH, and NA28 do not include *Amen.*

1 John

First Epistle of John

1

The Word of Life

(Luke 24:36–49; John 20:19–23)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have gazed upon and touched with our own hands — this is the Word of life.
2 And this is the life that was revealed; we have seen it and testified to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.
3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.
4 We write these things to you[a] so that our[b] joy may be complete.

Walking in the Light

(John 8:12–29)

5 And this is the message[c] we have heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
6 If we say we have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
7 But[d] if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ[e] His Son cleanses us from all sin.
8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar, and His word is not in us.

2

Jesus Our Advocate

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate before the Father — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
2 He Himself is the atoning sacrifice[f] for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
3 By this we can be sure that we have come to know Him: if we keep His commandments.
4 If anyone says, "I know Him," but does not keep His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
5 But if anyone keeps His word, the love of God has been truly perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him:
6 Whoever claims to abide in Him must walk as Jesus walked.

A New Commandment

7 Brothers,[g] I am not writing to you a new commandment, but an old one, which you have had from the beginning. This commandment is the message you have heard from the beginning.[h]
8 Then again, I am also writing to you a new commandment, which is true in Him and also in you. For the darkness is fading and the true light is already shining.
9 If anyone claims to be in the light but hates his brother, he is still in the darkness.
10 Whoever loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause of stumbling in him.
11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness. He does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven through His name.
13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.[i] I am writing[j] to you, children, because you know the Father.
14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do Not Love the World

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not from the Father but from the world.
17 The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever.

Beware of Antichrists

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour.
19 They went out from us, but they did not belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But their departure made it clear that none of them belonged to us.
20 You, however, have an anointing from the Holy One,

[a] **1:4** CT does not include *to you*.
[b] **1:4** ALT and Scrivener TR *your*
[c] **1:5** GOC and Stephanus TR *the promise*
[d] **1:7** NA28 does not include *But*.
[e] **1:7** CT *of Jesus*
[f] **2:2** Or *the propitiation*
[g] **2:7** CT *Beloved*
[h] **2:7** CT does not include *from the beginning*.
[i] **2:13** Or *you have overcome evil*; also in verse 14
[j] **2:13** CT and GOC *I have written*

and you know all things.[a]
21 I have not written to you because you lack knowledge of the truth, but because you have it, and because no lie comes from the truth.
22 Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, who denies the Father and the Son.
23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.[b]

Remain in Christ

24 As for you, then,[c] let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If it does, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father.
25 And this is the promise that He Himself made to us: eternal life.
26 I have written these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.
27 And as for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But just as the same[d] true and genuine anointing teaches you about all things, so you must remain[e] in Him as you have been taught.
28 And now, little children, remain in Christ,[f] so that when He appears, we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.
29 If you know that He is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.

3

Children of God

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.[g] The reason the world does not know you is that it did not know Him.
2 Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears,[h] we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.
3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as Christ is pure.[i]
4 Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness as well. Indeed, sin is lawlessness.[j]
5 But you know that Christ appeared to take away our [k] sins, and in Him there is no sin.
6 No one who remains in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has seen Him or known Him.
7 Little children,[l] let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.[m]
8 The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil.
9 Anyone born of God refuses to practice sin, because God's seed abides in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.
10 By this the children of God are distinguished from the children of the devil: Anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

Love One Another

(John 13:31–35; Romans 12:9–13)

11 This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.
12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did Cain slay him? Because his own deeds were evil, while those of his brother were righteous.
13 So do not be surprised, my brothers,[n] if the world hates you.
14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love his brother[o] remains in death.
15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer.
16 By this we know what love is:[p] Jesus laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
17 If anyone with earthly possessions sees his brother in need, but withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God abide in him?
18 My[q] little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in action and truth.
19 And by this we know that we belong to the truth, and assure[r] our hearts in His presence:
20 Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and He knows all things.
21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,[s] we have confidence before God,
22 and we will receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what is pleasing in His sight.
23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and we should love one another just as He commanded.[t]

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[a] **2:20** NA, SBL, and WH literal *and all of you know*.

[b] **2:23** CT and TR include *but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.*

[c] **2:24** CT does not include *then*.

[d] **2:27** CT *just as His*

[e] **2:27** CT *(so) remain*

[f] **2:28** Literally *remain in Him*

[g] **3:1** CT includes *And that is what we are!*

[h] **3:2** Literally *when He appears* or *when it appears*

[i] **3:3** Literally *just as He is pure*

[j] **3:4** Or *is violation of the Law*

[k] **3:5** CT does not include *our*.

[l] **3:7** NA28 *Young children in training*

[m] **3:7** Literally *He is righteous*

[n] **3:13** CT *surprised, brothers*

[o] **3:14** CT does not include *his brother*.

[p] **3:16** Scrivener TR *what the love of God is*

[q] **3:18** CT does not include *My* .

[r] **3:19** CT *we will know… and will assure*

[s] **3:21** WH does not include *us*.

[t] **3:23** CT and TR *commanded us*

24 Whoever keeps His commandments remains in God,
and God in him. And by this we know that He
remains in us: by the Spirit He has given us.

4

Testing the Spirits

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spir-
its to see whether they are from God. For many false
prophets have gone out into the world.
2 By this you will know[a] the Spirit of God: Every spirit
that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
is from God,
3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ
has come in the flesh[b] is not from God. This is
the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard
is coming and which is already in the world at this
time.
4 You, little children, are from God and have overcome
them, because greater is He who is in you than he
who is in the world.
5 They are of the world. That is why they speak from
the world's perspective, and the world listens to
them.
6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us;
whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That
is how we know the Spirit[c] of truth and the spirit of
deception.

Love Comes from God

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes
from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God
and knows God.
8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because
God is love.
9 This is how God's love was revealed among us: God
sent His one and only[d] Son into the world, so that
we might live through Him.
10 And love consists in this: not that we loved God, but
that He loved us and sent His Son as the atoning
sacrifice[e] for our sins.
11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one
another.
12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another,
God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us.
13 By this we know that we remain in Him, and He in
us: He has given us of His Spirit.
14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has
sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.
15 If anyone confesses that Jesus[f] is the Son of God,
God abides in him, and he in God.
16 And we have come to know and believe the love that
God has for us. God is love; whoever abides in love
abides in God, and God[g] in him.
17 In this way, love has been perfected among us,
so that we may have confidence on the day of judg-
ment; for in this world we are just like Him.
18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives
out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one
who fears has not been perfected in love.
19 We love Him[h] because He first loved us.
20 If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he
is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother,
whom he has seen, how can he love God, whom he
has not seen?[i]
21 And we have this commandment from Him: Who-
ever loves God must love his brother as well.

5

Overcoming the World

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has
been born of God, and everyone who loves the Fa-
ther also loves those born of Him.[j]
2 By this we know that we love the children of God:
when we love God and keep His commandments.
3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His
commandments. And His commandments are not
burdensome,
4 because everyone born of God overcomes the world.
And this is the victory that has overcome the world:
our[k] faith.
5 Who then overcomes the world? Only he who be-
lieves that Jesus is the Son of God.
6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus
Christ — not by water alone, but by water and blood.
And it is the Spirit who testifies to this, because the
Spirit is the truth.
7 For there are three that testify:[l]
8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood — and these three
are in agreement.

God's Testimony about His Son

9 Even if we accept human testimony, the testimony of
God is greater. For this is the testimony that God has
given about His Son.
10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testi-
mony within him; whoever does not believe God
has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not
believed in the testimony that God has given about
His Son.
11 And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal
life, and this life is in His Son.
12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not
have the Son of God does not have life.

Effective Prayer

13 I have written these things to you who believe in the
name of the Son of God, so that you may know that
you have eternal life and that you may believe in the

[a] **4:2** Literally *By this is known*

[b] **4:3** CT *does not confess Jesus*

[c] **4:6** Or *spirit*

[d] **4:9** Or *only begotten* or *unique*

[e] **4:10** Or *as a propitiation*

[f] **4:15** WH *Jesus Christ*

[g] **4:16** Literally *and God abides*

[h] **4:19** CT does not include *Him.*

[i] **4:20** CT *whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.*

[j] **5:1** Literally *and everyone loving the One having begotten also loves the one having been begotten from Him.*

[k] **5:4** ALT and HF *your*

[l] **5:7** TR and GOC *three that testify in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are One.* **8**And there are three that testify on earth:

name of the Son of God.[a]
14 And this is the confidence that we have before Him:
If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we
ask, we know that we already possess what we have
asked of Him.
16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not
leading to death, he should ask God, who will give
life to those who commit this kind of sin. There is a
sin that leads to death; I am not saying he should ask
regarding that sin.
17 All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is sin that does
not lead to death.

The True God

18 We know that anyone born of God does not keep
on sinning; the one who was born of God protects
himself,[b] and the evil one[c] cannot touch him.
19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole
world is under the power of the evil one.
20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has
given us understanding, so that we may know Him
who is true; and we are in Him who is true — in His
Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.
21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.[d]

[a] **5:13** CT does not include *and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.*

[b] **5:18** CT *the One who was born of God protects him* or *God protects the one born of Him*

[c] **5:18** Or *evil*; similarly in verse 19

[d] **5:21** CT does not include *Amen.*

2 John

Second Epistle of John

1

A Greeting from the Elder

(3 John 1:1–4)

1 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom
I love in the truth — and not I alone, but also all who
know the truth —
2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with
us forever:
3 Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and
from the Lord Jesus Christ,[a] the Son of the Father,
will be with us in truth and love.

Walking in the Truth

(John 8:30–47)

4 I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking
in the truth, just as the Father has commanded us.
5 And now I urge you, dear lady — not as a new com-
mandment to you,[b] but one we have had from the
beginning — that we love one another.
6 And this is love, that we walk according to His com-
mandments. This is the very commandment you
have heard from the beginning, that you must walk
in love.

Beware of Deceivers

7 For many deceivers have entered[c] into the world,
refusing to confess the coming of Jesus Christ in
the flesh. Any such person is the deceiver and the
antichrist.
8 Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what
we have worked for,[d] but that you may be fully
rewarded.
9 Anyone who transgresses[e] without remaining in the
teaching of Christ does not have God. Whoever re-
mains in the teaching of Christ[f] has both the Father
and the Son.
10 If anyone comes to you but does not bring this
teaching, do not receive him into your home or even
greet him.
11 Whoever greets such a person shares in his evil
deeds.

Conclusion

(3 John 1:13–14)

12 I have many things to write to you, but I would
prefer not to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I
hope to come and speak with you face to face,[g] so
that our[h] joy may be complete.

13 The children of your elect sister send you greetings.
Amen.[i]

[a] **1:3** CT *and from Jesus Christ*

[b] **1:5** Literally *not as a new commandment I am writing to you*

[c] **1:7** CT *have gone out*

[d] **1:8** TH, NE, and WH *what you have worked for*

[e] **1:9** CT *runs ahead*

[f] **1:9** CT *in His teaching*

[g] **1:12** Literally *mouth to mouth*

[h] **1:12** SBL and WH *your*

[i] **1:13** CT does not include *Amen.*

3 John

Third Epistle of John

1

A Greeting from the Elder

(2 John 1:1–3)

1 The elder, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth:
2 Beloved, I pray that in every way you may prosper and enjoy good health, as your soul also prospers.
3 For I was overjoyed when the brothers came and testified about your devotion to the truth, in which you continue to walk.
4 I have no greater joy[a] than to hear that my children are walking in truth.[b]

Gaius Commended for Hospitality

5 Beloved, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and for those who are[c] strangers to you.
6 They have testified to the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.
7 For they went out on behalf of the Name,[d] accepting nothing from the Gentiles.
8 Therefore we ought to receive[e] such men, so that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

Diotrephes and Demetrius

9 I have written to the church about this,[f] but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not accept our instruction.
10 So if I come, I will call attention to his malicious slander against us. And unsatisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers and forbids those who want to do so, even putting them out of the church.
11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.
12 Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also testify for him, and you know[g] that our testimony is true.

Conclusion

(2 John 1:12–13)

13 I have many things to write,[h] but I would prefer not to do so with pen and ink.
14 Instead, I hope to see you soon and speak with you face to face.[i] Peace to you. The friends here send you greetings. Greet each of our friends there by name.

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[a] **1:4** WH *grace*

[b] **1:4** CT *in the truth*

[c] **1:5** CT *even though they are*

[d] **1:7** Scrivener TR *His name*

[e] **1:8** CT *to support*

[f] **1:9** Literally *I have written to the church*; CT *I have written something to the church*

[g] **1:12** F35 *we know*

[h] **1:13** CT *to write to you*

[i] **1:14** Literally *and we will speak mouth to mouth*; some translators begin a new verse (15) after *face to face.*

Jude

Epistle of Jude

1

A Greeting from Jude

(James 1:1)

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,
To those who are called, sanctified[a] by God the Father, and kept in Jesus Christ:
2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

God's Judgment on the Ungodly

(2 Peter 3:1–7)

3 Beloved, although I made every effort to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt it necessary to write and urge you to contend earnestly for the faith entrusted once for all to the saints.
4 For certain men have crept in among you unnoticed — ungodly ones who were designated long ago for condemnation. They turn the grace of our God into a license for immorality, and they deny God[b] our only Master and the Lord Jesus Christ.
5 Although you are fully aware of this, I want to remind you that after the Lord[c] had delivered His people out of the land of Egypt, He destroyed those who did not believe.
6 And the angels who did not stay within their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling— these He has kept in eternal chains under darkness, bound for judgment on that great day.
7 In like manner, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who indulged in sexual immorality and pursued strange flesh, are on display as an example of those who sustain the punishment of eternal fire.
8 Yet in the same way these dreamers defile their bodies, reject authority, and slander glorious beings.
9 But even the archangel Michael, when he disputed with the devil over the body of Moses, did not presume to bring a slanderous charge against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"[d]
10 These men, however, slander what they do not understand, and like irrational animals, they will be destroyed by the things they do instinctively.
11 Woe to them! They have traveled the path of Cain; they have rushed for profit into the error of Balaam; they have perished in Korah's rebellion.
12 These men are hidden reefs[e] in your love feasts, shamelessly feasting with you but shepherding only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried along by the wind; fruitless trees in autumn, twice dead after being uprooted.
13 They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.
14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about them: "Behold, the Lord is coming with myriads of His holy ones
15 to execute judgment on everyone, and to convict all the ungodly among them[f] of every ungodly act of wickedness and every harsh word spoken against Him by ungodly sinners."[g]
16 These men are discontented grumblers, following after their own lusts; their mouths spew arrogance; they flatter others for their own advantage.

A Call to Persevere

(Hebrews 10:19–39; 2 Peter 3:1–7)

17 But you, beloved, remember what was foretold by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ
18 when they said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow after their own ungodly desires."[h]
19 These are the ones who cause divisions,[i] who are worldly and devoid of the Spirit.
20 But you, beloved, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,
21 keep yourselves in the love of God as you await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life.
22 And indeed, have mercy on some, making a distinction;[j]
23 save others with fear[k] by snatching them from the fire,[l] hating even the clothing stained by the flesh.

Doxology

(Romans 14:24–26)

24 Now to Him who is able to keep them from stumbling and to present them[m] unblemished in His glorious presence, with great joy —
25 to the only wise[n] God our Savior be glory, majesty, dominion and authority[o] both now and for all eternity. Amen.

[a] **1:1** CT *loved*

[b] **1:4** CT and GOC do not include *God*.

[c] **1:5** SBL and NA28 *after Jesus*

[d] **1:9** This account is attributed by Origen to the Testament of Moses, also called the Assumption of Moses.

[e] **1:12** Or *are blemishes*

[f] **1:15** CT does not include *among them*.

[g] **1:15** See the First Book of Enoch (1 Enoch 1:9).

[h] **1:18** See 2 Peter 3:3.

[i] **1:19** Scrivener TR *who separate themselves*

[j] **1:22** CT *have mercy on those who doubt*

[k] **1:23** CT does not include *with fear*.

[l] **1:23** CT includes *and to still others show mercy tempered with fear*.

[m] **1:24** CT and Scrivener TR *you from stumbling and present (you)*

[n] **1:25** CT does not include *wise*.

[o] **1:25** CT includes *through Jesus Christ our Lord before all time*.

Revelation

Revelation of Jesus Christ

1

Prologue

(Daniel 12:1–13)

1 This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave
Him to show His servants what must soon[a] come to
pass. He made it known by sending His angel to His
servant John,
2 who testifies to everything he saw.[b] This is the word
of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud[c] the words of this
prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and obey
what is written in it, because the time is near.

John Greets the Seven Churches

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:[d]
Grace and peace to you from God who[e] is and was
and is to come, and from the seven spirits[f] before
His throne,
5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-
born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of
the earth. To Him who loves us and has washed[g] us
from our sins by His blood,
6 who has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God
and Father — to Him be the glory and power forever
and ever![h] Amen.
7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye
will see Him — even those who pierced Him. And all
the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.
So shall it be! Amen.
8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega,[i] " says the Lord God,
who is and was and is to come — the Almighty.

John's Vision on Patmos

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation
and kingdom and perseverance that are in Jesus,
was on the island of Patmos because of the word of
God and my testimony about Jesus Christ.[j]
10 On the Lord's day I was in the Spirit, and I heard
behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
11 saying,[k] "Write on a scroll what you see and send it
to the seven churches:[l] to Ephesus, Smyrna, Perga-
mum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."
12 And there I turned[m] to see the voice that was speak-
ing with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden
lampstands,
13 and among the seven[n] lampstands was One like the
Son of Man,[o] dressed in a long robe, with a golden
sash around His chest.
14 The hair of His head was white like wool, as white
as snow, and His eyes were like a blazing fire.
15 His feet were like polished bronze refined in a fur-
nace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters.
16 He held in His right hand seven stars, and a sharp
double-edged sword came from His mouth. His face
was like the sun shining at its brightest.
17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man.
But He placed His right hand on me and said,[p] "Do
not be afraid. I am the First and the Last,
18 the Living One. I was dead, and behold, now I am
alive forever and ever. Amen.[q] And I hold the keys
of Death and of Hades.[r]
19 Therefore[s] write down the things you have seen,
the things that are, and the things that will happen
after this.
20 This is the mystery of the seven stars you saw in My
right hand and of the seven golden lampstands:[t]
The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches,
and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

2

To the Church in Ephesus

(Acts 19:8–12; Ephesians 1:1–2)

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These
are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in
His right hand and walks among the seven golden
lampstands.
2 I know your deeds, your labor, and your persever-
ance. I know that you cannot tolerate those who are
evil, and you have tested and exposed as liars those
who falsely claim to be apostles.
3 Without growing weary, you have persevered and
endured many things[u] for the sake of My name.
4 But I have this against you: You have abandoned your
first love.
5 Therefore, keep in mind how far you have fallen.
Repent and perform the deeds you did at first. But if
you do not repent, I will come to you quickly[v] and
remove your lampstand from its place.

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[a] **1:1** Or *suddenly* or *quickly*

[b] **1:2** ALT and F35 *saw, what is now, and what must take place after this.*

[c] **1:3** Or *who reads*

[d] **1:4** Literally *in Asia*; Asia was a Roman province in what is now western Turkey.

[e] **1:4** ALT, F35, CT, and TR *from Him who*

[f] **1:4** Or *the sevenfold Spirit*

[g] **1:5** CT *has released*

[h] **1:6** WH does not include *and ever*.

[i] **1:8** TR includes *the Beginning and the End.*

[j] **1:9** CT *about Jesus*

[k] **1:11** TR *saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and,*

[l] **1:11** TR includes *in Asia.*

[m] **1:12** ALT, CT, and TR *Then I turned*

[n] **1:13** NA, SBL, and WH do not include *seven.*

[o] **1:13** Or *one like a son of man*; see Daniel 7:13.

[p] **1:17** TR *said to me*

[q] **1:18** CT and GOC do not include *Amen.*

[r] **1:18** TR *of Hades and of Death*

[s] **1:19** TR does not include *Therefore* .

[t] **1:20** ALT, F35, and TR *lampstands that you saw*

[u] **2:3** ALT and F35 *endured many things and persevered*

[v] **2:5** CT does not include *quickly*.

6 But you have this to your credit: You hate the works
of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to
the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant
the right to eat from the tree of life in the Paradise
of God.

To the Church in Smyrna

8 To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are
the words of the First and the Last, who died and
returned to life.
9 I know your works and[a] your affliction and your
poverty — though you are rich! And I am aware of
the slander of those who falsely claim to be Jews, but
are in fact a synagogue of Satan.
10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the
devil is about to throw some of you into prison to
test you, and you will suffer tribulation for ten days.
Be faithful even unto death, and I will give you the
crown of life.
11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says
to the churches. The one who overcomes will not be
harmed by the second death.

To the Church in Pergamum

12 To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
These are the words of the One who holds the sharp,
double-edged sword.
13 I know your works and where you live, where the
throne of Satan sits. Yet you hold to My name and did
not deny your faith in Me in[b] the days of My faithful
witness Antipas, who was killed among you where
Satan dwells.
14 But I have a few things against you, because some
of you hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught
Balak to place a stumbling block before the Israelites
so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and commit
sexual immorality.
15 In the same way, some of you also hold to the teach-
ing of the Nicolaitans.
16 Therefore[c] repent! Otherwise I will come to you
shortly and wage war against them with the sword
of My mouth.
17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says
to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will
give[d] the hidden manna. I will also give him a white
stone inscribed with a new name, known only to the
one who receives it.

To the Church in Thyatira

(Acts 16:11–15)

18 To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These
are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like a
blazing fire and whose feet are like polished bronze.
19 I know your deeds — your love, your faith, your
service, your perseverance — and your latest deeds
are greater than your first.
20 But I have this[e] against you: You tolerate that
woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By
her teaching she misleads My servants to be sexually
immoral and to eat food sacrificed to idols.
21 Even though I have given her time to repent of her
immorality, she is unwilling.
22 Behold, I will cast her onto a bed of sickness, and
those who commit adultery with her will suffer great
tribulation unless they repent of her[f] deeds.
23 Then I will strike her children dead, and all the
churches will know that I am the One who searches
minds and hearts, and I will repay each of you
according to your deeds.
24 But I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not
hold to her teaching and have not learned the so-
called deep things of Satan: I will place no further
burden upon you
25 than to hold fast to what you have until I come.
26 And to the one who overcomes and continues in My
work until the end, I will give authority over the
nations.
27 He will rule them with an iron scepter and shatter
them like pottery[g] — just as I have received author-
ity from My Father.
28 And I will give him the morning star.
29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says
to the churches.”

3

To the Church in Sardis

1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are
the words of the One who holds the seven spirits[h]
of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you
have a reputation[i] for being alive, yet you are dead.
2 Wake up and strengthen[j] what remains, which is
about to die; for I have found your deeds incomplete
in the sight of My[k] God.
3 Remember, then, what you have received and heard.
[l] Keep it and repent. If you do not wake up, I will
come upon you[m] like a thief, and you will not know
the hour when I will come upon you.
4 But you do have a few people in Sardis who have not
soiled their garments, and because they are worthy,
they will walk with Me in white.
5 Like them, he who overcomes will be dressed in
white. And I will never blot out[n] his name from the
Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My
Father and His angels.
6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says
to the churches.

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[a] **2:9** CT does not include *your works and* ; also in verse 13.

[b] **2:13** CT *even in*

[c] **2:16** ALT, F35, TH, and TR do not include *Therefore.*

[d] **2:17** ALT, F35, and TR *I will give the right to eat*

[e] **2:20** GOC and TR *a few things*

[f] **2:22** TR *their*

[g] **2:27** Psalm 2:9 (see also LXX)

[h] **3:1** Or *the sevenfold Spirit*

[i] **3:1** ALT and HF *a name*

[j] **3:2** ALT and HF *keep*

[k] **3:2** TR does not include *My.*

[l] **3:3** ALT does not include *and heard.*

[m] **3:3** CT does not include *upon you.*

[n] **3:5** Or *scrape off*

To the Church in Philadelphia

7 To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:
These are the words of the One who is holy and true,
who holds the key of David.
What He opens no one can shut (except Him who opens)
and no one can open.[a]
8 I know your deeds. Behold, I have placed before you
an open door, which no one can shut.
I know that you have only a little strength,
yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name.
9 As for those who belong to the synagogue of Satan,
who claim to be Jews but are liars instead,
I will make them come and bow down at your feet,
and they will know that I love you.
10 Because you have kept My command to persevere,
I will also keep you from the hour of testing
that is about to come upon the whole world,
to test those who dwell on the earth.
11 I am coming[b] soon.[c] Hold fast to what you have,
so that no one will take your crown.
12 The one who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God,
and he will never again leave it.
Upon him I will write the name of My God,
and the name of the city of My God (the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven from My God),
and My new name.
13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the Church in Laodicea

(Colossians 2:1–5)

14 To the angel of the church in Laodicea[d] write:
These are the words of the Amen,
the faithful and true Witness,
the Originator[e] of God's creation.
15 I know your deeds; you are neither cold nor hot.
How I wish you were one or the other!
16 So because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold —
I am about to vomit you out of My mouth!
17 You say, 'I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.'
But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.
18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire
so that you may become rich,
white garments so that you may be clothed
and your shameful nakedness not exposed,
and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.
19 Those I love, I rebuke and discipline.
Therefore be earnest and repent.
20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,
I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me.
21 To the one who overcomes,
I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne,
just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

[a] **3:7** See Isaiah 22:22 ; CT and TR *What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open.*
[b] **3:11** TR *Behold, I am coming*
[c] **3:11** Or *suddenly* or *quickly*
[d] **3:14** TR *of the Laodiceans*
[e] **3:14** Or *Beginning* or *Ruler*

4

The Throne in Heaven

1 After this I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven.
And the voice I had previously heard speak to me like a trumpet was saying,
"Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."
2 And[f] at once I was in the Spirit,
and I saw a throne standing in heaven,
with someone seated on it.
3 He looked like[g] jasper and carnelian,
and a rainbow that gleamed like an emerald encircled the throne.
4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones,
and on these thrones sat[h] twenty-four elders dressed in white,
with golden crowns on their heads.

Worship of the Creator

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder.
Before the throne burned seven torches of fire.
These are the seven spirits[i] of God.
6 And before the throne was something like a sea of glass, as clear as crystal.
In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, covered with eyes in front and back.
7 The first living creature was like a lion,
the second like a calf,
the third had the face of a man,[j] and the fourth was like an eagle in flight.
8 And each of the four living creatures had six wings
and was covered with eyes all around and within.
Day and night they never stop saying:
"Holy, Holy, Holy,[k] is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
9 And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,
10 the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne,
and they worship Him who lives forever and ever.
They cast their crowns before the throne, saying:
11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and God,[l] the Holy One,[m] to receive glory and honor and power,
for You created all things;
by Your will they exist and were created."

5

The Lamb Takes the Scroll

1 Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the One seated on the throne.
It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.

[f] **4:2** CT does not include *And* .
[g] **4:3** CT *And the One seated there looked like*
[h] **4:4** TR *on these thrones I saw seated*
[i] **4:5** Or *This is the sevenfold Spirit*
[j] **4:7** ALT, F35, TR, GOC, and CT *a face like a man*
[k] **4:8** F35 and HF *Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy*
[l] **4:11** TR does not include *and God.*
[m] **4:11** CT and TR do not include *the Holy One.*

2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice,
"Who is worthy to break the seals and open the
scroll?"
3 But no one in heaven above[a] or on earth or under
the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it.
4 And I began to weep bitterly, because no one was
found worthy to open[b] the scroll or look inside it.
5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep!
Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of
David, has triumphed to open the scroll and its seven
seals."
6 Then I saw a Lamb who appeared to have been slain,
standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the
four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had
seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the
seven spirits[c] of God sent out into all the earth.
7 And He came and took the scroll from the right hand
of the One seated on the throne.
8 When He had taken the scroll, the four living crea-
tures and the twenty-four elders fell down before
the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they were
holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the
prayers of the saints.
9 And they sang a new song: "Worthy are You to take
the scroll and open its seals, because You were slain,
and by Your blood You purchased us for God from[d]
every tribe and tongue and people and nation.
10 You have made them[e] to be kings[f] and priests to
serve our God, and they will reign upon[g] the earth."

The Lamb Exalted

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels
encircling the throne and the living creatures and
the elders, and their number was myriads of myri-
ads and thousands of thousands.
12 In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the
Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches
and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and
blessing!"
13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth
and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in
them, saying: "To Him who sits on the throne and to
the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power
forever and ever. Amen![h] "
14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen," and the
elders fell down and worshiped.[i]

6

The First Seal: The White Horse

1 Then I watched as the Lamb opened one of the seven
[j] seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures
say in a voice like thunder, "Come and see![k] "
2 So I saw[l] a white horse, and its rider held a bow. And
he was given a crown, and he rode out to overcome
and conquer.

The Second Seal: War

3 And when the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard
the second living creature say, "Come![m] "
4 Then another horse went forth. It was bright red, and
its rider was granted permission to take away peace
from the earth and to make men slay one another.
And he was given a great sword.

The Third Seal: Famine

5 And when the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard
the third living creature say, "Come and see!"[n] And
I saw a black horse, and its rider held in his hand a
pair of scales.
6 And I heard[o] a voice from among the four living
creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius,
[p] and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do
not harm the oil and wine."

The Fourth Seal: Death

7 And when the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard
the fourth[q] living creature say, "Come and see!"
8 Then I saw a pale green horse. Its rider's name was
Death, and Hades followed close behind. And he was
given[r] authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill
by sword, by famine, by plague, and by the beasts of
the earth.

The Fifth Seal: The Martyrs

9 And when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under
the altar the souls of those who had been slain for
the word of God and for the testimony of the Lamb
[s] that they had upheld.
10 And they cried out in a loud voice, "How long, O
Lord, holy and true, until You judge those who dwell
upon the earth and avenge our blood?"
11 Then each of them was given a white robe and told
to rest a little while longer until the full number of
their fellow servants, their brothers, were killed, just
as they had been killed.

[a] **5:3** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR do not include *above*.

[b] **5:4** F35 and TR include *and read*.

[c] **5:6** Or *the sevenfold Spirit*

[d] **5:9** CT *You purchased for God those from*

[e] **5:10** TR *us*

[f] **5:10** CT *a kingdom*

[g] **5:10** Or *they will reign over*; WH *they reign upon*; TR *we will reign upon*

[h] **5:13** GOC, CT, and TR do not include *Amen*.

[i] **5:14** TR includes *Him who lives forever and ever*.

[j] **6:1** TR does not include *seven*.

[k] **6:1** CT does not include *and see*; also in verse 7.

[l] **6:2** CT and TR *I looked and saw*; similarly in verse 8

[m] **6:3** TR includes *and see*.

[n] **6:5** GOC, ALT, CT, and F35 *"Come!" Then I looked*

[o] **6:6** CT includes *what sounded like*.

[p] **6:6** Greek *A choenix of wheat for a denarius*; A choenix was a Greek dry measure equivalent to 1.92 pints or 0.91 liters. A denarius was customarily a day's wage for a laborer; see Matthew 20:2.

[q] **6:7** GOC, CT, F35, and TR *the voice of the fourth*

[r] **6:8** CT and TR *they were given*

[s] **6:9** CT and TR do not include *of the Lamb*.

The Sixth Seal: Terror

12 And I watched as the Lamb opened the sixth seal,
and there was a great earthquake, and the sun be-
came black like sackcloth of goat hair, and the whole
[a] moon turned blood red,
13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth like unripe
figs dropping from a tree shaken by a great wind.
14 The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and
every mountain and island was moved from its
place.
15 Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the comman-
ders, the rich,[b] the mighty, and every slave and[c]
free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the
mountains.
16 And they said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall
on us and hide us[d] from the face of the One seated
on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.
17 For the great day of His[e] wrath has come, and who
is able to withstand it?"

7

144,000 Sealed

1 And[f] after this I saw four angels standing at the four
corners of the earth, holding back its four winds so
that no wind would blow on land or sea or on any
tree.
2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east,
with the seal of the living God. And he called out in
a loud voice to the four angels who had been given
power to harm the land and the sea:
3 "Do not harm the land or sea or trees until we have
placed a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our
God."
4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed,
144,000 from all the tribes of Israel:
5 From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the
tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000,
6 from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of
Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,
7 from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi
12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,
8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe
of Joseph 12,000, and from the tribe of Benjamin
12,000 .

Praise from the Great Multitude

9 After this I looked and saw a multitude too large to
count, from every nation and tribe and people and
tongue, standing before the throne and before the
Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding
palm branches in their hands.
10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation to our
God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and
around the elders and the four living creatures. And
they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped
God,
12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and
thanks and honor and power and strength be to our
God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me: "These in
white robes," he asked, "who are they, and where
have they come from?"
14 "Sir," I answered, "you know." So he replied, "These
are the ones who have come out of the great tribu-
lation; they have washed their robes and made them
white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason, they are before the throne of God
and serve Him day and night in His temple; and the
One seated on the throne will spread His tabernacle
over them.
16 'Never again will they hunger, and never will they
thirst; nor will the sun beat down upon them, nor
any scorching heat.'[g]
17 For the Lamb in the center of the throne shepherds
them.[h] 'He will lead them to springs of living wa-
ter,'[i] and 'God will wipe away every tear from their
eyes.'[j] "

8

The Seventh Seal

1 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was
silence in heaven for about half an hour.
2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and
they were given seven trumpets.
3 Then another angel, who had a golden censer, came
and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to
offer, along with the prayers of all the saints, on the
golden altar before the throne.
4 And the smoke of the incense, together with the
prayers of the saints, rose up before God from the
hand of the angel.
5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from
the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were
peals of thunder, rumblings,[k] flashes of lightning,
and an earthquake.

The First Four Trumpets

6 And the seven angels with the seven trumpets pre-
pared to sound them.
7 Then the first angel sounded his trumpet, and hail
and fire mixed with blood were hurled down upon
the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, along
with a third of the trees[l] and all the green grass.
8 Then the second angel sounded his trumpet, and
something like a great burning mountain[m] was
thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned to
blood,

[a] **6:12** ALT, F35, and TR do not include *whole*.
[b] **6:15** TR *the rich, and the commanders*
[c] **6:15** ALT, F35, and TR *and every*
[d] **6:16** See Hosea 10:8.
[e] **6:17** CT *Their*
[f] **7:1** CT does not include *And* .
[g] **7:16** Isaiah 49:10
[h] **7:17** See Psalm 23:1; ALT, CT, and TR *will be their shepherd*
[i] **7:17** Isaiah 49:10
[j] **7:17** Isaiah 25:8
[k] **8:5** ALT, F35, and TR *rumblings, peals of thunder*
[l] **8:7** TR *upon the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up*
[m] **8:8** GOC, CT, and TR *a great mountain burning with fire*

9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a
third of the ships were destroyed.
10 Then the third angel sounded his trumpet, and a
great star burning like a torch fell from heaven and
landed on a third of the rivers and on the springs of
water.
11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the
waters turned bitter like wormwood oil,[a] and many
people died from the bitter waters.
12 Then the fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a
third of the sun and moon and stars were struck. A
third of the stars were darkened, a third of the day
was without light, and a third of the night as well.
13 And as I observed, I heard an eagle[b] flying over-
head, calling in a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to
those who dwell on the earth, because of the trum-
pet blasts about to be sounded by the remaining
three angels!"

9

The Fifth Trumpet

1 Then the fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a
star that had fallen from heaven to earth, and it was
given the key to the pit of the Abyss.
2 The star opened the pit of the Abyss, and smoke rose
out of it like the smoke of a burning[c] furnace, and
the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke
from the pit.
3 And out of the smoke, locusts descended on the earth,
and they were given power like that of the scorpions
of the earth.
4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or
any plant or tree, but only those who did not have
the seal of God on their foreheads.
5 The locusts were not given power to kill them, but
only to torment them for five months, and their
torment was like the stinging of a scorpion.
6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it;
they will long to die, but death will escape them.
7 And the locusts looked like horses prepared for battle,
with something like crowns of gold on their heads;
and their faces were like the faces of men.
8 They had hair like that of women, and teeth like those
of lions.
9 They also had thoraxes like breastplates of iron, and
the sound of their wings was like the roar of many
horses and chariots rushing into battle.
10 They had tails with stingers like scorpions, which
had the power to injure people for five months.
11 They were ruled by a king, the angel of the Abyss.
His name in Hebrew is Abaddon,[d] and in Greek it is
Apollyon.[e]
12 The first woe has passed. Behold, two woes are still
to follow.

The Sixth Trumpet

13 Then the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I
heard a voice from the four horns[f] of the golden
altar before God
14 saying to the sixth angel with the trumpet, "Release
the four angels who are bound at the great river
Euphrates."
15 So the four angels who had been prepared for this
hour and day and month and year were released to
kill a third of mankind.
16 And the number of mounted troops was myriads of
myriads;[g] I heard their number.
17 Now the horses and riders in my vision looked like
this: The riders had breastplates the colors of fire,
sapphire, and sulfur. The heads of the horses were
like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths pro-
ceeded fire, smoke, and sulfur.
18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues[h]
of fire, smoke, and sulfur that proceeded from their
mouths.
19 For the power of the horses was in their mouths
and in their tails; indeed, their tails were like snakes,
having heads with which to inflict harm.
20 Now the rest of mankind who were not killed by
these plagues still did not repent of the works of
their hands. They did not stop worshiping demons
and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood,
which cannot see or hear or walk.
21 Furthermore, they did not repent of their murder,
sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft.

10

The Angel and the Small Scroll

(Ezekiel 3:1–15)

1 Then I saw a mighty[i] angel coming down from
heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow above
his head. His face was like the sun, and his legs were
like pillars of fire.
2 He held in his hand a scroll,[j] which lay open. He
placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on
the land.
3 Then he cried out in a loud voice like the roar of a lion.
And when he cried out, the seven thunders sounded
their voices.
4 When the seven thunders had spoken,[k] I was about
to put it in writing. But I heard a voice from heaven
saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said,
and do not write it down."
5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on
the land lifted up his right hand[l] to heaven.
6 And he swore by Him who lives forever and ever,
who created heaven and everything in it, the earth

[a] **8:11** Literally *became wormwood*
[b] **8:13** TR *angel*
[c] **9:2** CT and TR *great*
[d] **9:11** *Abaddon* means *Destruction*.
[e] **9:11** *Apollyon* means *Destroyer*.
[f] **9:13** SBL, TH, and WH *the horns*
[g] **9:16** CT and TR *two hundred million*
[h] **9:18** TR *things*
[i] **10:1** GOC, CT, and TR *another mighty*
[j] **10:2** ALT, CT, F35, and TR *small scroll*; also in verse 10
[k] **10:4** TR *had sounded their voices*
[l] **10:5** TR *his hand*

and everything in it, and the sea and everything in it: "There will be no more delay!
7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he begins to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled, just as He proclaimed to His servants the prophets."
8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the small scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land."
9 And I went to the angel and said, "Give me the small scroll." "Take it and eat it," he said. "It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey."[a]
10 So I took the scroll from the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach turned bitter.
11 And they told me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

11

The Two Witnesses

1 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff and was told,[b] "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers there.
2 But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months.
3 And I will empower my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."
4 These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord[c] of the earth.[d]
5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouths and devours their enemies. In this way, anyone who wants to harm them must be killed.
6 These witnesses have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall during the days of their prophecy, and power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.

The Witnesses Killed and Raised

7 When the two witnesses have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will wage war with them, and will overpower and kill them.
8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city — figuratively called Sodom and Egypt — where their[e] Lord was also crucified.
9 For three and a half days all peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will view their bodies and will not permit them to be laid in a tomb.[f]
10 And those who dwell on the earth will gloat over them, and will celebrate and give[g] one another gifts, because these two prophets had tormented them.
11 But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered the two witnesses, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them.
12 And I heard[h] a loud voice from heaven saying, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched them.
13 And in that day[i] there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand were killed in the quake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.
14 The second woe has passed. Behold, the third woe is coming shortly.

The Seventh Trumpet

15 Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices called out in heaven: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom[j] of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."
16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God[k] fell on their faces and worshiped God,
17 saying: "We give thanks to You, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was,[l] because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.
18 The nations were enraged,[m] and Your wrath has come. The time has come to judge the dead[n] and to reward Your servants the prophets, as well as the saints and those who fear Your name, both small and great— and to destroy those who destroy the earth."
19 Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord[o] appeared in His temple. And there were flashes of lightning, and rumblings, and peals of thunder,[p] and a great hail-storm.

12

The Woman and the Dragon

1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.
2 She was pregnant and crying out in the pain and agony of giving birth.
3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads.

[a] **10:9** See Numbers 5:24 and Ezekiel 3:3.
[b] **11:1** F35 and Scrivener TR *the angel stood and said*
[c] **11:4** TR *the God*
[d] **11:4** See Zechariah 4:14.
[e] **11:8** TR *our*
[f] **11:9** TR *in tombs*
[g] **11:10** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *send*
[h] **11:12** CT and TR *they heard* or *the witnesses heard*
[i] **11:13** CT and TR *hour*
[j] **11:15** TR *The kingdoms of the world have become (the kingdoms)*
[k] **11:16** RP 2018 *before the throne of God*
[l] **11:17** GOC, F35, and TR include *and who is to come.*
[m] **11:18** See Psalm 2:1.
[n] **11:18** GOC *nations*; see Daniel 12:2.
[o] **11:19** ALT, CT, and TR *the ark of His covenant*
[p] **11:19** GOC, ALT, CT, and TR include *and an earthquake.*

4 His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky, hurling
them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the
woman who was about to give birth, ready to devour
her child as soon as she gave birth.
5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who will
rule all the nations with an iron scepter.[a] And her
child was caught up to God and to His throne.
6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God
had prepared a place for her to be nourished for
1,260 days.

The War in Heaven

7 Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his
angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon
and his angels fought back.
8 But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer
was any place found in heaven for him and his
angels.
9 And the great dragon was hurled down — that an-
cient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver
of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and
his angels with him.
10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: "Now
have come the salvation and the power and the
kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ.
For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown
down — he who accuses them day and night before
our God.
11 They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony. And they did not
love their lives so as to shy away from death.
12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in
them! But woe to[b] the earth and the sea; with great
fury the devil has come down to you, knowing he has
only a short time."

The Woman Persecuted

13 And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown
to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given
birth to the male child.
14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle
to fly from the presence of the serpent to her place in
the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time,
and times, and half a time.
15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like
a river to overtake the woman and sweep her away
in the torrent.
16 But the earth helped the woman and opened its
mouth to swallow up the river that the dragon had
poured from his mouth.
17 And the dragon was enraged at the woman and
went to make war with the rest of her children, who
keep the commandments of God and hold to the
testimony of Jesus.[c] And I stood on the shore of the
sea.[d]

[a] **12:5** See Psalm 2:9 (see also LXX).

[b] **12:12** TR *to the inhabitants of*

[c] **12:17** TR *of Jesus Christ*

[d] **12:17** CT literal *And he stood on the sand of the sea.*Some texts number this sentence as verse 18; others include it with Revelation 13:1.

13

The Beast from the Sea

(Daniel 7:1–8)

1 Then I saw a beast with ten horns and seven heads
rising out of the sea. There were ten royal crowns on
its horns and blasphemous names[e] on its heads.
2 The beast I saw was like a leopard, with the feet of
a bear and the mouth of a lion. And the dragon
gave the beast his power and his throne and great
authority.
3 One[f] of the heads of the beast appeared to have
been mortally wounded. But the mortal wound was
healed, and the whole world marveled and followed
the beast.
4 They worshiped the dragon who had given authority
to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying,
"Who is like the beast, and who can wage war
against it?"
5 The beast was given a mouth to speak arrogant and
blasphemous words,[g] and authority to make war[h]
for 42 months.
6 And the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemy[i]
against God and to slander His name and His taber-
nacle — those who dwell in heaven.
7 Then the beast was permitted to wage war against
the saints and to conquer them, and it was given
authority over every tribe and people[j] and tongue
and nation.
8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship the beast
— all whose names have not been written from the
foundation of the world in the Book of Life belonging
to the Lamb who was slain.[k]
9 He who has an ear, let him hear:
10 "If anyone is destined for captivity, there he will go;
[l] if anyone kills[m] by the sword, by the sword he
must be killed."[n] Here is a call for the perseverance
and faith of the saints.

The Beast from the Earth

11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth.
This beast had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like
a dragon.
12 And this beast exercised all the authority of the first
beast and caused the earth and those who dwell in it
to worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had
been healed.

[e] **13:1** TH and TR *a blasphemous name*

[f] **13:3** TR *I saw that one*

[g] **13:5** Literally *to speak great things and blasphemy*; CT and TR literal *to speak great things and blasphemies*

[h] **13:5** CT and TR *to act* or *to continue*

[i] **13:6** CT *blasphemies*

[j] **13:7** F35 and TR do not include *and people.*

[k] **13:8** Or *written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world.*

[l] **13:10** CT and TR *into captivity he will go*

[m] **13:10** Most CT *if anyone is to die*

[n] **13:10** See Jeremiah 15:2.

13 And the second beast performed great signs, even causing fire from heaven to come down upon the earth[a] in the presence of the people.
14 Because of the signs it was given to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived my own people who dwell[b] on the earth, telling them to make an image to the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet had lived.
15 The second beast was permitted to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship it to be killed.

The Mark of the Beast

16 And the second beast required all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,
17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark — the name of the beast or the number of its name.
18 Here is a call for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and that number is 666 .[c]

14

The Lamb and the 144,000

1 Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads.
2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and the loud rumbling of thunder. And the sound I heard was like harpists strumming their harps.
3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.
4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been redeemed by Jesus[d] from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
5 And no lie[e] was found in their mouths, for[f] they are blameless.[g]

The Three Angels and Babylon's Fall

6 Then I saw an angel[h] flying overhead, with the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.
7 And he said in a loud voice, "Fear the Lord[i] and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the One who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and the springs of waters."
8 Then a second[j] angel followed, saying, "Fallen[k] is Babylon the great,[l] who has made all the nations drink the wine of the passion of her immorality."
9 And a third angel followed them, calling out in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or on his hand,
10 he too will drink the wine of God's anger, poured undiluted into the cup of His wrath. And he will be tormented in fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.
11 And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. Day and night there is no rest for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."
12 Here is a call for the perseverance of the saints, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.
13 And I heard a voice from heaven telling me to write, "Blessed are the dead — those who die in the Lord from this moment on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, and[m] their deeds will follow them."

The Harvest of the Earth

14 And I looked and saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was One like the Son of Man,[n] with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.
15 Then another angel came out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the One seated on the cloud, "Swing Your sickle and reap, because the time has come to harvest, for the crop of the earth is ripe."
16 So the One seated on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.
17 Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.
18 Still another angel, with authority over the fire, came from the altar and called out with a loud cry[o] to the angel with the sharp sickle, "Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are ripe."
19 So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and he threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.
20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and the blood that flowed from it rose as high as the bridles of the horses for a distance of 1,600 stadia.[p]

[a] **13:13** CT and TR *to come down to the earth*
[b] **13:14** GOC, ALT, CT, and TR *those who dwell*
[c] **13:18** Some manuscripts *616*
[d] **14:4** GOC, ALT, CT, and TR do not include *by Jesus*.
[e] **14:5** TR *no deceit*
[f] **14:5** CT does not include *for*.
[g] **14:5** TR includes *before the throne of God.*
[h] **14:6** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *another angel*
[i] **14:7** ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Fear God*
[j] **14:8** TR *Then another*
[k] **14:8** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Fallen, fallen*
[l] **14:8** TR *the great city*; see Isaiah 21:9 and Revelation 18:2.
[m] **14:13** CT *for*
[n] **14:14** Or *one like a son of man*; see Daniel 7:13.
[o] **14:18** NA, SBL, and WH *in a loud voice*
[p] **14:20** *1,600 stadia* is approximately 184 miles or 296 kilometers.

15

The Song of Moses and the Lamb

(Deuteronomy 32:1–47)

1 Then I saw another great and marvelous sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven final plagues, with which the wrath of God is completed.
2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, beside which stood those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name. They were holding harps from God,
3 and they sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb: "Great and wonderful are Your works, O Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations![a]
4 Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed."

Preparation for Judgment

5 After this I looked, and the temple — the tabernacle of the Testimony — was opened in heaven.
6 And out of the temple[b] came the seven angels with the seven plagues, dressed in clean and bright linen and girded with golden sashes around their chests.
7 Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.
8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven[c] angels were completed.

16

The First Six Bowls of Wrath

1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple[d] saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out on the earth the seven[e] bowls of God's wrath."
2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and loathsome, malignant sores broke out on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.
3 And the second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it turned to blood like that of the dead, and every living[f] thing in the sea died.
4 And the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they turned to blood.
5 And I heard the angel of the waters say: "Righteous are You, O Holy One,[g] who is and was, because You have brought these judgments.
6 For they have spilled the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink, as they deserve."
7 And I heard[h] the altar reply: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are Your judgments."
8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given power to scorch the people with fire.
9 And the people were scorched by intense heat, and men cursed[i] the name of God, who had authority over these plagues. Yet they did not repent and give Him glory.
10 And the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness, and men began to gnaw their tongues in anguish
11 and curse the God of heaven for their pains and sores. Yet they did not repent of their deeds.
12 And the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the East.
13 And I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.
14 These are demonic spirits that perform signs and go out to all the kings of the earth, to assemble them for battle on that[j] great day of God the Almighty.
15 "Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who remains awake and clothed, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed."
16 And they assembled the kings in the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The Seventh Bowl of Wrath

17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came from the throne in the temple of heaven,[k] saying, "It is done!"
18 And there were flashes of lightning, and peals of thunder, and rumblings,[l] and a great earthquake the likes of which had not occurred since men were upon the earth — so mighty was the great quake.
19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. And God remembered Babylon the great and gave her the cup of the wine of the fury of His wrath.
20 Then every island fled, and no mountain could be found.
21 And great hailstones weighing almost a hundred pounds each[m] rained down on them from above. And men cursed God for the plague of hail, because it was so horrendous.

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[a] **15:3** SBL and WH *King of the ages*; TR *King of the saints*
[b] **15:6** F35 *out of heaven*
[c] **15:8** F35 does not include *seven*.
[d] **16:1** ALT does not include *from the temple*.
[e] **16:1** ALT does not include *seven*.
[f] **16:3** ALT and HF do not include *living*.
[g] **16:5** TR *O Lord*
[h] **16:7** TR *I heard another from*
[i] **16:9** CT and TR *they cursed*
[j] **16:14** CT *on the*
[k] **16:17** CT does not include *of heaven*.
[l] **16:18** CT and TR list these events in different orders.
[m] **16:21** Greek *great hail as of a talent*; that is, hailstones weighing approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms each

17

The Woman on the Beast

1 Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls
came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the pun-
ishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many
waters.
2 The kings of the earth were immoral with her, and
those who dwell on the earth were intoxicated with
the wine of her immorality.”
3 And the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a
wilderness, where I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet
beast that was covered with blasphemous names
and had seven heads and ten horns.
4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and
adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls.
She held in her hand a golden cup full of abomina-
tions and the impurities of her sexual immorality.
5 And on her forehead a mysterious name was writ-
ten: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROS-
TITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE
EARTH.

The Mystery Explained

6 I could see that the woman was drunk with the blood
of the saints and witnesses for Jesus. And I was
utterly amazed at the sight of her.
7 “Why are you so amazed?” said the angel. “I will
tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast
that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten
horns.
8 The beast that you saw — it was, and now is no more,
but is about to come up out of the Abyss and go to
its destruction. And those who dwell on the earth
whose names were not written in the Book of Life
from the foundation of the world will marvel when
they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet will
be.
9 This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads
are seven mountains on which the woman sits.
10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is,
and the other has not yet come. But when he does
come, he must remain for only a little while.
11 The beast that was, and now is not, is an eighth king,
who belongs to the other seven and is going into
destruction.
12 The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not
yet received a kingdom, but will receive one hour of
authority as kings, along with the beast.
13 These kings have one purpose: to yield their power
and authority to the beast.

The Victory of the Lamb

14 They will make war against the Lamb, and the Lamb
will triumph over them, because He is Lord of lords
and King of kings; and He will be accompanied by
His called and chosen and faithful ones.”
15 Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw,
where the prostitute was seated, are peoples and
multitudes and nations and tongues.
16 And the ten horns and the beast that you saw will
hate the prostitute. They will leave her desolate and
naked, and will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.
17 For God has put it into their hearts to carry out
His purpose by uniting to give their kingdom to the
beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.
18 And the woman you saw is the great city that rules
over the kings of the earth.”

18

Babylon Is Fallen

(Isaiah 21:1–10)

1 After this I saw another[a] angel descending from
heaven with great authority, and the earth was illu-
minated by his glory.
2 And he cried out in a mighty voice: “Fallen[b] is Baby-
lon the great![c] She has become a lair for demons
and a haunt for every unclean spirit and every un-
clean and detestable bird.[d]
3 All the nations have drunk[e] the wine of the passion
of her immorality. The kings of the earth were
immoral with her, and the merchants of the earth
have grown wealthy from the extravagance of her
luxury.”
4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come
out of her, My people,[f] so that you will not share in
her sins or contract any of her plagues.
5 For her sins are piled up to[g] heaven, and God has
remembered her iniquities.
6 Give back to her as she has done to others; pay her
back double for what she has done; mix her a double
portion in her own cup.
7 As much as she has glorified herself and lived in
luxury, give her the same measure of torment and
grief.[h] In her heart she says, ‘I sit as queen; I am not
a widow and will never see grief.’
8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day — death
and grief and famine — and she will be consumed
by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.”

Lament over Babylon

9 Then the kings of the earth who committed sexual
immorality and lived in luxury with her will weep
[i] and wail at the sight of the smoke rising from the
fire that consumes her.[j]
10 In fear of her torment, they will stand at a distance
and cry out: “Woe, woe to the great city, the mighty
city of Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment
has come.”

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[a] **18:1** Stephanus TR *an*

[b] **18:2** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and TR *Fallen, fallen*

[c] **18:2** See Isaiah 21:9 and Revelation 14:8.

[d] **18:2** NE, WH, MT, and TR; other CT *a haunt for every unclean spirit, every unclean bird, and every detestable beast*

[e] **18:3** SBL and WH *have fallen by*

[f] **18:4** See Jeremiah 51:45.

[g] **18:5** Stephanus TR *have reached as far as*

[h] **18:7** F35 does not include *and grief.*

[i] **18:9** GOC and TR *weep for her*

[j] **18:9** Literally *when they see the smoke of her burning*; also in verse 18

[a] **18:11** ALT, CT, F35, and TR *earth weep*

11 And the merchants of the earth will weep[a] and
mourn over her, because there is no one left to buy
their cargo —
12 cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls;
of fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; of all kinds
of citron wood and every article of ivory, precious
wood, bronze, iron, and marble;
13 of cinnamon,[b] incense, myrrh, and frankincense; of
wine, olive oil, fine flour, and wheat; of cattle, sheep,
horses, and carriages; of bodies and souls of slaves.
14 And they will say:[c] "The fruit of your soul's desire
has departed from you; all your luxury and splendor
have vanished, never to be seen again."
15 The merchants who sold these things and gained
their wealth from her will stand at a distance, in fear
of her torment. They will weep and mourn,
16 saying: "Woe, woe to the great city, clothed in fine
linen and purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and
precious stones and pearls!
17 For in a single hour such fabulous wealth has been
destroyed!" Every shipmaster, passenger, and sailor,
and all who make their living from the sea, will stand
at a distance
18 and cry out at the sight of the smoke rising from the
fire that consumes her. "What city was ever like this
great city?" they will exclaim.
19 Then they will throw dust on their heads as they
weep and mourn and cry out: "Woe, woe to the
great city, where all who had ships on the sea were
enriched by her wealth! For in a single hour she has
been destroyed."
20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apos-
tles[d] and prophets, because God has pronounced
for you His judgment against her.

The Doom of Babylon

21 Then a mighty angel picked up a stone the size of a
great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying: "With
such violence[e] the great city of Babylon will be cast
down, never to be seen again.
22 And the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute
players and trumpeters, will never ring out in you
again. Nor will any craftsmen of any trade be found
in you again, nor the sound of a millstone be heard
in you again.
23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again,
and the voices of a bride and bridegroom will never
call out in you again. For your merchants were the
great ones of the earth, because all the nations were
deceived by your sorcery."
24 And there was found in her the blood of prophets
and saints, and of all who had been slain on the
earth.

19

Rejoicing in Heaven

1 After this I heard a sound like the roar of a great mul-
titude in heaven, shouting: "Hallelujah![f] Salvation
and glory and power belong to our God![g]
2 For His judgments are true and just. He has judged
the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with
her immorality. He has avenged the blood of His
servants that was poured out by her hand."
3 And a second time they called out: "Hallelujah! Her
smoke rises forever and ever."
4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living crea-
tures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the
throne, saying: "Amen, Hallelujah!"
5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise
our God, all you who serve Him, and those who fear
Him, small and great alike!"

The Marriage of the Lamb

6 And I heard a sound like the roar of a great multitude,
like the rushing of many waters, and like a mighty
rumbling of thunder, crying out: "Hallelujah! For the
Lord our God[h] the Almighty reigns.
7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him the glory. For
the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride
has made herself ready.
8 She was given clothing of fine linen, bright and pure.
[i] " For the fine linen she wears is the righteous acts
of the saints.
9 Then the angel told me to write, "Blessed are those
who are invited to the marriage supper of the
Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words
of God."
10 So I fell at his feet to worship him. But he told me,
"Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and
your brothers who rely on the testimony of Jesus.
Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit
of prophecy."

The Rider on the White Horse

11 Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before
me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful
and True. With righteousness He judges and wages
war.
12 He has eyes like blazing fire, and many royal crowns
on His head. He has names written on Him, and a
name written that only He Himself knows.[j]
13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood,[k] and His
name is The Word of God.
14 The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white
and pure, follow Him on white horses.
15 And from His mouth proceeds a sharp double-edged
[l] sword with which to strike down the nations, and

[b] **18:13** CT includes *spice*.

[c] **18:14** Literally *And:*

[d] **18:20** TR *holy apostles*

[e] **18:21** F35 *With violence*

[f] **19:1** *Hallelujah* is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Hallelu YAH*, meaning *Praise the LORD*; also in verses 3, 4, and 6.

[g] **19:1** TR *to the Lord our God*

[h] **19:6** GOC, SBL, and TR *the Lord God*

[i] **19:8** TR *pure and bright*

[j] **19:12** CT *He has a name written on Him that only He Himself knows*

[k] **19:13** WH *sprinkled with blood*

[l] **19:15** CT and TR do not include *double-edged.*

He will rule them with an iron scepter.[a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
16 And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Defeat of the Beast and False Prophet

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds flying overhead, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,[b]
18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and commanders and mighty men, of horses and riders, of everyone both[c] slave and free, both[d] small and great."
19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies assembled to wage war against the One seated on the horse, and against His army.
20 But the beast was captured along with the false prophet, who on its behalf had performed signs deceiving those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. Both the beast and the false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.
21 And the rest were killed with the sword that proceeded from the mouth of the One seated on the horse. And all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

20

Satan Bound

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the Abyss, holding in his hand a great chain.
2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole world,[e] and bound him for a thousand years.
3 And he threw him into the Abyss, shut it, and sealed it over him, so that he could not deceive the nations until the thousand years were complete. And[f] after that, he must be released for a brief period of time.
4 Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for the[g] thousand years.
5 The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection.
6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Satan Cast into the Lake of Fire

7 When[h] the thousand years are complete, Satan will be released from his prison,
8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth — Gog and Magog — to assemble them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the seashore.
9 And they marched across the broad expanse of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. But fire came down from God out of heaven[i] and consumed them.
10 And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, into which the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Judgment before the Great White Throne

11 Then I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it. Earth and heaven[j] fled from His presence, and no place was found for them.
12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. And books were opened, and one of them was the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their deeds, as recorded in the books.
13 The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead, and each one was judged according to his deeds.
14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death — the lake of fire.[k]
15 And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

21

A New Heaven and a New Earth

(Isaiah 65:17–25)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,[l] for the first heaven and earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
2 I saw[m] the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven[n] saying: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them.[o]
4 'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,'[p] and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away."

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[a] **19:15** See Psalm 2:9 (see also LXX).
[b] **19:17** ALT and TR *the supper of the great God*
[c] **19:18** Stephanus TR does not include *both*.
[d] **19:18** ALT, CT, and TR do not include *both*.
[e] **20:2** CT and TR do not include *he who deceives the whole world*.
[f] **20:3** CT does not include *And*.
[g] **20:4** GOC, ALT, CT, F35, and Scrivener TR *a*
[h] **20:7** ALT and HF *After*
[i] **20:9** CT *came down from heaven*
[j] **20:11** F35 *Heaven and earth*
[k] **20:14** TR does not include *the lake of fire*.
[l] **21:1** See Isaiah 65:17 and Isaiah 66:22 (see also LXX).
[m] **21:2** TR *I, John, saw*
[n] **21:3** CT *from the throne*
[o] **21:3** TR, NA, and TH include *as their God*.
[p] **21:4** Isaiah 25:8

5 And the One seated on the throne said, “Behold, I
make all things new.” Then He said to me,[a] “Write
this down, for these words are true and faithful.[b] ”
6 And He told me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the
Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I
will give freely from the spring of the water of life.
7 The one who overcomes will inherit all things, and I
will be his God, and he will be My son.
8 But to the cowardly and unbelieving and sinful[c] and
abominable and murderers and sexually immoral
and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their place
will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur.
This is the second death.”

The New Jerusalem

9 Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls
full of the seven final plagues came and said to me,
“Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the
Lamb.”
10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain
great and high, and showed me the great[d] holy city
of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,
11 shining with the glory of God. Its radiance was like a
most precious jewel, like a jasper, as clear as crystal.
12 The city had a great and high wall with twelve gates
inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of
Israel, and twelve angels at the gates.
13 There were three gates on the east, three on the
north, three on the south, and three on the west.
14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations bearing
the names[e] of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
15 The angel who spoke with me had a golden measur-
ing rod to measure the city and its gates and walls.
16 The city lies foursquare, with its width the same as
its length. And he measured the city with the rod,
and all its dimensions were equal — 12,000 stadia[f]
in length and width and height.
17 And he measured its wall to be 144 cubits,[g] by the
human measure the angel was using.
18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city itself of
pure gold, as pure as glass.
19 The foundations of the city walls were adorned
with every kind of precious stone: The first foun-
dation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third
chalcedony, the fourth emerald,
20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh
chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the
tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the
twelfth amethyst.
21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each
gate consisting of a single pearl. The main street of
the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.
22 But I saw no temple in the city, because the Lord God
Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on
it, because the glory of God illuminates the city, and
the Lamb is its lamp.
24 By its light the nations will walk, and into it the kings
of the earth will bring their glory and the honor of
the nations.[h]
25 Its gates will never be shut at the end of the day,
because there will be no night there.
26 And into the city will be brought the glory and honor
of the nations.
27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone
who practices an abomination or a lie, but only those
whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

22

The River of Life

1 Then the angel showed me a pure river[i] of the water
of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of
God and of the Lamb
2 down the middle of the main street of the city. On
either side of the river stood a tree of life, bearing
twelve kinds of fruit and yielding a fresh crop for
each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the
healing of the nations.
3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God
and of the Lamb will be within the city, and His
servants will worship Him.
4 They will see His face, and His name will be on their
foreheads.
5 There will be no more night in the city, and they will
have no need for the light of a lamp or of the sun.
For the Lord God will shine on them, and they will
reign forever and ever.

Jesus Is Coming

6 Then the angel said to me, “These words are faithful
and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the
prophets,[j] has sent His angel to show His servants
what must soon[k] take place.”
7 “Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who
keeps the words of prophecy in this book.[l] ”
8 And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these
things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell
down to worship at the feet of the angel who had
shown me these things.
9 But he said to me, “Do not do that! I am a fellow
servant with you and your brothers the prophets,
and with those who keep the words of this book.
Worship God!”
10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of
prophecy in this book, because the time is near.
11 Let the unrighteous continue to be unrighteous,
and the vile continue to be vile; let the righteous
continue to practice righteousness, and the holy con-
tinue to be holy.”

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[a] **21:5** CT does not include *to me*.

[b] **21:5** CT *faithful and true*

[c] **21:8** GOC, CT, and TR do not include *and sinful*.

[d] **21:10** GOC, ALT, CT, and HF do not include *great*.

[e] **21:14** Literally *the twelve names*; TR *the names*

[f] **21:16** *12,000 stadia* is approximately 1,380 miles or 2,220 kilometers.

[g] **21:17** *144 cubits* is approximately 216 feet or 65.8 meters. The measure could indicate either height or thickness.

[h] **21:24** CT does not include *and the honor of the nations*; TR *their glory and honor*

[i] **22:1** GOC, ALT, CT, and HF *a river*

[j] **22:6** TR *the holy prophets*

[k] **22:6** Or *suddenly* or *quickly*; similarly in verses 7, 12, and 20

[l] **22:7** Or *scroll* ; also in verses 9, 10, 18, 19

12 “Behold,[a] I am coming soon, and My reward is with
Me, to give to each one according to what he has
done.
13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,
the Beginning and the End.[b] ”
14 Blessed are those who do His commandments,[c] so
that they may have the right to the tree of life and
may enter the city by its gates.
15 But outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually
immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone
who loves and practices falsehood.
16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testi-
mony for the churches. I am the Root and the
Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star.”
17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Let the one
who hears say, “Come!” And let the one who is thirsty
come, and the one who desires the water of life drink
freely.

Nothing May Be Added or Removed

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of
prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God
will add to him the plagues[d] described in this book.
19 And if anyone takes away from the words of this
book of prophecy, may God[e] take away his share
in the tree of life[f] and the holy city, which are
described in this book.
20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am
coming soon.” Amen. Yes,[g] come, Lord Jesus![h]
21 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ[i] be with all the
saints.[j] Amen.[k]

[a] **22:12** TR *And behold*
[b] **22:13** ALT, F35, and TR *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last*
[c] **22:14** CT *Blessed are those who wash their robes*
[d] **22:18** ALT and F35 *the seven plagues*
[e] **22:19** CT and TR *God will*
[f] **22:19** TR *Book of Life*
[g] **22:20** CT does not include *Yes*.
[h] **22:20** ALT *Lord Jesus Christ*
[i] **22:21** Most CT *of the Lord Jesus*; TR *of our Lord Jesus Christ*
[j] **22:21** SBL, WH, NE, and TR do not include *the saints*.
[k] **22:21** SBL, WH, NE, and NA do not include *Amen.*